

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

City/County Library Community Room
995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

Wednesday, March 4, 2009
1:30 p.m.

1. Introductions and Determination of a Quorum
2. Approval of February meeting minutes
3. Public Comment
4. Ongoing Updates:
 - a. IRWM
 - b. Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Management Plan
 - c. Master Water Plan
 - d. Invasive Mussels
 - e. Rainfall and Reservoir Update
5. Laetitia Ranch Development DEIR - Subcommittee Report
6. Consideration of Los Osos Wastewater Project
7. Future Agenda Items

--- Adjourn by 3:30 pm ---

Next Regular Meeting: **April 1, 2009 1:30 pm**
 San Luis Obispo City/County Library
 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo

Visit Water Resources on the Web at: www.slocountywater.org

Purpose of the Committee:

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board specific water resource programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

Excerpts from WRAC By-Laws dated March, 6, 2007

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2009

Approximately 1:30 pm; Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order.

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees – Quorum Established
- 2) Approval of December Meeting Minutes – The January 7, 2009 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Hyman, second by Member Garfinkel, and a unanimous vote with two abstentions by members who were not present last month.
- 3) Public Comment – (An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available under the WRAC link at www.slocountywater.org.) Member Bill Bianchi informs the WRAC of an *LA Times* article in which the US Energy Secretary Steven Chu warns of the possibly devastating effects climate change could have on California’s agriculture. Member Hyman questions circumstances of a recent sewage spill in Orcutt Creek with SLO City staff member Henderson responding. Los Osos resident Jeff Edwards requests the WRAC form a subcommittee to opine on two policy issues related to the Los Osos Wastewater Project, including the exportation of water from the groundwater basin and the proposed allocation of costs to users. Los Osos resident Gewynn Taylor expresses concern that the WRAC did not appoint a subcommittee to review the Los Osos Wastewater Project draft EIR. Chairperson Winn agrees to ask the members whether or not to agendaize the issue at the end of the meeting. Member Sinton offered an electronic copy of the Cold Canyon Landfill Expansion Project Draft EIR to the WRAC and informed the WRAC that application of manure on agricultural lands might require non-point source discharge permits in the future. Chairperson Winn informs the WRAC of a renewable energy forum occurring on February 6, speaks to state agency water permitting and compliance, and indicates that the draft Nacitone Watershed Management Plan is available for review.
- 4) Conservation and Open Space Element-Subcommittee Report, for WRAC Action – James Caruso, County Planning, receives input from the WRAC on the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE). Member Alakel, comments that the suggestions of the COSE are too vague, citing the proposal for a countywide 20% reduction in water use. A discussion of the meaning of a 20% reduction in water use ensues that addresses ways to measure changes in water use, metering, and special considerations for agriculture. Chairperson Winn reiterates the need to clarify the meaning of “safe yield”, which should be the basis of the RMS Level of Severity definitions. Member Fitzhugh advises that the section on use of reclaimed water be revised to reflect health and economic issues related to its use as well. Discussion ensues. Member O’Grady moves to adopt and submit the language as suggested by the Subcommittee, with a second by Member Garfinkel. The motion passes by a vote of 16-0-1. A vote is taken to gauge support for including an educational effort to reuse wastewater for

drinking purposes. The motion passes by a vote of 14-1. Member Hyman highlights a need to change the headings in the document to ensure that they are in a parallel structure, improving readability. A vote to approve the comments made by the City of Paso Robles was taken. The motion fails with a vote of 6-8-4. Member Chipping calls for a dynamic hydrologic model based on drawdown data after an in-depth discussion of using basin safe yield as a Resource Conservation guideline. A vote to approve annual hydrologic modeling of groundwater basins was taken with unanimous approval.

- 5) Resource Management System Annual Summary Report – James Caruso, County Planning, receives input from the WRAC on the 2008 Annual Summary Report (ASR). Chairperson Winn suggests that the Level of Severity determinations need restructuring, with longer times. Discussion ensues.
- 6) Laetitia Ranch Development DEIR-Subcommittee Report - Item postponed until March 4, 2009 meeting.
- 7) San Miguel Ranch Draft EIR-Subcommittee Report - Member Luft reports that the subcommittee found the project violates Agriculture Policy 11, understates the impact of the project on the groundwater basin, and does not account for future treatment plant capacity. Member Winholtz moves to approve the comments from the subcommittee with a second by Member O’Grady. The motion passes with a vote of 16-0.
- 8) Chairperson’s report on meetings with Board members - Chairperson Winn reports on meetings with individual Supervisors and indicates they generally agree that the WRAC should maintain focus on water supply and quality, and continue to review County Planning documents related to water (ensuring consistency with other documents). Supervisors indicate they are in favor of appointing alternate members to the WRAC and continuing Resource Capacity Studies.
- 9) Ongoing Updates -
 - a. IRWM - County Utilities Staff Member John Diodati explains the Regional Acceptance Process and updates the WRAC on the current status of the IWRM MOU. Member Winholtz moves to approve the intent of the MOU and registers concern regarding the makeup of Items 2.4 and 5.5 of the MOU with a second by Member Garfinkel, and passes with a vote of 15-0-1.
 - b. Invasive Mussels - Dean Benedix, Utilities Division Manager, reports of no conformed positives at the monitored facilities and informs of proposed adjustments to the current boat decontamination process. A vote to accept the revised denomination process was taken with unanimous approval.
- 10) Future Agenda Items – A vote to agendize the consideration of how to approach two Los Osos Wastewater Project policy issues in March’s regular WRAC meeting was taken and passes by a vote of 6-3. A vote to have a representative of the Nacitone Watersheds Steering Committee present the San Antonio and Nacimientto Rivers Watershed Management Plan was taken with unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:50 pm.

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009														
Organization	Representative		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cambria CSD	Jim Adams	M												
	Robert Reasons	A	X											
	Bob Gresens	Staff		X										
Heritage Ranch CSD	John D'Ornellas	M	X											
	Debbie Fransen	A												
Los Osos CSD	John Schempf	M												
	Steve Senet	A												
	Maria Kelly	NM*		X										
	Marshall Ochylski	NA*		X										
	George Milanese	Staff												
	Margret Falkner	Staff	X											
Nipomo CSD	Bruce Buel	M	X	X										
	Ed Eby	A	X	X										
Oceano CSD	Kevin Walsh	M		X										
	Phil Davis	A												
Templeton CSD	Paul Sorensen	M	X											
	Laurie Ion	A												
San Simeon CSD	John Russell	M	X	X										
	Charles Grace	A												
San Miguel CSD	Mike Ellison	NM	X	X										
	Dale Hamblin	NA												
City of Arroyo Grande	Chuck Fellows	M												
	Jim Guthrie	A												
City of Atascadero	Steve Kahn	M												
	David Athey	A												
City of Grover Beach	Robert Mires	NM	X	X										
	Debbie Peterson	NA												
City of Morro Bay	Betty Winholtz	M	X	X										
	Dylan Wade	A	X											
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M		X										
	Doug Monn	A												
	Iris Prieststaff	Staff												
City of Pismo Beach	Kris Vardas	M												
	Christine Dwayne	NA	X											
City of San Luis Obispo	Allen Settle	NM												
	Andrew Carter	NA												
	Ron Munds	Staff												
	Gary Henderson	Staff	X	X										
District 1	Steve Sinton	M	X	X										
	Unappointed	A												
District 2	Bill Garfinkel	M	X	X										
	Unappointed	A												
District 3	Marlee Hyman	M	X	X										
	Unappointed	A												
District 4	Michael Winn	M	X	X										
	Unappointed	A												
District 5	Dan O'Grady	M	X	X										
	Unappointed	A												
California Men's Colony	John Kellerman	M	X											
	Mike Mintey	NA	X											
	Gerald Elwood	A												
Camp SLO	John Reid	M	X	X										
	Nicole Balliet	A												
Cuesta College	Edralin Maduli	M												
	Terry Reece	A												
Atascadero Mutual	John Neil	M												
	Jaime Lien	A	X											
Golden State Water	Mark Zimmer	M		X										
	Patrick Vowell	NA	X	X										
Agriculture at Large	Ray Allen	M	X	X										
	Mike Broadhurst	A	X	X										
County Farm Bureau	Joy Fitzhugh	M		X										
	Jackie Crabb	A	X											
Environmental at Large	Sue Luft	M	X	X										
	Eric Greening	M	X	X										
	David Chipping	A	X	X										
	Sue Harvey	A	X	X										
	Coastal San Luis RCD	Linda Chipping	M	X	X									
Upper Salinas RCD	Kathie Matsuyama	A												
	Tom Mora	M												
	Bill Bianchi	A	X	X										
	Gidi Pullen	Staff												
Public Works Staff	Courtney Howard	Staff	X											
	Paavo Ogren	Staff												
	Dean Benedix	Staff	X	X										
	Sylas Cranor	Staff	X											
	Glen Priddy	Staff												
	Mark Hutchinson	Staff												
	John Hollenbeck	Staff												
Planning Staff	James Caruso	Staff	X	X										
Parks Staff	Don Melin	Staff												
Env. Health Staff	Laurie Salo	Staff												
	Leslie Terry	Staff		X										
	Megan Lillich	Staff		X										
Ag. Com. Staff	Michael Isensee	Staff	X	X										

M= Member; A= Alternate; NM=New Member NA= New Alternate 0 = No nomination received as of 01/28/09
 *To be confirmed at a future BOS meeting
 • = Notified of Absence/Conflict

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Syllas Cranor, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: March 4, 2009

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #4.b: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan

This notice is provided to inform members of the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC), the WRAC, and the general public that the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan (GMP) will be suspended until further notice as a result of the State's current financial situation. These circumstances have resulted in suspension of grant-funded projects by the California Department of Water Resources. The GMP will be reinitiated if State grant funding is restored.

The City of Paso Robles and County of San Luis Obispo appreciate the interest expressed in the preparation of the GMP as demonstrated at the GAC meeting held on January 15, 2009 and we look forward to continue this project once funding is available.

If you have any questions, please contact the City's Water Resources Manager, Christopher Alakel, at (805) 237-3861, CAlakel@prcity.com.

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee
FROM: Syllas Cranor, SLO County Water Resources Engineer
DATE: March 4, 2009
SUBJECT: Agenda Item #4.d: Invasive Mussel Species

**San Luis Obispo County Regional Invasive Mussel Monitoring Program
 Monthly Summary Report for February 2009**

Monitoring Site Inspections

Reservoir	Agency	No. of sites	Were all sites inspected?	Any confirmed positives?
Lopez Lake	CDFG	1	No ⁽¹⁾	---
Lopez Lake	SLO Co. PWD	3	Yes	No
Lopez Terminal	SLO Co. PWD	1	Yes	No
Salinas	CDFG	1	No ⁽¹⁾	---
Salinas	SLO Co. PWD	2	Yes	No
Cayucos	Whale Rock Reservoir	1	Yes	No
Nacimiento	CDFG/Mo. Co. Parks	1	Yes	No
Nacimiento	SLO Co. PWD/OSCA	1	Yes	No
Nacimiento	HRCSD/SLO Co. PWD	1	No ⁽²⁾	---
Nacimiento	Mo. Co. Parks/SLO Co. PWD	1	Yes	No
Nacimiento	Mo. Co. Parks/MCWRA	2	Yes	No
San Antonio	CDFG/Mo. Co. Parks	1	No ⁽³⁾	---
San Antonio	Mo. Co. Parks	1	Yes	No
Lake Cachuma	SB Co. Parks	10	Yes	No
(1) Substrate not found. (2) Site inaccessible due to low lake level and muddy shoreline (3) Substrate missing; will be replaced Information compiled on 2/24/09.				

General notes on monitoring site inspections

1. A site inspection may include inspection of an artificial substrate and/or a surface survey (docks etc). At some sites a fairly extensive inspection is performed, at others it may be more limited.
2. For more information about invasive mussel monitoring at Lake Cachuma contact Liz Mason-Gaspar, Park Naturalist, Santa Barbara County Parks Department, 805-688-4515, lmason@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Notes from February 2009

1. SLO County Parks Department implemented a modified vessel inspection and decontamination procedure in early February. A more rigorous inspection procedure of all vessels was instituted, with decontamination to be performed only on higher risk vessels. For more information contact Don Melin, Supervising Park Ranger at Lopez Lake, at 805-473-7182, dmelin@co.slo.ca.us.
2. A response plan in case of infestation is currently under development. Lead engineer is Dennis Delzeit, P.E. (consultant) with assistance from Dr. James Hanson, P.E. (Cal Poly SLO).
3. Site visits from CDFG, including monitoring site inspections, have decreased due to budget constraints. SLO County PWD and Monterey County Parks Dept. staff have inspected the CDFG sites, with limited success (see notes above).

**SUMMARY OF AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES BOAT INSPECTIONS
LOPEZ LAKE RECREATION AREA**

FEBRUARY 2009 (2/23/09)

Boats Entering Park	270
Total Inspected	81
Decontaminated	4
Returning tag	187
Rejected	2

Returning Tags: Boats with Lopez Lake or Santa Margarita Lake wire clear tag attached to boat and trailer. These boats have not been removed from trailer since last visit to lake and are not subject to inspection or decontamination.

Rejected boats are not permitted to enter the park and are not counted in the "Boats Entering Park" category.

Reasons for rejection:

Water in bilge/hull	2
Water in live well/bait tank	0
Internal ballast system	0
Debris on boat hull	0
Refused inspection	0

As of 2/24/09 no mussel species have been located on any vessel entering Lopez Lake.

Information compiled directly from boat inspection forms.

Prepared by Don Melin, Supervising Ranger- Lopez Lake Recreation Area
February 24, 2009.

INVASIVE MUSSEL PREVENTION REPORT
Santa Margarita Lake Recreation Area
San Luis Obispo County Parks

Period: January 26 through February 23, 2009

Vessel entry	329
Decontaminations	35
Returning tags	257
Rejected (disallowed entry) <i>Table below for breakdown</i>	0
Cabled at time of exit	305

Reasons for rejection:

Water in bilge/hull/ engine	0
Water in live well/bait tank	0
Internal ballast system	0
Debris on boat hull	0
Refused inspection	0

categories defined

Vessel entry: total vessels entering facility, summation of decontaminations and returning tags.

Decontaminations: +140 degree (F) water application to trailer, tow vehicle rear-end, vessel hull and internal vessel areas as required.

Returning tags: vessels with Santa Margarita Lake, Lopez Lake or Cachuma Lake stamped and sealed wire clear tag attached to vessel and trailer (ensures location of prior use). Not subject to decontamination procedure, only thorough inspection.

Rejected: these vessels are not permitted to enter the park due to unacceptable condition, and are not counted in the "Vessel entry" category.

Cabled at time of exit: stamped and sealed wire clear tag attached to vessel and trailer for re-entry at future date.

As of 2/23/09 no mussel species found at Santa Margarita Lake Inspection Station.

Prepared by Santa Margarita Lake Recreation Area Staff, February 24, 2009.

Submitted: to Lisa Wallender & Courtney Howard, 2-24-09 via email.

NOTE: Effective 2/12/09 new inspection/decontamination protocols were implemented at Santa Margarita Lake which do not require each non-tagged vessel to be decontaminated, only thorough inspection.

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Syllas Cranor, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: March 4, 2009

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #4.e: Rainfall and Reservoir Update

Region	ALERT Precipitation Station	2007-08 Water Year Annual Total (July '07 - June '08)	2008-09 Water Year Cumulative Total (July '08 - Current)	Average Annual Rainfall (in)	% of Annual Average
Santa Margarita	Santa Margarita (#723)	22.1	11.4	24	48%
San Luis Obispo	SLO Reservoir Gauge (#749)	20.2	9.7	24	41%
Lopez	Lopez Rec Area (#707)	17.3	9.4	23	41%
Atascadero	Atascadero (#711)	13.2	5.9	17	35%
Cambria	Santa Rosa at Main St. (# 717)	*11.0	8.5	22	38%

* Due to equipment malfunction, not all rainfall was recorded at this site.
Please note, this table contains provisional data from automated gauges and has not been verified.

Reservoir	Date	Water Elevation (ft)	Spillway Elevation (ft)	Storage (acre-feet)	Capacity (%)
Nacimiento Reservoir	February 26, 2009	742.1	800.0	125,653	37%
	February 26, 2008	770.5			
Lopez Reservoir	February 25, 2009	498.3	523.0	30,098	61%
	February 25, 2008	508.3			
Salinas Reservoir	February 27, 2009	1291.0	1300.7	17,439	73%
	February 27, 2008	1301.2			
Whale Rock Reservoir	February 11, 2009	187.2	216.0	25,567	63%
	February 11, 2008	198.2			
Twitchell Reservoir	February 23, 2009	530.6	651.5	1,177	0.5%

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Syllas Cranor, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: March 4, 2009

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #5: Laetitia Ranch Development DEIR

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Laetitia Agricultural Cluster Subdivision is complete and available for public review and comment. The DEIR addresses the environmental impacts that may be associated with the request to subdivide twenty-one parcels (approximately 1,910 acres) into 106 lots, including 102 residential lots and four open space lots.

The Laetitia Ranch Development DEIR subcommittee initially reviewed and commented on the DEIR documents and Cleath water studies via email. On January 12, 2009 the committee visited the project site on the Laetitia Ranch conducted by Allison Donatello, project designer RRM; Vic Montgomery RRM; and Spencer Harris, hydrologist Cleath & Assoc. The comments and concerns expressed in the attached report are the result of a follow up subcommittee meeting and correspondence via email.

Consensus of the subcommittee was to present the attached comments to the WRAC at the February 4, 2009 meeting for consideration, possible changes, and adoption. At the February WRAC meeting, this item was postponed until the March 2009 regularly scheduled meeting.

WRAC Subcommittee Report on Laetitia Ranch Development DEIR

The Laetitia Ranch Project subcommittee initially reviewed and commented on the DEIR documents and Cleath water studies via email. On January 12, 2009 the committee visited the project site on the Laetitia Ranch conducted by Allison Donatello, project designer RRM; Vic Montgomery RRM; and Spencer Harris, hydrologist Cleath & Assoc. The comments and concerns expressed in this report are the result of a follow up subcommittee meeting and correspondence via email.

A. CONCERNS OVER THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION IN THE EIR

The currently published DEIR does not include important changes that were submitted by the developer.

During the site tour the subcommittee members learned that several parts of the project had been altered.

(1) Two well sites had been relocated on the project maps so as to remove possible water impact on Los Berros Creek.

(2) The horse facilities had been removed from the project to avoid any pollution or water contamination of creeks.

We need to have a SEIR or addendum published that includes all of the changes before we can submit our final comments.

B. CONCERN OVER CALCULATIONS THAT DETERMINE WATER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The number of proposed homes appears to be excessive and it seems the DEIR cannot find justification for the 100+ units. The number of residences entitled depends on how intensively the land is being farmed and if the Ag wells failed, their entitlements would decrease (unless the wells failed after homes were built).

We have a concern that in developing their water calculations there has been a commingling of Ag use and home use. In an Ag cluster the homes must not diminish the water available for Ag during drought conditions. Conservation measures listed by the applicant include reduction or periodic cessation of agricultural irrigation (V-52). We need an analysis of the impacts of the proposed residences on Laetitia's own Ag water supply.

C. CONCERNS FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER

The greatest single weakness in the Laetitia project is that the water supply is uncertain. Even though the Cleath water studies show an adequate supply for the project is available now, the difficult question is whether there will be water to sustain it for 20 years.

It is known that wells in fractured shale often go dry suddenly. The subcommittee does not share the confidence that there is sufficient protection for the homeowners for a

sustainable water supply if left on their own without the continuity of stable water management.

While agriculture can more easily survive and adjust as necessary to water availability, water to homes is an absolute necessity. A resident-owned mutual water company would have little recourse, great liability, and great expense providing water; therefore, the property owner (Laetitia Ranch/Winery) should retain ownership and the responsibility to provide adequate water to the properties for at least a twenty-year period. If the water supply proved to be sustainable after sufficient time, Laetitia would be free to divest themselves of it without charge to the homeowners.

D. CONCERNS FOR CREEKS AND ENVIRONMENT

The developer stated that the two new wells located just above Los Berros Creek would not be used for this project. The EIR should clearly state that any new well in that area should not be used unless it can be proven that they are not affecting flows in Los Berros Creek to the detriment of wildlife.

Although Adobe Creek was dry when we visited the site, the presence of vegetation indicates that there is underground water available at all times. This is a likely habitat area for species that needs to remain viable. Pumping from the proposed upstream wells should not alter that balance.

E. CONCERNS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATION

There is evidence in the South County that small package wastewater plants of this sort are most expensive to operate - and carry greater regulatory liability - than 100 homes could operate economically. Laetitia should be required to retain ownership of the facility for the same period that they own the water company charging the residents no more than a price to be contracted for.

F. OTHER CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Have the possible consequences of the development's water use on other neighboring properties to the South been fully studied and shown to have no significant impact?

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Subcommittee:

Bill Garfinkel, Chair

Michael Winn

Dave Chipping

Marilee Hyman

Submitted: January 25, 2009

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: John Waddell, Los Osos Wastewater Project, Project Engineer

VIA: Paavo Ogren, Public Works Director

DATE: March 4, 2009

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #6: Consideration of Los Osos Wastewater Project

Two policy questions related to the Los Osos Wastewater Project (Project) were raised during the public comment period of the February 4, 2009 Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meeting. Those policy questions related to the allocation of project costs between wastewater customers versus water consumers and the exportation of groundwater from particular groundwater basins. At that meeting, the WRAC voted to agendize this item for the March meeting.

Following the February WRAC meeting, Chairperson Michael Winn, Vice Chairperson Sue Luft, Supervisor Bruce Gibson, and Public Works Director Paavo Ogren met to discuss the policy-related questions identified in March, and to consider WRAC's review of the Project. During that meeting, the benefits of holding a special study session of the WRAC were discussed. A study session could allow for a discussion of the relationship between the wastewater project efforts by the County and water management efforts by the community water purveyors (and the County), which are currently being pursued in accordance with a Court approved judgement under existing groundwater litigation. It is proposed that invitations to this study session would be extend to the WRAC, to local chapters of environmental organizations and other interested agencies.

At the March 4, 2009 WRAC meeting, County staff will discuss the project status, provide guidance, and discuss possible dates for a future study session. Staff recommends scheduling the study session on a Saturday to maximize participation and to provide sufficient time for beneficial WRAC discussion.

On the issue of groundwater exportation, it should be understood that no groundwater is being exported and that the Project intends to dispose treated effluent in an area overlying the basin. County staff also fully recognize that separate water supply benefits needed for the community as a whole should be funded community wide.