

**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, February 3, 2010  
**1:30 p.m.**

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1. **Introductions and Determination of a Quorum**
2. **Approval of January Meeting Minutes**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Ongoing Updates:**
  - a. **Paso Robles Groundwater Basin**
  - b. **Integrated Regional Water Management**
  - c. **Planning Department Efforts**
  - d. **Rainfall and Reservoir Update**
5. **Land-to-Sea Advisory Committee Discussion Group Report**
6. **Cachuma Resource Conservation District - Mobile Irrigation Lab Update**
7. **San Luis Obispo County / Monterey County Invasive Species Prevention Discussions**
8. **Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review Proposed Updates to the Land Use and Circulation Elements**
9. **Future Agenda Items - March Meeting Time**

*--- Adjourn by 3:30 p.m. ---*

**Next Regular Meeting:**       **March 3, 2010 at 1:45 p.m.**  
                                          **SLO City/County Library**  
                                          **995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo**

**Visit Water Resources on the Web at: [www.SLOCountyWater.org](http://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 November 3, 2009*

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

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2010

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An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at [www.SLOCountyWater.org](http://www.SLOCountyWater.org).

Approximately 9:00 a.m., Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order.

- 1) Introductions and Determination of a Quorum - Quorum Established.
- 2) Master Water Plan Workshop - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, provided an overview of the workshop. Jose Gutierrez, Carollo Engineers, provided a summary of work completed to date including the water supply inventory, urban demand, and summary of available information; water planning area (WPA) revisions; and demand methodology. Discussion ensues regarding the basis for defining WPAs including consideration of watersheds, groundwater basins and purveyor boundaries, and the appropriateness of the Atascadero and Salinas/Estrella WPA delineations. Annika Fain, ESA, provides an update on the demand methodology and addressed comments received, including assumptions on minimum and maximum development for the rural demand and the acknowledgment that County Planning is refining these assumptions; use of an annual average for environmental flows and recognition that, while important, seasonal, detailed modeling of watersheds was beyond the scope of this MWP; and conservation considerations in estimating future urban demands. Discussion ensues regarding seasonal watershed modeling, availability of information from Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, how unimpaired run-off is defined, the ability to calculate environmental water demand in the Salinas/Estrella WPA, surface water diversion rights, and the relationship of MWP demand estimates to California's 20 by 2020 plan. Mr. Gutierrez summarizes water supply and demand by WPA. In addition to specific comments for each WPA, discussion included the effect of climate change on supplies, the reliability of the State Water Project, the use of footnotes for data assumptions and sources, representing supply as a range, and the effects of increasing demand, seawater intrusion, water quality and imported water on groundwater basin yield. Mr. Gutierrez summarizes the proposed criteria for asserting a water supply shortfall and for evaluating solutions with discussion ensuing regarding whether to prioritize the criteria. The next WRAC MWP workshop is anticipated for April 7, 2010 and comments on the criteria and demand analysis are requested by February 3, 2010.

Noon Recess - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

- 3) Introductions and Redetermination of a Quorum - Quorum Reestablished.

By unanimous consent, the WRAC agreed to take public comment from San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Jim Patterson in advance of the Public Comment item. Supervisor Patterson speaks to the resignation of Member O'Grady from the WRAC, announces that he intends to appoint Ms. Della Barrett as Member O'Grady's replacement, and shares written comments from Member O'Grady who gives thanks to the WRAC and reflects on his time serving on the WRAC

- 4) Officer Elections - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, calls for nominations for the 2010 WRAC Chairperson. Member Winholtz nominates Member Winn to serve as the 2010 WRAC Chairperson, with a second by Alternate Member Bianchi. Alternate Member Eby moves that nominations be closed, with a second by Alternate Member Bianchi. Alternate Member Vowell moves to approve Member Winn as the 2010 WRAC Chairperson by acclamation, with a second by Member Greening. The motion passes unanimously. Member Garfinkel nominates Member Luft to serve as the 2010 WRAC Vice Chairperson, with a second. Alternate Member Eby moves that nominations be closed, with a second by Alternate Member Hyman. Alternate Member Eby moves to approve Member Luft as the 2010 WRAC Vice Chairperson by acclamation, with a second by Member Garfinkel. The motion passes unanimously. Chairperson Winn speaks to meeting attendance and commends Members Hyman, Luft, and Russel for their perfect attendance for the 2009 year.
- 5) Approval of December Meeting Minutes - The December 2, 2009 WRAC meeting minutes were approved with one amendment, by revising the text of Item 4 to read "January 29, 2010" rather than "January 29, 2009", upon a first by Member Greening, second by Member Garfinkel, and a unanimous vote with no abstentions. Discussion ensues regarding the 2010 Annual Land Use Law and Planning Conference in Los Angeles.
- 6) Public Comment - Member Greening reminds members of the WRAC of the upcoming Board of Supervisor's January 26, 2010 hearing to consider ordinance amendments relating to grading and storm water management, and of the February 9, 2010 study session to consider the new Conservation and Open Space Element. Member Hyman speaks to a study commissioned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that evaluates the impact of pharmaceutical drugs on the coast and ocean environment, and indicates that an environmental group from Santa Barbara is suing the State and county agencies for allegedly killing steelhead while using fire retardant to fight a wildfire. Chairperson Winn speaks to a recent study in Santa Cruz to evaluate the effect of flame retardant on flora and fauna in downstream and offshore environments. Ken Smokoska, Program Coordinator, encourages members of the WRAC to participate in a special topics class presented by Cuesta College titled "An Introduction to Green Building", asking that WRAC members volunteer to serve as guest speakers, and to help develop curriculum and projects for the class. Discussion ensues regarding the class schedule and timing, and regarding student demographics. Gwynn Taylor, Los Osos resident, raises concern regarding pharmaceuticals entering local water supplies and speaks to potential new regulation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requiring sewage facilities to monitor these containments. Discussion ensues regarding the need to establish a standard testing protocol. Member Luft speaks to the use of satellites to estimate water loss in

the central valley as a result of pumping, and speaks to a local study by the USGS to evaluate land subsidence in the Paso Robles area. Frank Ausilio, member of the public, indicates that there is currently no state agency that has the authority to protect local groundwater basins from saltwater intrusion and non-point source pollution. Alternate Eby reports that on January 5, 2010, the Santa Maria City Council adopted an agreement between the Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) and the City of Santa Maria to provide 3,000 acre-feet of water to the NCSD, and requests that groundwater quality reports for Santa Maria Groundwater Basin coastal wells be provided to the WRAC on a quarterly basis. Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, responds that groundwater quality data will be reported consistent with the reporting schedule of the groundwater management areas. Discussion ensues regarding the water quality reporting schedule and the judicial requirements of the management groups.

7) Ongoing Updates:

- a. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that the water balance update is nearing completion and anticipates providing a substantial update at the February 2010 WRAC meeting.
- b. Land to Sea Advisory Committee - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that the Land to Sea Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for mid January.
- c. Rainfall and Reservoir Update - Brief discussion.

8) Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review the 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report - James Caruso, Department of Planning and Building, speaks to the timing of the 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report (ARSR), identifies some past and planned changes to the format of the report, emphasizes the need for public water agencies to report their annual water use and production data to the County Public Works Department, and requests that individual members of the WRAC review the data and figures within the draft report and provide those comments directly to him. Discussion ensues regarding the need to form a policy-level subcommittee and the effectiveness of the current retrofit-upon-sale program, and to the timing of future revisions to the report. Chairperson Winn speaks to the advantage of forming a subcommittee in advance of the February 3, 2010 WRAC meeting. Chairperson Winn, and Members Garfinkel, Luft, Thompson, and Winholtz volunteer to serve on a subcommittee to review the 2009 Annual Summary Report. Member Luft moves to form a subcommittee to review the 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report, with a second by Alternate Member Larson. The motion passes unanimously.

9) Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review the Proposed Updates to the Land Use and Circulation Elements - James Caruso, Department of Planning and Building, speaks to the schedule and scope of the proposed updates to the Land Use and Circulation Element. Discussion ensues regarding the relationship between the Land Use Element and the Rural Area Plan Update, Planning Commission and Board

of Supervisor meeting schedules, and the potential need to form a subcommittee in advance of the February 3, 2010 WRAC meeting. Chairperson Winn opts to defer consideration of forming a subcommittee until the February 3, 2010 meeting.

- 10) Subcommittee Report on New Agriculture and Environmental At-Large Positions - Subcommittee Chair Winn speaks to the subcommittee process and summarizes the membership recommendations of the subcommittee, which are to recommend the Board of Supervisors appoint Daniel Berman and Annie Gillespie Environmental At-Large member and alternate member, respectively, and to appoint Lowell Zelinski and Steve Lohr Agriculture at-Large member and alternate member, respectively. Daniel Berman, applicant for the Environmental At-Large member position, introduces himself to the WRAC. Annie Gillespie, applicant for the Environmental At-Large alternate member position, introduces herself to the WRAC. Member Garfinkel moves to adopt the subcommittee recommendations for the Environmental At-Large member and alternate member positions, with a second by Member Hyman. The motion passes unanimously. Steve Lohr, applicant for the Agricultural At-Large alternate member position introduces himself to the WRAC. Member Sinton moves to adopt the subcommittee recommendations for the Agricultural At-Large member and alternate member positions, with a second by Alternate Member Larson. The motion passes unanimously. Chairperson Winn reminds members of the WRAC that the membership recommendations must be conformed by the Board of Supervisors before they are official.
- 11) Presentation on the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program - Shayna Bailey, District Conservation Planner for the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, presents information on the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), describes the goals and mission of the AWEP, and identifies the regions in which the program can be implemented. Ms. Bailey speaks to the growth and function of the mobile water lab service and outlines the eligibility rules and application process. Discussion ensues regarding program operations and funding.
- 12) Future Agenda Items - Brief discussion.
- Meeting adjourned approximately 3:00 p.m.
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**WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2010**

Organization	Representative	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cambria CSD	Jim Adams	M											
	Robert Reason	A											
	Bob Gresens	Staff											
Heritage Ranch CSD	John D'Omellas	M											
	Debbie Fransen	A											
Los Osos CSD	Maria Kelly	M	X										
	Marshall Ochylski	A	X										
	Margret Falkner	Staff											
	Dan Gilmore	Staff	X										
Nipomo CSD	Bruce Buel	M											
	Ed Eby	A	X										
	Jim Harrison	Staff											
Oceano CSD	Barbara Mann	M											
	Phil Davis	A											
	Kevin Walsh	Staff											
	John Wallace	Staff											
	Doug Groshart	Staff											
Templeton CSD	Jeff Hodge	M	X										
	Judith Dieth	A											
	Paul Sorensen	Staff											
San Simeon CSD	John Russell	M	X										
	Charles Grace	A											
San Miguel CSD	Mike Ellison	M											
	Dale Hamblin	A											
City of Arroyo Grande	Chuck Fellows	M	X										
	Jim Guthrie	A											
City of Atascadero	Russ Thompson	M	X										
	David Athey	A	*										
City of Grover Beach	Robert Mires	M	X										
	Debbie Peterson	A											
City of Morro Bay	Betty Winholtz	M	X										
	Dylan Wade	A	X										
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M											
	Keith Larson	A	X										
City of Pismo Beach	Ted Ehring	M											
	Ed Waage	A											
	Dwayne Chisam	Staff											
	Greg Ray	Staff											
City of San Luis Obispo	Allen Settle	M											
	Andrew Carter	A											
	Gary Henderson	Staff	X										
	Ron Munds	Staff	X										
District 1	Steve Sinton	M	X										
	0	A											
District 2	Bill Garfinkel	M	X										
	0	A											
District 3	Marilee Hyman	M	X										
	0	A											
District 4	Michael Winn	M	X										
	0	A											
District 5	Dan O'Grady	M	*										
	0	A											
California Men's Colony	John Kellerman	M											
	Mike Mintey	A											
Camp SLO	John Reid	M	X										
	Nicole Balliet	A											
Cuesta College	Edralin Maduli	M											
	Terry Reece	A											
	Scott Demello	Staff											
Atascadero Mutual	John Neil	M											
	Jaime Lien	A											
	Dan Scalas	Staff											
Golden State Water	Mark Zimmer	M	*										
	Patrick Vowell	A	X										
Agriculture At-Large	Ray Allen	M											
	Vacant*	NM											
	Mike Broadhurst	A	*										
County Farm Bureau	Vacant*	NA											
	Joy Fitzhugh	M	X										
Environmental At-Large	Jackie Crabb	A											
	Sue Luft	M	X										
	Eric Greening	M	X										
	Vacant*	NM											
	David Chipping	A	X										
Coastal San Luis RCD	Sue Harvey	A	X										
	Vacant*	NA											
	Linda Chipping	M	X										
	Kathie Matsuyama	A											
Upper Salinas RCD	Tom Mora	M											
	Bill Bianchi	A	X										
	Shayna Bailey	Staff	X										
	Donald J. Funk	Staff	X										
Board of Supervisors	Jim Patterson	Dist. 5	X										
	Amy Gilman	Staff											
Public Works	Courtney Howard	Staff	X										
	Paavo Ogren	Staff											
	Dean Benedix	Staff											
	Sylas Cranor	Staff	X										
	Mark Hutchinson	Staff											
	John Waddell	Staff											
	John Diodati	Staff											
	Genaro Diaz	Staff											
Planning and Building	Jill Ogren	Staff											
	James Caruso	Staff	X										
	Brian Pedrotti	Staff											
	Mike Wulkan	Staff											
	Steve McMasters	Staff											
	Elizabeth Kavanaugh	Staff											
Public Health Services	Michael Conger	Staff											
	Leslie Terry	Staff	X										
	Megan Lillich	Staff	X										
	Brad Prior	Staff											
	Kalub Emmons	Staff											
Agricultural Commissioner	Michael Isensee	Staff	X										

M = Member; A = Alternate; NM = New Member; NA = New Alternate; \* = Notified of absence or conflict;  
 \* = To be confirmed at a future BOS meeting;  
 0 = No nomination received as of 1/29/2010



## 2009 Resource Management System Water Data Request Recipients

Agency	Responded
Adelaide Estates	x
Arroyo Grande City	x
Atascadero Mutual Water Company	<b>See Note</b>
Atascadero State Hospital	x
Avila Beach Community Water District	x
Avila Valley MWC	
Baron Canyon MWC	
Bassi Ranch MWC	
Bear Valley Water Co	
Golden State Water Co - Los Osos	
Golden State Water Co - Nipomo	x
Golden State Water Co - Rolling Hills/Country Club	
Cambria C.S.D.	
Cayucos - CSA 10A	x
City of Morro Bay	x
City of Paso Robles	x
City of Pismo Beach	x
City of San Luis Obispo	x
Edna Ranch MWC East	
El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional Facility	
Garden Farms	x
Green River Mutual Water Co.	
Grover Beach	
Heritage Ranch CSD	x
Irish Hills MWC	
Los Osos Community Services District	x
Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Estates	
Morro Rock Mutual Water Company	
Spanish Lakes MWC	
Nacimiento Water Company (Oak Shores)	
Nipomo CSD	x
Oceano Community Services District	x
Paso Robles Beach Water Association	
S. & T. Mutual Water Co.	x
San Miguel CSD	
San Miguelito MWC	
San Simeon Acres CSD	x
Santa Margarita - CSA 23	x
Santa Ysabel Ranch MWC	
Shandon - CSA 16	x
Templeton Community Services District	x
The Temple of the People	x
Varian Ranch	x

Note: Provided DWR Form

## Rainfall Update

Region	Precipitation Station	Average Annual Rainfall	2008-09 Water Year Total Rainfall	2009-10 Water Year												Cumulative Total	% of Total Average
				Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10 <sup>A</sup>	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10		
Cambria	Santa Rosa at Main Street (ALERT #717)	22.0	10.4 (47%)	0	0	0.16	4.29	0.04	3.43	5.16 <sup>C</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	13.07	59%
	Salinas River at Paso Robles (CDEC ID: PAS)	14.1	8.4 (60%)	0	0	0.04	3.60	0	3.48	5.64						12.76	90%
Atascadero	Atascadero (ALERT #711)	17.0	7.7 (45%)	0	0	0	3.86	0	3.54	5.95	-	-	-	-	-	13.35	79%
Santa Margarita	Santa Margarita (ALERT #723)	24.0	14.4 (60%)	0	0	0	5.71	0.08	4.92	8.54	-	-	-	-	-	19.25	80%
San Luis Obispo	SLO Reservoir (ALERT #749)	24.0	12.3 (51%)	0	0	0.08	7.36	0.08	4.80	8.82	-	-	-	-	-	21.14	88%
Lopez	Lopez Recreation Area (ALERT #707)	23.0	12.5 (55%)	0	0	0	4.70	0	5.85	7.53	-	-	-	-	-	18.08	79%
Nipomo	Nipomo <sup>B</sup> (CIMIS #202)	14.8	7.5 (50%)	0	0	0	0.17	0.21	2.78	6.02	-	-	-	-	-	9.18	62%

A - Report generated at 2:30 p.m. on 1/28/2010

B - It appears that this gauge is occasionally recording irrigation water, in addition to precipitation.

C - Value underrepresents actual rainfall; the equipment at this site malfunctioned during this month.

**Notes:**

This table contains provisional data from automated gauges and has not been verified.

All units reported in inches.

## Reservoir Update

Reservoir	Date	Water Elevation (ft)	Spillway Elevation (ft)	Storage (acre-feet)	Capacity (%)
Nacimiento	January 28, 2010	745.9	800.0	137,440	41%
	January 28, 2009	733.7		101,623	30%
Lopez	January 27, 2010	493.7	523.0	27,185	55%
	January 27, 2009	498.0		29,952	61%
Salinas (Santa Margarita)	January 28, 2010	1295.3	1300.7	20,069	84%
	January 28, 2009	1290.9		17,380	73%
Whale Rock	January 28, 2010	176.9	216.0	21,026	52%
	January 28, 2009	187.3		25,612	63%
Twitchell	January 28, 2010	543.6	651.5	5,359	2%

**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer**  
**DATE: February 3, 2010**  
**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #5: Land-to-Sea Advisory Committee Discussion Group**

**Recommendation**

Review ways the WRAC can support, rather than expand to become, a potential Land-to-Sea Advisory Committee, and provide a copy of this report with a cover letter to Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable Project representatives.

**Discussion**

The ad hoc committee met on January 11, 2010, to discuss the idea of a Land-to-Sea Advisory Committee (LTSA) with a representative of the Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable Project (CORRT). Participants included District 2 Member Bill Garfinkel, District 3 Member Marilee Hyman, Camp San Luis Obispo Member John Reid, District 4 Member Mike Winn, and Public Works staff Courtney Howard. Unfortunately, a CORRT representative did not attend the meeting. The group decided to proceed with discussing the idea, utilizing materials provided during the CORRT representative's presentations to the WRAC.

With the WRAC being an advisory body to the County Board of Supervisors only, it would not be able to meet the objectives of a LTSA in advising other local, state and federal agencies or facilitating inter-county discussions. Therefore, the WRAC cannot be expanded effectively to incorporate the LTSA. However, the WRAC does address other objectives of the proposed LTSA that may support such a committee if it were to be formed.

*Making the Land to Sea connection: Recommend ways that existing codes and ordinances can adequately protect the health of coastal freshwater and ocean ecosystems, focusing in particular on reducing the impact of land uses and development on water quality.*

The WRAC frequently reviews and opines on County-wide policy documents and ordinances that may affect water quality originating from land uses upstream in coastal watersheds. Examples include the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE), Biosolids Ordinance, and Stormwater Management Ordinance.

*Collecting and integrating locally relevant information: Identify and facilitate the collection and integration of high quality coastal freshwater*

*and ocean systems information that is critical for informed local decision making.*

With broad WRAC representation of entities throughout the County with water resources interests and relevant information, as well as a County water resources website, opportunities exist for information collection and integration via the WRAC. Being a public advisory body, the WRAC enables those entities that are not WRAC members also to bring forth relevant information to the broad group. It is also important to note that the new Environmental at-Large position has been filled with a representative and alternate who are knowledgeable in coastal and marine issues.

*Recommend ways to creatively consolidate and rearrange existing resources through partnerships, joint ventures, networks, etc.*

The WRAC is involved in the development and review of regional plans and reports that have resource optimization through partnerships, joint ventures and networks as key implementation strategies. Examples include the IRWM Plan, Master Water Plan, COSE, and Resource Management System Resource Capacity Studies.

*Provide feedback on projects.*

The WRAC regularly reviews and provides feedback on projects with potential regional and sub-regional water resources impacts, such as those that have creek or ocean discharge like wastewater treatment projects or desalination projects that are under County jurisdiction.

Should CORRT representatives or others proceed with forming a LTSA, it will be important to recognize the administrative requirements for a successful advisory body. It must have, among other things, a solid financing mechanism, administrative staff and a clear purpose and charge. That purpose and charge should be clearly defined prior to approaching other existing groups with the potential to have a role in the proposed LTSA.

**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Carolyn Berg, Public Works Department Staff**

**VIA: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer**

**DATE: February 3, 2010**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #7: San Luis Obispo County/Monterey County  
Invasive Species Prevention Discussions**

### **Recommendation**

Review update on San Luis Obispo County and Monterey County invasive species prevention discussions for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs and consider the WRAC representative's recommendation included in the attached report.

### **Discussion**

On June 24, 2008, the Board of Supervisors established a group of representatives from various interested agencies, including WRAC representatives and Board members, to meet with Monterey County representatives to discuss invasive species prevention programs for Nacimiento Reservoir, as no preventative measures had been put in place for the high-risk reservoir (More information on the invasive species threat (quagga and/or zebra mussels in particular) can be found at [www.SLOCountyWater.org](http://www.SLOCountyWater.org)).

Elected officials and staff from interested agencies met to discuss invasive species prevention at Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs on January 22, 2010, in line with the Board of Supervisors' direction. Staff presented a range of options delineated by each alternative's level of risk-reduction, implementation feasibility for the 2010 boating season, alternative cost, and public impact. The alternatives discussed ranged from an education-only program at low cost and low risk-reduction up to a mandatory inspection and decontamination program at high cost and significantly higher risk-reduction. It is important to note that meeting discussions focused on the 2010 boating season and include both San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs, as Monterey County Parks Department operates both facilities.

Staff left the meeting with the task to pursue a Self-Inspection, Screening, and Enforcement alternative (Alternative 2, as described in the attached report). Staff will evaluate the program budget, and develop program implementation details including a cost-sharing approach prior to the next joint meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 19, 2010. Meanwhile, Elected Officials agreed to seek congressional support for this prevention program.

Alternate Member Keith Larson, City of Paso Robles, attended this recent meeting between San Luis Obispo County and Monterey County representatives as the WRAC's representative, and has provided the attached report and recommendation for your consideration.

## Memorandum

**To:** Water Resources Advisory Committee  
**From:** Keith Larson, City of Paso Robles  
**Subject:** Report on Proposed Quagga/Zebra Mussel Control Program for Lake Nacimiento and San Antonio Lake  
**Date:** January 26, 2010

Currently no inspection program exists at either lake to protect the lakes from high-risk vessels potentially infected with mussels. If an infested watercraft transports mussels into the lake, the impact to the ecosystem, food chain, and reservoir-associated infrastructure would be drastic and potentially devastating. Infected lakes have experienced permanent alteration of water chemistry, clarity, fisheries, habitat, and severe and reoccurring damage to water infrastructure. The Lake Nacimiento Water Project facilities are particularly at risk for infestation that would significantly increase pipeline maintenance costs and maintenance costs at water provider water treatment facilities.

The working group composed of elected officials from Monterey County and SLO County and staff of Monterey and SLO Counties met on January 22, 2010 to discuss how to move forward with a mussel control program for 2010 and beyond. A joint staff report was prepared that discussed a range of four prevention program alternatives with costs varying from \$150,000/yr to up to \$2.5 million/yr. The alternatives are described below.

Alternative 1 – Education Only - Involves increased boater education involving signage at launch ramps, various media, websites, direct mail to boat owners, information with annual lake pass mailings, brochures at local marinas, boat shops, bait shops and DMV offices. In addition, one-on-one contact at boat ramps. Cost: \$150,000/yr.

Alternative 2 – Education (Alt. 1) and Self-Certification, Screening Inspection and Enforcement. Would require boaters to complete a pre-launch, self-certification of their vessel using a checklist sheet (i.e. to confirm CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY condition and confirm they had not recently had their boat on an infected lake)) and to station rangers at each major launch ramp to review the self-certifications. High risk vessels will not be allowed to launch until they undergo an inspection at a formal inspection station located at the public ramps. Cost: \$533,000.

Alternative 3 – Screen and Inspection – Trained staff would perform mandatory inspection as opposed to the self-screening approach. This would involve screening interviews with boaters as they approach launch ramps (10-20 minutes per boat). The screening approach works well with lakes with one or two launch ramps and limited launch hours. Lake Nacimiento, with its 30+ private boat ramps would require either setting up regional inspection stations on approach routes to the lake or having some form of inspection program at all private ramps. Cost: \$1.3 to \$2.5 million.

Alternative 4 – Inspection and Decontamination. Setting up decontamination facilities requires providing hot water with bleach, careful handling and treatment of runoff. Offering decontamination in the inspection process will increase staffing, site area, permitting, and will involve a water collection and treatment system. Cost: Additional \$0.5 million above Alt. 3.

The consensus reached at the meeting was to move forward as soon as possible with defining and implementing a \$200,000 to \$250,000 per year program for 2010. This program would include the Alternative 1 education program and parts of the self-inspection program of Alternative 2. Staff and

consultants were instructed to develop a detailed program implementation schedule and budget to roll out the program beginning in March. Other items discussed at the meeting include:

- Staff to develop ordinance language to: 1) provide needed authority for agencies to enforce the inspection program, and 2) implement new fee structures at the lakes to generate revenue to pay for the programs.
- Program costs to be split approximately 75% (Monterey Co.) and 25% (SLO Co.), with more fine-tuning of program cost split to be done in the future.
- The 2010 program should be viewed as a starting point at working toward full implementation of Alternatives 3 and 4 as funding becomes available. Supervisors from both counties will explore the possibility of federal assistance through the congressional delegation for further implementation of Alternatives 3 and/or 4 in subsequent years.

#### Suggested WRAC Motion

Due to the potentially devastating consequences of infestation of Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio with Quagga/Zebra mussels, the Water Resources Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors work with SLO County Public Works and Monterey County to implement in 2011, Alternative 4 (Inspection and Decontamination) as outlined in the report dated January 22, 2010 (Joint Staff Report on Invasive Species Prevention Plan for Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio).