

**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, April 7, 2010
9:00 a.m.

1. **Determination of a Quorum and Introductions**
2. **Master Water Plan Workshop**
- *Noon Recess 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ---*
3. **Redetermination of a Quorum and Introductions**
4. **Approval of March Meeting Minutes**
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Ongoing Updates:**
 - a. **Membership - Environmental At-Large**
 - b. **Integrated Regional Water Management**
 - c. **Status of Negotiations with the Central Coast Water Authority for Emergency Water to South County**
 - d. **Rainfall and Reservoir Update**
7. **Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review the Draft Shandon Community Plan and Environmental Impact Report**
8. **2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report - Planning Department Overview and WRAC Subcommittee Report**
9. **Presentation on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Water Balance Update**
10. **Future Agenda Items**

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

Next Regular Meeting: **May 5, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**
 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 November 3, 2009

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

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2010

An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at www.SLOCountyWater.org.

Approximately 1:45 p.m., Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order.

- 1) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions - Quorum Established.
- 2) Approval of February Meeting Minutes - The February 3, 2010 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Garfinkel, second by Member Greening, and a unanimous vote with one (1) abstention.
- 3) Public Comment - Gewynn Taylor speaks to seawater intrusion in the Los Osos Valley Groundwater Basin and requests that the WRAC discuss the Flood Control and Water Conservation District's (District) role in addressing seawater intrusion issues. Linde Owen speaks to nitrate levels and seawater intrusion in the Los Osos Valley Groundwater Basin and the reliability of the community's water supply. Jeff Edwards requests an update on consideration of the District's jurisdiction with respect to addressing seawater intrusion in groundwater basins, with Paavo Ogren, County Public Works Director, responding. Member Greening inquires as to the results of Chairperson Winn's correspondence with individual Supervisors regarding whether they individually support the WRAC's review of the District's role in monitoring and evaluating sea water intrusion in coastal groundwater basins and the possibility of recommending that the Board address this issue with the benefit of having legal counsel present; with Chairperson Winn responding. John Snyder describes the response received to his request for sentry well water quality data from Nipomo CSD and water transfers in the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. Jim Miller speaks to what he pays to irrigate his land and to the seawater intrusion issue in Los Osos. Member Reid speaks to a recent green building conference at which a case study where arsenic-treated wood was used as a barrier to prevent seawater intrusion was reviewed. Marilee Hyman refers to a case in Orange County where an ordinance existed requiring a certain amount of lawn and encourages agencies to review their ordinances or existing covenants, conditions and restrictions for this requirement.
- 4) Ongoing Updates:
 - a. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the Water Balance Update is being finalized, and will be presented at a future WRAC meeting in coordination with the new draft Resource Capacity Study. Ms. Howard indicates that the Paso Robles

Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee to develop the Groundwater Management Plan had a successful meeting on February 25th, with the next workshop likely in April.

- b. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that discussions have resumed between the regions in the Central Coast Funding Area in anticipation of guidelines being released from the State for IRWM Plan development and grant funding opportunities. Ms. Howard requests that all WRAC member agencies execute a Memorandum of Understanding to become a Regional Water Management Group member.
 - c. Master Water Plan - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, speaks to Technical Memoranda status, the method for responding to comments received, the upcoming April WRAC workshop, and the approach to identifying areas where seawater intrusion is occurring or is of concern.
 - d. Planning Department Efforts - James Caruso, County Planning, speaks to the timing for the Resource Management System Annual Summary Report and the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study.
 - e. Rainfall and Reservoir Update - 2009 data for Twitchell Reservoir is requested.
- 5) State Water - Letter of Intent to Evaluate Exchange of Coastal Branch Capacity for Allocation Opportunities - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, reviews the status of State Water management; September Board direction to look at Coastal Branch optimization options in coordination with local agencies, State Water Subcontractors and the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA); the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) request for State Water; subsequent coordination on short- and long-term issues; and the benefit of sending the proposed letter to CCWA. Paavo Ogren, County Public Works Director, speaks to the proposed letter of intent to evaluate exchange of Coastal Branch capacity for allocation opportunities during the development of the Master Water Plan and consistency with existing Board policies on the District's excess State Water allocation. Chairperson Winn seeks clarification on the State Department of Water Resources involvement, with Mr. Ogren responding. Other options for the District's excess allocation, including out-of-County groundwater banking, and peaking considerations are discussed. Member Fitzhugh moves to recommend that the Board of Supervisors send the proposed letter to CCWA, with the recommended hyphenation, with a second by Member Mires. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 6) Overview of the Preliminary Staff Report and Recommendations for an Agricultural Order by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board - Lisa McCann of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) provides the WRAC with an overview of surface water and groundwater contamination specific to runoff from irrigated agriculture in the RWQCB's region. Angela Schroeter of the RWQCB provides an overview of the draft Agricultural Order and RWQCB staff Report, including contaminated discharge identification, monitoring and prevention

action requirements. Discussion ensues regarding irrigation source water quality with respect to the evaluation of discharge water quality, the relationship of water quality conditions to rainfall amounts, and resources for understanding best management practices, such as for appropriate fertilizer application.

7) Future Agenda Items - Brief discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:45 p.m.

DRAFT

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		X										
Heritage Ranch CSD	John D'Ornellas	M												
	Debbie Fransen	A												
Los Osos CSD	Maria Kelly	M	X	X	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Dan Gilmore**		n/a	n/a	X									
	Marshall Ochylski	A	X		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Maria Kelly**		n/a	n/a										
Nipomo CSD	Dan Gilmore	Staff	X	X	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Bruce Buell	M			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Ed Eby**		n/a	n/a	X									
	Ed Eby	A	X	X	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oceano CSD	Barbara Mann	M												
	Phil Davis	A												
Templeton CSD	Jeff Hodge	M	X											
	Judith Dieth	A												
San Simeon CSD	John Russell	M	X	X	X									
	Charles Grace	A												
San Miguel CSD	Mike Ellison	M												
	Dale Hamblin	A												
City of Arroyo Grande	Chuck Fellows	M	X		X									
	Jim Guthrie	A												
City of Atascadero	Russ Thompson	M	X	X										
	David Athey	A	*											
City of Grover Beach	Robert Mires	M	X	X	X									
	Debbie Peterson	A												
City of Morro Bay	Betty Winholtz	M	X	X	X									
	Dylan Wade	A	X	X	X									
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M												
	Keith Larson	A	X	X	X									
City of Pismo Beach	Ted Ehring	M		X	X									
	Ed Waage	A												
City of San Luis Obispo	Dwayne Chisam	Staff		X	X									
	Allen Settle	M			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
City of San Luis Obispo	John Ashbaugh**		n/a	n/a	X									
	Andrew Carter	A			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Jan Marx**		n/a	n/a										
	John Ashbaugh	Staff		X	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
District 1	Gary Henderson		X	X	X									
	Ron Munds	Staff	X											
District 2	Steve Sinton	M	X		X									
District 3	Bill Garfinkel	M	X	X	X									
District 4	Marilee Hyman	M	X	X	X									
District 5	Michael Winn	M	X	X	X									
	Dan O'Grady	M	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
California Men's Colony	Della Barrett**	M	n/a	X	X									
	John Kellerman	M												
Camp SLO	Mike Mintey	A		X	X									
	John Reid	M	X	*	X									
Cuesta College	Nicole Balliet	A		*										
	Edralin Maduli	M												
Atascadero Mutual	Terry Reece	A												
	John Neil	M												
Golden State Water	Jaime Lien	A			X									
	Mark Zimmer	M	*		X									
Agriculture At-Large	Patrick Vowell	A	X	X	*									
	Ray Allen	M		X										
County Farm Bureau	Lowell Zelinski**	M	n/a	X	X									
	Mike Broadhurst	A	*	X	X									
	Steve Lohr**	A	n/a											
Environmental At-Large	Joy Fitzhugh	M	X	X	X									
	Jackie Crabb	A			X									
Coastal San Luis RCD	Sue Luft	M	X	X	X									
	Eric Greening	M	X	X	X									
	Daniel Berman**	M	n/a	X										
	David Chipping	A	X	X	X									
Upper Salinas RCD	Sue Harvey	A	X	X										
	Annie Gillespie**	A	n/a	*	X									
Public Works	Linda Chipping	M	X	X	X									
	Kathie Matsuyama	A												
	Tom Mora	M		X										
	Bill Bianchi	A	X											
Planning and Building	Shayna Bailey	Staff	X											
	Donald J. Funk	Staff	X											
Board of Supervisors	Jim Patterson	Dist. 5	X											
	Courtney Howard		X	*	X									
	Paavo Ogren	Staff			X									
	Dean Benedix			X										
Public Health Services	Sylas Cranor		X	X	*									
	Carolyn Berg			X										
Agricultural Commissioner	James Caruso	Staff	X	X	X									
	Suzan Ehdiae			X										
Agricultural Commissioner	Katie Simkover			X										
	Leslie Terry	Staff	X	X	X									
Agricultural Commissioner	Megan Lillich		X	X	X									
	Michael Isensee	Staff	X		X									

M = Member; A = Alternate; NM = New Member; NA = New Alternate;
 * = Notified of absence or conflict

* = To be confirmed at a future BOS meeting
 ** = Membership confirmed by the BOS after 01/01/2010

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2010 GUEST LIST

NAME	AFFILIATION (if any)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Ausilio, Frank	Public	X											
Bailey, Shayna	Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD	X	X										
Barnett, Mark	Natural Resources Conservation Service	X											
Berman, Dan	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	X											
Bodrogi, Lisa	Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance	X		X									
Carella, Lou	Carollo Engineers	X											
Dooley, Michelle	DWR, San Joaquin District	X		X									
Edwards, Jeff	Private Planner	X	X	X									
Fain, Annika	ESA	X											
Gillespie, Annie	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	X											
Gutierrez, Jose	Carollo Engineers	X											
Lohr, Steve	J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines	X											
McCann, Lisa	Water Quality Control Board			X									
Owen, Linde				X									
Petrick, Bill	Blacklake Management Association	X											
Rice, Amanda	North Coast Advisory Council	X											
Schroeter, Angela	Water Quality Control Board			X									
Smokoska, Ken	Program Coordinator	X											
Snyder, John		X	X	X									
Swees, Kathy	Public	X											
Tanaka, Steven	Wallace Group	X											
Taylor, George		X	X	X									
Taylor, Gwynn		X	X	X									
Thomas, Michael	Water Quality Control Board			X									
Wald, Stephnie	Central Coast Salmon Enhancement		X										
Whitney, C. Z.	Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council			X									
Williams, Stan	Poseidon Water	X											
Zelus, Cheryl	Natural Resources Conservation Service	X											
Zigas, Eric	ESA	X											

*Special Meeting

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee
FROM: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer
DATE: April 7, 2010
SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 2: Master Water Plan Workshop

Recommendation

Consider water resource management strategy concepts; the benefits, challenges, beneficiaries and implementation considerations for each; and how they compare to evaluation criteria established for the Master Water Plan.

Consider and brainstorm example regional programs and institutional arrangements.

Discussion

The following is an overview of the workshop.

Review Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for asserting a water resource shortfall in an area and for evaluating different water management strategies are attached.

Water Management Strategy Discussion

The project team will be seeking input from the WRAC on the benefits, challenges, beneficiaries and implementation considerations associated with the following water management strategies:

- Conservation
- State Water Project Optimization
- Nacimiento Water Project Optimization
- Lopez Reservoir Optimization
- Salinas Reservoir Optimization
- Desalination
- Recycled Water
- Groundwater Basins – Underutilized or Poor Quality
- Land Use Management
- Precipitation Enhancement
- Rainwater Harvesting
- New Off- or On-Stream Storage/Recharge
- Cooperative Operation/Reliability Programs

Input on how each of the strategies compare to the evaluation criteria will also be sought in order to consider them on a water planning area basis. The approach

to evaluating the strategies on a water planning area basis will also be discussed.

Brainstorm Example Programs and Institutional Arrangements

The project team will be seeking input on potential regional programs, including institutional arrangement considerations. These might include:

- Use of the pipeline from Salinas Reservoir to Chorro Reservoir for exchange or reliability programs with the City of San Luis Obispo, North Coast or others
- Use of unsubscribed Nacimiento for exchanges with new or existing users of Whale Rock Reservoir water.
- Banking or recharge of Nacimiento or State water in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin for the benefit of the Basin and/or increased reliability for existing users of the surface water supplies being banked
- Storage of water in Lopez Reservoir in conjunction with State Water deliveries
- Regionalized desalination, treatment or recycled water projects
- Interties to regional systems for emergency use only

Attachment: Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria

The purpose of this task is to identify the analysis criteria for asserting a water resource shortfall and to evaluate potential water resource supply solutions (e.g. improved management, projects, programs, policies).

Criteria for Asserting a Water Resource Shortfall

1. Do the existing water demands equal or exceed the dependable supply? (consistent with current criteria for RMS water supply)
 - a. Analysis will evaluate the existing demands against the dependable (or reliable) supply to determine if there is a shortfall.
2. Do the forecast build-out demands equal or exceed the available supply?
 - a. Analysis will evaluate the build-out demands against the dependable (or reliable) supply to determine if there is a shortfall.
 - b. Analysis will account for range in future demands (low, mid, high).
 - c. Based on projected growth, the analysis will estimate the timing for implementing the solutions.

Criteria for Evaluating Potential Water Resource Supply Solutions

1. The solutions should optimize management of existing supply resources and infrastructure.
 - a. Goal is to use existing water supply resources and infrastructure to their fullest before building new supplies.
 - b. Goal is to first replace or modernize antiquated and/or inefficient supplies.
2. The solutions should reduce the dependency on imported supplies and promote local control.
 - a. Goal is to maximize the use of supplies originating within the County.
3. The solutions should be consistent with and support existing County goals, policies, and documents, such as: the “Strategic Growth” principles adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE), Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), Agriculture Element, and Climate Action Plan.
 - a. Strategic Growth: Goal is to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable water supplies in urban areas; and protect groundwater supplies for agriculture.
 - b. COSE:
 - i. Water Resources Goals and Policies: Goal is to be consistent with the water supply options and priorities outlined in the COSE plan, including but not limited to conservation, optimization of existing supplies, interagency projects and cooperative efforts, and use of reclaimed water.
 - ii. Biological Resources Goals and Policies: Goal is to support the Biological Resources section, including but not limited to sustaining healthy ecosystems. The solutions should meet current environmental resource obligations and possibly create new opportunities for environmental purposes.
 - c. IRWMP: Goal is to consider environmental justice and disadvantaged communities when evaluating solutions, and to promote integrated benefits for flood protection, water quality, ecosystem preservation and restoration.

- d. Agriculture Element: Goal is to conserve water resources which are vital to a successful agricultural industry.
 - e. Climate Action Plan: Goal is to support the County's Climate Action Plan. When comparing different options, the preferred option should result in lower greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the project when compared to other options.
4. The solutions should result in a sustainable and reliable water supply.
- a. Goal is to ensure that future water supplies are dependable and will endure anticipated climate changes.
5. When comparing different options, the preferred option should have the least environmental impact with or without mitigation when compared to other options.
- a. Goal is to promote projects that have less of an environmental impact with or without mitigation and can be implemented.

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	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10 ^A	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	5.43 ^C	5.20 ^C	1.54 ^C	0.00	-	-	13.07	59%
				0	0	0.04	3.60	0	3.48	5.72	3.28	0.56	0.00	-	-	16.68	118%
Paso Robles	Salinas River at Paso Robles (CDEC ID: PAS)	14.1	8.4 (60%)	0	0	0	3.86	0	3.54	5.98	2.99	0.71	0.00	-	-	17.09	101%
				0	0	0	5.71	0.08	4.92	8.62	4.72	0.83	0.00	-	-	24.88	104%
Atascadero	Atascadero (ALERT #711)	17.0	7.7 (45%)	0	0	0	7.36	0.08	4.80	8.94	5.75	1.81	0.04	-	-	28.86	120%
				0	0	0.08	4.70	0	5.85	7.56	4.77	1.99	0.01	-	-	24.88	108%
Santa Margarita	Santa Margarita (ALERT #723)	24.0	14.4 (60%)	0	0	0	0.17	0.21	2.78	6.08	3.54	1.41	0.00	-	-	14.19	96%
				0	0	0	0.17	0.21	2.78	6.08	3.54	1.41	0.00	-	-	14.19	96%
San Luis Obispo	SLO Reservoir (ALERT #749)	24.0	12.3 (51%)	0	0	0.08	7.36	0.08	4.80	8.94	5.75	1.81	0.04	-	-	28.86	120%
				0	0	0.08	4.70	0	5.85	7.56	4.77	1.99	0.01	-	-	24.88	108%
Lopez	Lopez Recreation Area (ALERT #707)	23.0	12.5 (55%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nipomo	Nipomo ^B (CIMIS #202)	14.8	7.5 (50%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A - Report generated at 9:30 a.m. on 04/01/2010

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	April 1, 2010	772.3	800.0	237,520	63%
	April 1, 2009	748.3		145,038	43%
Lopez	March 30, 2010	499.1	523.0	30,654	62%
	March 30, 2009	497.7		29,714	60%
Salinas (Santa Margarita)	April 1, 2010	1300.8	1300.7	23,902	100%
	April 1, 2009	1290.3		16,979	71%
Whale Rock	March 31, 2010	181.1	216.0	22,924	56%
	March 31, 2009	186.7		25,344	62%
Twitchell	April 1, 2010	556.3	651.5	12,992	7%

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: April 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #7: Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review the Draft Shandon Community Plan and Environmental Impact Report

Recommendation

Consider forming a subcommittee to review the water resources-related sections of the Public Review Draft of the Shandon Community Plan and the Public Review Draft of the Environmental Impact Report.

Discussion

On September 21, 2004, the County Board of Supervisors authorized an update to the Community Plan for the town of Shandon. The Department of Planning and Building has been working with the Shandon Advisory Council, property owners and residents of Shandon to update the plan.

The Public Review Draft of the Shandon Community Plan is now available for review and available to download at the link below. The comment period on this document ends May 5, 2010.

The next major step for the community plan update is completion of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Public Review Draft of the EIR is anticipated to be available in April 2010.

Shandon Community Plan Information:

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/General_Plan_Ordinances_and_Elements/Plans_in_Process_and_Draft_Plans/Shandon_Community_Plan_Information.htm

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: April 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 8: 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report - Planning Department Overview and WRAC Subcommittee Report

Recommendation

Consider the Subcommittee's Report on the draft 2009 Resource Management System (RMS) Annual Summary Report (ASR), District staff feedback on the subcommittee's proposed recommendations, and forwarding recommendations to the Planning Department and Commission.

Provide comments to the Planning Department on the community discussions on an individual basis.

Discussion

The WRAC subcommittee to review the 2009 ASR met on March 26, 2009 to discuss the draft 2009 ASR and developed the attached recommendations. District staff appreciated the opportunity to participate in the subcommittee meeting and its effort to ensure water resources in the County are adequately monitored and managed.

After review of the subcommittee's recommendations with management, District staff would like to provide the following feedback.

- The following edits to #1 are recommended for clarification and in consideration of District resources:
 - a. semi-annual *water level* measurements, *subject to protocol established by the ~~Dept~~ Director of Public Works*
 - b. installation of flowmeters on all new wells (excluding replacement wells)
 - c. enroll in the District ~~County's~~ well-measurement program
 - d. record *semi-annual water level measurements* ~~use~~ and *monthly flowmeter readings* ~~other information~~ ~~monthly~~ and report semi-annually on a *District* ~~County~~ -provided form

- The ability to implement the recommendations is subject to legal and funding limitations, especially with regard to District authority and sea water intrusion (i.e. water quality) monitoring programs, and in those areas where judicial authority exists.
- Coordination between the District and Planning Department, and more recently, between the District and Environmental Health, is occurring. The Environmental Health Department was especially helpful in understanding small systems in the County for the Master Water Plan. Nevertheless, improved coordination is always a goal, and the areas suggested are noted.
- The Data Enhancement Plan identified locations for additional stream gauges and a budget has been established in the current fiscal year to implement the first year a 5-year installation program.

The 2009 Draft Annual Summary Report is not included in the April WRAC agenda package. The document (89 pages and 1.7 MB) can be downloaded online at www.SLOCountyWater.org and is available for review upon request at the Public Works Department front counter.

Attachments: WRAC Sub-Committee Recommendations for 2009 ASR

WRAC Sub-Committee
Recommendations for 2009 ASR

1. The process to issue well permits should be modified. Well permits are issued by the Division of Environmental Health. Permits for new wells located in groundwater basins at LOS I, II or III (or basins whose safe yield is not known or wells in fractured formations) should be subject to the following requirements as amendments to Title 8 of the County Code:
 - a. semi-annual measurements by the Dept of Public Works
 - b. installation of flowmeters on all new wells (excluding replacement wells)
 - c. enroll in the County's well-measurement program
 - d. record water use and other information monthly and report semi-annually on a County-provided form.
2. Water use reporting of water by purveyors in support of the RMS is spotty at times. A lack of this type of basic information makes it difficult to analyze water use and to determine proper levels of severity for groundwater. The County should, either through its police powers or through the authority of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, require all water purveyors (including mutual water companies) with over 10 connections to record water use and other information monthly and report semi-annually on a County-provided form.
3. Conditions should be established requiring wells associated with discretionary land use permits in groundwater basins in LOS I, II or III (or basins whose safe yield is not known or wells in fractured formations) to be a part of the County's water well level monitoring program.
4. The WRAC continues to be especially concerned with sea water intrusion in the coastal groundwater basins. The County should review the placement, effectiveness and possible expansion of the coastal sentry well program, especially in South County and Los Osos where sea water intrusion has already been documented. Investigation of sea water intrusion needs to be a high priority for the County, to the extent of their authority to address the specific situation.
5. Water planning and policy development requires close coordination between County departments. The WRAC recognizes that this coordination is akin to a three-legged stool: Public Works, Planning & Building, and Public Health (as the issuer of well permits). These three departments of the County need to increase their efforts to coordinate the County's approach to water issues. To begin coordination, the Health Dept-issued well permits should be subject to review for consistency with

ASR action recommendations, Resource Capacity Studies, and County General Plan policies of the COSE.

6. The WRAC recognizes the efforts of vineyards to manage their water usage; however, recent efforts in North County have shown that we possess poor information on water use. In order to gather more data, voluntary well metering, monitoring and reporting should be encouraged.
7. The County should institute a three-phased approach to stream gauges:
 - Continue gathering data from the stream gauges in place, refurbishing those in need of repair.
 - Make a list of strategic places where stream gauge data would be effective and no gauges are in place.
 - Make a phased-in schedule for funding and installing the needed gauges over a 3-5 year period.

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: April 7, 2010

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 9: Presentation on the Paso Robles
Groundwater Basin Water Balance Update**

Recommendation

Consider the Water Balance Update for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

Discussion

The District has conducted several activities in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Basin) over the past decade, including a Basin Study by Fugro West, Inc. (2002), Basin Model by Fugro West, Inc. (2005), and Groundwater Banking Feasibility Study by GEI, Inc. (2008). Additionally, on September 6, 2005, the District, County Service Area 16 (Shandon), the City of Paso Robles (City) and several overlying landowners (known as PRIOR) entered into a Basin Agreement which, among other provisions, allows for cooperative monitoring of the Basin. Subsequently, the City of Paso Robles and the District hired Todd Engineers to update, for the year 2006, the groundwater level change maps and current and future pumping estimates developed in the Basin Study in order to check the status of Basin conditions. The resulting Todd Engineers reports, in addition to information contained in the Basin Study and Model reports, were then used by the County Planning and Building Department to develop a draft Resource Capacity Study (RCS) for the Basin, as directed by the Board on January 23, 2007.

The Draft RCS was reviewed by a subcommittee of the WRAC, the Planning Commission, and Basin stakeholders. Comments received indicated that additional information was available to update the water balance analysis for the Basin developed during the Basin Study that was utilized by the Todd Engineers reports and draft RCS. Consequently, the Planning Commission continued the hearing on the draft RCS, pending consideration of this additional information by County staff and WRAC review.

In response, Basin water purveyors, including the City of Paso Robles, the City of Atascadero, Templeton Community Services District and the Atascadero Mutual Water Company, along with representatives from the WRAC Subcommittee, met with County Public Works and Planning and Building Department staff on July 15, 2009, to discuss the new information available and the scope of work associated with updating the water balance analysis. As the consultant

responsible for developing the original water balance and Basin Study and Model, a representative from Fugro West, Inc., was also in attendance.

Consensus was reached amongst the four water purveyors and County staff to request a proposal from Fugro West, Inc. to update the water balance analysis based on the scope of work discussed at the meeting; to jointly fund the effort by a 1/5 split of the consultant fee between the County, the City of Paso Robles, the City of Atascadero, Templeton Community Services District, and the Atascadero Mutual Water Company; and that County Public Works Department staff was the appropriate lead on managing the consultant's efforts. The Board approved a contract with Fugro West, Inc. to update the water balance on September 22, 2009.

The scope of work developed by the participants for the water balance update addressed the following objectives:

- Compare Basin demand and perennial yield by estimating outflows and inflows through 2009.
- Understand the effect of different rural residential demand estimates on the inflow versus outflow calculations
- Understand the effect of importing Nacimiento Water and urban conservation on inflows and outflows that are estimated through 2025 using specific assumptions regarding future conditions
- Qualitatively discuss Salinas River underflow and aquifer behavior between the Atascadero Subbasin and main Basin with respect to understanding overall Subbasin and Basin conditions.

The final Water Balance Update and will be used to develop a new draft RCS, to be presented to the WRAC in May. The City of Paso Robles has also copied the WRAC on a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the water balance update and monitoring in the Basin.

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Water Balance Review and Update is not included in the April WRAC agenda package. The document (56 pages and 1.1 MB) can be downloaded online at www.SLOCountyWater.org and is available for review upon request at the Public Works Department front counter.

Attachment: Letter from City of Paso Robles to County Board of Supervisors



CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

"The Pass of the Oaks"

March 31, 2010

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Honorable Supervisors:

Our agencies jointly commissioned an update of the **Paso Robles Groundwater Basin water balance analysis**.

The March 2010 "Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Water Balance Review and Update", authored by Fugro West, Inc., is to "to provide the County with updated information to assist in preparation of a Resource Capacity Study...and ongoing basin management efforts."

The analysis is helpful in that it addresses Basin water sources and uses, but it is not conclusive. Study assumptions need to be validated with actual field data (well measurements) and agricultural use trends must be considered.

Bottom line, the veracity of our collective efforts to understand and manage Basin resources is dependent upon good data. More work is needed to establish Basin status and develop a prognosis to guide the extraordinary long-range planning (County Resource Capacity Study, Water Master Plan, and Groundwater Basin Management Plan) currently under way.

Sincerely,

James L. App
City Manager