

**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, December 1, 2010
1:30 p.m.

1. **Determination of a Quorum and Introductions**
2. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)**
4. **Ongoing Updates:**
 - a. **Subcommittee Status Report Regarding the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Draft Agricultural Order**
5. **Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study**
6. **Integrated Regional Water Management Program – Letter of Support for Grant Application**
7. **California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring**
8. **Future Agenda Items**
9. **Public Comment (if needed)**

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

Next Regular Meeting: **January 5, 2011 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

November 3, 2010

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

Approximately 1:30 p.m., Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order.

- 1) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions - Quorum Established.
- 2) Approval of October Meeting Minutes - The October 6, 2010 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Greening, second by Member Ehring and a unanimous vote (3 October absentees abstaining).
- 3) Public Comment (15 minutes) - Member Chipping informs members of the WRAC that the San Luis Obispo chapter of the California Native Plant Society is holding an annual Native Plant Sale on November 6, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Pacific Beach Continuation High School in the City of San Luis Obispo. Jeff Edwards requests that the County update the WRAC regarding staff efforts to develop the Recycled Water Management Plan that is a condition of implementing the Los Osos Wastewater Project (LOWWP). Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the LOWWP team will do so early next year. Member Winholtz informs the WRAC that, due to political changes in the City of Morro Bay, she will no longer be serving on the WRAC and has enjoyed being able to serve on the WRAC for the last eight (8) years.
- 4) Ongoing Updates:
 - a. Integrated Regional Water Management - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, reports that staff are proceeding with the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program implementation grant application, summarizes the local projects which will be included in the grant application package, reviews critical deadlines, and discusses the next steps regarding IRWM plan updates. Discussion ensues regarding the amount of funding sought for various projects, the total amount available to this funding region, the benefit of including a strong water conservation component in the IRWM grant application, whether the grant application is a public document, and Master Water Plan work efforts and schedule as they relate to the IRWM plan.
 - b. State Water Project - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, provides the WRAC with an update regarding an emergency agreement between the Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and the Central Coast

Water Authority (CCWA) to exchange CCWA pipeline capacity for some of the District's excess allocation in order to provide additional State Water to one or more State Water Subcontractors to offset groundwater pumping in the Five Cities area for one year. Discussion ensues regarding the status of the environmental review process, and efforts to develop local agreements which will address certain issues associated with timing of deliveries, water recipients, compensation, and other related issues. Discussion ensues regarding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, and the likely terms and duration of such an agreement. Jeff Edwards speaks to the validity of declaring a water emergency, whether there is a conflict of interest in that the firm that prepared the CEQA documents was also hired to further review seawater intrusion, whether agricultural pumpers are willing to reduce pumping in order to offset groundwater pumping, use of the judicial system to address and resolve groundwater issues, and compensation to the District for the use and delivery of State Water. Mary Lucey, Oceano Community Services District (OCSD), speaks to efforts of the OCSD to reduce groundwater pumping at the threat of seawater intrusion, and seeks clarification on how an excess allocation of State Water would be divided among the cities of Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach and Grover Beach, and the OCSD. Discussion ensues regarding the negotiation process between these communities which will be required in order to deliver any emergency water. Dwayne Chisam, City of Pismo Beach, speaks to the request made of the District by the Northern Cities Management Area (which consists of the cities of Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach and Grover Beach, and the OCSD) to develop and pursue an emergency agreement to obtain emergency State Water in order to reduce groundwater pumping, speaks to the short-term nature of this emergency agreement, and the goal of reduced groundwater pumping. Discussion ensues regarding the magnitude of groundwater pumping by the City of Pismo Beach, the contract date for the current agreement, and the release of the October 2010 groundwater sampling results. Courtney Howard, County Public Works, provides the WRAC with an update regarding long-term use of the District's state water allocation which involves assessing the current capacity of the Chorro Valley and Coastal Branch segments of the State Water Project, calibrating models, and evaluating different delivery scenarios, infrastructure limitations, and policy considerations. Discussion ensues regarding previous excess capacity estimates, and potential new water deliveries and water trade scenarios. Paavo Ogren, San Luis Obispo County Director of Public Works, discusses the process for a transfer of State Water between State Water Contractors for the benefit of local agencies. Member Ehring indicates the City of Pismo Beach has not entered into any agreement with the City of Carpinteria or any other private party to secure additional State Water.

By unanimous consent, the WRAC agrees to consider Agenda Item #7 (Santa Margarita Drought Reliability Options) early to accommodate District staff schedule conflicts.

- 5) Santa Margarita Drought Reliability Options - Paavo Ogren, San Luis Obispo County Director of Public Works, introduces the Santa Margarita (CSA 23) Drought Reliability project, and discusses the local infrastructure, concepts of water reliability

and supplemental water, regional water strategies as discussed in the Master Water Plan, the mechanics behind water exchange and banking programs, necessary contracts and agreements, examples of local exchange/banking programs, alternatives for CSA 23's Drought Reliability Program, water project costs, growth inducing effect of a physical connection, likely program partners, and scheduling. Discussion ensues regarding the Shandon Community plan, public review of the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and draft Assessment Engineer's Report, the need for a Proposition 218 vote or informal community vote in order to tie-in to the State Water Project, and the reliability of State Water. David Blakely, Santa Margarita, speaks to the content of the report appendices, the management of a water banking project in extended periods of drought, meeting the requirements from Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, consideration of drilling a new well to meet current needs, and suggests that the WRAC review long-term policy ramifications associated with this sort of project. Discussion ensues regarding necessary agreement details to protect users of a groundwater basin, adaptive groundwater management, and the anticipated timeline. Member Barrett moves to form an ad-hoc subcommittee to review the policy issues concerning supplemental water and drought reliability for the community of Santa Margarita, with a second by Member Winholtz. Discussion ensues regarding potential costs of District staff to administer and attend subcommittee meetings. The motion passes 19-0-0. Member Barrett, Member Greening, Member Reid, and Alternate Member D. Chipping volunteer to serve on the ad-hoc committee. Member Barrett volunteers to serve as chair to the ad-hoc subcommittee.

6) Ongoing Updates (Continued):

- a. Request for Presentation on South County Water Management Strategies - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, reports that only one agency responded to a request for a report to the WRAC on water management strategies being considered in the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA), and that this agency indicated that the request for a report was more appropriately made of the governing body of the agency by interested individuals rather than as a request for a report to the WRAC. A brief discussion ensues regarding water management strategies in the Santa Maria groundwater basin.
- 7) Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study - James Caruso, County Planning Department, speaks to the new Level of Severity (LOS) recommendations identified in the draft Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study (RCS), to proposed changes related to groundwater level monitoring program, to the distinction of urban areas with supplemental water and areas that do not have access to supplemental water, and to the schedule for the joint public hearing regarding the RCS. Member Luft recommends that the ad-hoc subcommittee reconvene to attend the joint meeting, review the RCS, and provide comments to the WRAC in December. Member Larson speaks to the removal of the recommendation to implement a water conservation program for rural residential water users, and the manner in which the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan is incorporated into the new draft RCS recommendations. Discussion ensues regarding enforcement mechanisms, and public education, outreach and incentives to address

rural water conservation. Courtney Howard, County Public Works, speaks to the new recommendation in the draft RCS to develop a groundwater management ordinance, driven by stakeholder input, separate from Title 8 of the County Code. Discussion ensues regarding issues to be addressed if a groundwater management ordinance were developed, existing State and local groundwater management efforts, and anticipated ad-hoc subcommittee purview and timing. Member Neil recommends that projects within a service area of a water purveyor with existing supplemental water resources should not be subject to the LOS III recommendations as presented in the draft RCS.

Member Hyman moves to extend the meeting to 3:45 p.m., with a second by Alternate Member Lohr. The motion passes with two (2) opposed.

John Snyder speaks to groundwater pumping exceeding the average annual pumping in any given year. Discussion ensues regarding the pumping estimate methodology used in previous technical studies, the definition of perennial yield, and net and gross water demand. Alternate Member Lohr informs the WRAC that the Paso Robles Wine County Alliance (PRWCA) has formed a water committee to review, in part, best management practices in the vineyard, and speaks to the PRWCA water committee's concern that a LOS designation could give the public the perception that the groundwater basin is in overdraft and any LOS designation could deter the agricultural sector from working voluntarily with public agencies.

- 8) Consideration of Revision to By-Laws - Additional Membership - After a brief introduction of the item by Chairperson Winn, Member Ashbaugh moves amend Article II Section 1 of the WRAC bylaws by adding a new member: "*n. Development At-Large (1 member)*", to Amend Article II of the WRAC bylaws by adding a new section after Section 6: "*The Development At-Large member (and alternate) shall be selected by the Board of Supervisors from applicants engaged in the building and construction industry. Preference shall be given to applicants that have written support from an organization that represents the home building industry, real estate, or related profession. Their terms shall be for two years, to be replaced or reaffirmed in February of odd numbered years.*", and to renumber the remaining sections of Article II to reflect the added language. Member Sinton seconds the motion, and suggests that the motion be changed to "*...an organization that represents the home or commercial building industry, ~~real-estate, or related profession~~...*". The maker of the motion is amenable to the amendment. Discussion ensues regarding the role of realtors in water policy review, notification of potential applicants should the new member be added, and whether or not to add the new member and why or why not. Upon a vote, the motion passes 10-6-1. Courtney Howard, County Public Works, speaks to the process for revising the bylaws to add a new membership position. Member Ehring moves to forward the two names that were nominated by the Homebuilders Association to the Board of Supervisors for consideration with a second by Member Hyman. The motion passes 10-0-2.

- 9) Future Agenda Items - Brief discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:55 p.m.

| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Staff | | X | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Heritage Ranch CSD | John D'Ornellas | M | | | | X | X | X | X | | | X | | |
| | 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 |
| | Dan Gilmore** | | n/a | n/a | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Marshall Ochylski | A | X | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Maria Kelly** | | n/a | n/a | | | | X | | | X | | | |
| | Dan Gilmore | Staff | X | X | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Nipomo CSD | Bruce Buell | M | | | 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 | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | |
| | Ed Eby | A | X | X | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Don Spagnolo** | | 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 | | | X | | X | X | | | | X | |
| | Judith Dieth | A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| San Simeon CSD | John Russell | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Charles Grace | A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| San Miguel CSD | Mike Ellison | M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Dale Hamblin | A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Arroyo Grande | Chuck Fellows | M | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | | |
| | Jim Guthrie | A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Atascadero | Russ Thompson | M | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | * | * | |
| | David Athey | A | * | | | | | | | | | | X | |
| City of Grover Beach | Robert Mires | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Debbie Peterson | A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of Morro Bay | Betty Winholtz | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Dylan Wade | A | X | X | X | | | | | | X | | | |
| City of Paso Robles | Christopher Alakel | M | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| | Keith Larson | A | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Ed Waage | A | | | | | | | | | | | X | |
| City of Pismo Beach | Ted Ehrling | M | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Dwayne Chisam | Staff | | X | X | X | | | | | X | X | | |
| City of San Luis Obispo | Allen Settle | M | | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | John Ashbaugh** | | n/a | n/a | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Andrew Carter | 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 |
| District 1 | Gary Henderson | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| | Ron Munds | | X | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| District 2 | Steve Sinton | M | X | | X | X | X | | * | | X | X | X | |
| District 3 | Bill Garfinkel | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| District 4 | Marilee Hyman | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| District 5 | Michael Winn | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| California Men's Colony | Dan O'Grady | M | * | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Della Barrett** | | n/a | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | John Kellerman | M | | | | | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Mike Vela** | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Mike Mintey | A | | X | X | | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Camp SLO | Rudy Vargas** | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Mike Vela | Staff | | | | X | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | John Reid | M | X | * | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| Cuesta College | Nicole Balliet | A | * | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Edralin Madulid | M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atascadero Mutual | Terry Reece | A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | John Neil | M | | | | | | | | | | | X | |
| Golden State Water | Jaime Lien | A | | | X | | X | | | | | | | |
| | Mark Zimmer | M | * | | X | * | * | X | X | | X | X | | |
| Agriculture At-Large | Patrick Vowell | A | X | X | * | * | X | X | | | X | X | | |
| | Ray Allen | M | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | |
| | Lowell Zelinski** | M | n/a | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Mike Broadhurst | A | * | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Steve Lohr** | A | n/a | | | X | | X | | | X | X | | |
| County Farm Bureau | Joy Fitzhugh | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Jackie Crabb** | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | X | | X | |
| | Jackie Crabb | A | | | X | | | | X | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Environmental At-Large | Joy Fitzhugh** | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | X | | | |
| | Sue Luft | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Eric Greening | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Daniel Berman** | M | n/a | X | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Annie Gillespie** | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Coastal San Luis RCD | David Chipping | A | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | |
| | Sue Harvey | A | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | |
| | Annie Gillespie** | A | n/a | * | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | n/a | n/a |
| | Vacant | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | | |
| | Linda Chipping | M | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | |
| Upper Salinas RCD | Kathie Matsuyama | A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tom Mora | M | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Board of Supervisors | Bill Bianchi | A | X | | | X | | X | X | | X | X | | |
| | Shayna Bailey | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Donald J. Funk | Staff | X | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Public Works | Frank Mecham | Dist. 1 | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| | Jim Patterson | Dist. 5 | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Courtney Howard | | X | * | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Paavo Ogren | | | | X | X | | | | | X | X | | |
| | Dean Benedix | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | |
| | Sylas Cranor | Staff | X | X | * | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Carolyn Berg | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planning and Building | John Farhar | | | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| | Jill Ogren | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | |
| | James Caruso | | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Suzan Ehdaie | Staff | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Katie Simkover | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Health Services | Jay Johnson | | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| | Leslie Terry | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | |
| | Megan Lillich | Staff | X | | X | X | X | | | | X | X | X | |
| Agricultural Commissioner | Rich Lichtenfels | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | |
| | Michael Isensee | Staff | X | | X | X | X | | X | | X | 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 | | | X | X | X | | No August Meeting | | | | | |
| Bailey, Shayna | Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barget, Joe | Vanderberg Village CSD | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Barnett, Mark | Natural Resources Conservation Service | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Berman, Dan | Morro Bay National Estuary Program | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bianchi, Shirley | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Blakely, David | Santa Margarita | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Bodrogi, Lisa | Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance | X | | X | | | | X | | | X | | | |
| Bunin, Jerry | Home Builders Association | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | |
| Carella, Lou | Carollo Engineers | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dooley, Michelle | DWR, San Joaquin District | X | | X | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Edwards, Jeff | Private Planner | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | |
| Fain, Annika | ESA | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gillespie, Annie** | Morro Bay National Estuary Program | X | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | |
| Gutierrez, Jose | Carollo Engineers | X | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Jennings, Dorothy | Public | | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Lindsey, John | Pacific Gas & Electric | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Lohr, Steve** | J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines | X | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | |
| Lucey, Mary | Oceano Community Services District | | | | | | | | No August Meeting | | | X | | |
| Margetson, Richard | | | | | | X | | X | | | X | | | |
| McCann, Lisa | Water Quality Control Board | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| McDonald, Susan | Hearst Ranch | | | X | X | X | X | X | | | X | | | |
| Montgomery, Victor | RRM Design Group | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Nester, Greg | RRM Design Group | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | |
| Owen, Linde | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Petrick, Bill | Blacklake Management Association | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rice, Amanda | North Coast Advisory Council | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Schroeter, Angela | Water Quality Control Board | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shields, Eileen | AECOM | | | | | | | X | | X | | | | |
| Smokoska, Ken | Program Coordinator | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Snyder, John | | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | X | | |
| Sorensen, Paul | Fugro West Inc. | | | | X | | | X | | | | | | |
| Sweet, Kathy | Public | X | | | X | | | X | | X | | | | |
| Tacker, Julie | Los Osos | | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Tanaka, Steven | Wallace Group | X | | | X | | | | | X | X | | | |
| Taylor, George | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | |
| Taylor, Gwynn | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | |
| Thomas, Michael | Water Quality Control Board | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tornatzky, Lynette | | | | | | X | | X | | X | X | | | |
| Wald, Stephanie | Central Coast Salmon Enhancement | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Walters, Tim | RRM Design Group | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | |
| Watson, Elaine | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Weimer, Keith | Los Osos Sustainability Group | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Whitney, C. Z. | Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Williams, Dawn | League of Women Voters | | | | | X | | | | X | | | | |
| Williams, Stan | Poseidon Water | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zehnder, Tom | Wallace Group | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Zelus, Cheryl | Natural Resources Conservation Service | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zigas, Eric | ESA | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*Special Meeting
**See Member List

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: December 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 5: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study

Recommendation

Review the Subcommittee's report and comments and consider providing the report to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Discussion

On November 18, 2010, the Subcommittee, Department of Planning and Building staff and Public Works Department staff met to review the October 2010 Draft Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Basin) Resource Capacity Study (RCS). The subcommittee's report and comments are attached for the WRAC's review and action.

The Department of Planning and Building submits the revised RCS to your Committee for review and comment. Please see the revised recommended actions starting on page 20. Please also note that the two levels of Severity are recommended: An LOS III for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and a separate LOS I for the Atascadero Sub-basin. Public Works staff has also revised the recommendation for groundwater monitoring actions in the new draft RCS in response to comments received at the joint hearing.

The Planning Commission will hold a hearing on December 9, 2010 to consider the RCS.

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study can be downloaded online at www.SLOCountyWater.org. Please contact James Caruso at (805) 781-5702 or at jcaruso@co.slo.ca.us if you have any questions regarding this RCS.

Attachment: WRAC Subcommittee Report

**WRAC Subcommittee to Review Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study
Report to WRAC
November 23, 2010**

Meeting: November 18, 2010, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Purpose: Review and comment on Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study,
Revised October 2010

Subcommittee members:

Della Barrett, District 5 – unable to attend meeting
Keith Larson, City of Paso Robles
John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company
Steve Sinton, District 1 – unable to attend meeting
Russ Thompson, City of Atascadero
Mike Winn, WRAC Chair, District 4
Lowell Zelinski, Agriculture at Large – unable to attend meeting
Sue Luft, Environmental at Large, Subcommittee Chair

Other attendees:

James Caruso, SLO County Planning
Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works

Process: After the November 18th meeting, the subcommittee chair drafted a report based on the subcommittee discussion. This draft report was reviewed and approved via email by the subcommittee members.

Summary:

The subcommittee unanimously commended the Board of Supervisors for keeping the Levels of Severity in the Resource Management System annual reports solidly grounded in data and based solely on the County's established criteria for the LOS designations.

Subcommittee members discussed the revised Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study (Paso Basin RCS) and further draft revisions that were presented by staff. A consensus was reached on the following comments regarding the revised Paso Basin RCS.

The subcommittee continues to strongly and unanimously support the designation of LOS III for the main Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, since the definition of LOS III is clearly met. Sustained water level declines are widespread throughout the portions of the basin having significant groundwater use.

The subcommittee does not believe that separate recommendations for the Estrella/Creston Area of Concern are practical since the boundaries of this area have greatly expanded and will continue to change and pumping within any part of the groundwater basin affects other portions of the basin. In addition, pumping is currently at the perennial yield for the entire basin.

After discussion of the status of the Atascadero Sub-basin, the subcommittee agrees with staff's preliminary decision to recommend a LOS I for the Atascadero Sub-basin, as outlined below.

Detailed Discussion:

Main Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Subcommittee members have reviewed the various studies of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, including the peer review of those studies. These reports and the testimony provided by the experts at the joint SLO County Board of Supervisors / Planning Commission hearing on November 9, 2010 clearly indicate that the main basin is at or near its safe yield. Well levels throughout the majority of the basin have declined over the past 13 years (1997 through 2009), as shown on the attached figure.

During the joint BoS/PC hearing, Paul Sorensen, the lead hydrogeologist on many of the basin studies, addressed the question of why the water balance shows that the perennial yield has not been reached, **although** well levels are continuing to decline. Paul explained there are three possible reasons for this: the perennial yield estimate may be too high, pumping estimates may be too low, or groundwater data in some outlying areas of the basin is lacking. He further stated that if the groundwater data gaps were filled, the conclusions would not change, because there have not been any dramatically increasing well levels elsewhere in the basin. Both Iris Priestaf of Todd Engineers, who authored some of the basin reports, and Gus Yates, who performed the peer review, stated that there are well declines throughout much of the basin and the data overwhelmingly point to the need for immediate action to avoid overdrawing the groundwater basin.

The various scenarios in the draft Resource Capacity Study show that total outflows from the basin will exceed total inflows from as early as 2011 to as late as 2025. In these scenarios, the differential between the total outflow and the safe yield may become as high as 20,000 to 50,000 acre-ft per year. None of these scenarios are adjusted for the possibility that the safe yield may in fact be overestimated.

County staff in their presentations and in the staff report discussed the only two sources of supplemental water in the basin. The first is more efficient use of water extracted from the basin. The second source is unallocated water available from the Nacimiento Project and the State Water Project. Only 6095 acre-ft/year of unallocated water is available from the Nacimiento Project, which most likely will be purchased in the future by existing participants in the project. The State Water Project has over 15,000 acre-ft/year of unallocated water. Use of this excess allocation is being studied in the Master Water Plan and is impacted by the complexities of State Water reliability issues, infrastructure constraints, and contractual and financial considerations.

An LOS III can be established if the dependable supply will be depleted before new supplies are developed. Based on the facts of the situation, the dependable supply of the main Paso Robles Groundwater Basin will be depleted before new supplies can be developed.

The subcommittee continues to support the designation of LOS III for the main Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, since the LOS III criteria is met, and requests that a LOS III be adopted and certified for the main basin.

Estrella/Creston Area of Concern

The subcommittee believes that the data supports an LOS III for the entire main Paso basin, not just the Estrella/Creston Area of Concern. This area of concern was originally defined as the area where groundwater levels had declined significantly during the period 1980 through 1997. The boundaries of the Estrella/Creston Area of Concern have greatly expanded laterally and in depth since the area was defined.

Studies regarding the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin indicate that pumping in one area of the basin will impact well levels in other portions of the basin. Therefore, groundwater management strategies must be implemented throughout the basin.

Based on these facts, the subcommittee recommends that the Estrella/Creston Area of Concern not be managed differently from the main basin, but still mapped regularly.

Atascadero Sub-basin

With regards to the Atascadero Sub-basin, a preliminary determination has been made by County Planning Department that an LOS I designation is supported by the data. This determination is based on the following facts:

- It will be approximately nine years until the perennial yield is reached (2019).
- 60% of the pumping in the sub-basin is by three municipal pumpers. These entities can manage the sub-basin better than the thousands of users in the main basin. The water purveyors within the Atascadero Sub-basin have the ability to purchase additional Nacimiento project water, increase and enforce conservation measures, and otherwise manage the water resources to respond rapidly to changes in groundwater levels within their service areas.
- Approximately half of the pumping is from the Salinas River alluvium. Pumping from this shallower part of the basin does not have the same effect on groundwater levels as does pumping from the deeper Paso Robles formation.
- The Atascadero Sub-basin is pumped differently than the main basin. In times of drought, main basin pumping increases, while the municipal sector can decrease pumping in the sub-basin either by using supplemental water and/or increasing water conservation efforts.
- Atascadero Mutual Water Company (AMWC), Templeton Community Services District, and the City of Paso Robles all have policies prohibiting and/or restricting new groundwater wells within their service areas.
- The subcommittee's recommendation regarding a determination of adequate water resources (discussed below) should reduce the impact on the sub-basin of increased water demands outside the water purveyor's service area.

The subcommittee supports the LOS I designation for the Atascadero Sub-basin based on the above-listed considerations with inclusion of the land use actions for the Atascadero Sub-basin listed below.

Recommended Monitoring Actions

Staff has provided draft language regarding groundwater monitoring actions, as follows:

Recommended Monitoring Actions

1. The County should initiate the development of a groundwater monitoring program for approval by the Board of Supervisors and with elements that can be adopted by ordinance. The program should, at a minimum, address groundwater level and usage data collection. Effort to develop the program should include town-hall meetings to ensure stakeholder involvement. Issues to be addressed during the development of the program would include, but not be limited to, gaps in the existing monitoring network, voluntary versus non-voluntary participation, distinguishing how different users (urban, agricultural, rural) would be involved/affected/not affected, education and outreach, understanding what other amendments to County Code related to groundwater data collection are being developed, and the legal authorities of the County/Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). The program should be consistent with the following:
 - a. California Statewide Groundwater Elevations Monitoring Program (CASGEM – Senate Bill X7 6)
 - b. District and stakeholder efforts on the Groundwater Management Plan now under preparation.
 - c. The Countywide Master Water Plan

- d. Current monitoring programs of the Department of Public Works
2. The County should continue studies of the groundwater basin and stakeholder coordination efforts including the update and improvement of the numerical groundwater model and establishing a mechanism to fund these ongoing efforts (e.g. zone of benefit; groundwater district).

The majority of the subcommittee supports these recommended monitoring actions, with the following additions (which were part of the previous draft RCS):

- The District will continue to conduct biannual groundwater measurements to chart the scope of groundwater level changes.
- Title 8 of the County Code will be amended in accordance with the recommendations in the Resource Management System Annual Summary Report regarding flow and groundwater level measuring devices on new wells in the basin. Also, that all water purveyors with five or more connections must report monthly pumping data to the County.
- The County will require that the new wells be a part of the District groundwater level measuring program if needed.
- The District will develop and implement, in collaboration with other water purveyors within the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and the Atascadero Sub-basin, a water conservation outreach and education program for the rural area. The outreach program will inform rural groundwater users of the state of the basin, include suggested conservation and efficiency measures, and if possible, provide incentives to water conservation and efficiency efforts.

Recommended Land Use Actions

Staff has recommended the following land use actions in the Resource Capacity Study for the main Paso Robles Groundwater Basin:

Recommended Land Use Actions

1. In urban areas that do not have access to supplemental water (e.g. Nacimiento Project water), require new discretionary development that uses groundwater to use best management practices for water conservation and offset 100 percent of its new water use with non-agricultural water.
2. In urban areas of the basin that do have access to supplemental water, no land use restrictions are imposed by this RCS.
3. In unincorporated rural areas of the basin, do not approve General Plan amendments that result in a net increase in the non-agricultural use of groundwater; in any case, prohibit new land divisions in the rural areas of the basin. All discretionary development shall offset water use with non agricultural water.
4. New wineries shall use best management practices consistent with the BMP's identified in Attachment 14.
5. Revise the Growth Management Ordinance and the Resource Management System to substantially limit yearly non-agricultural development in the rural areas of the basin.
6. The Department of Public Works shall work with stakeholders to develop best management practices for prevalent land uses in the basin similar to the winery BMP developed by the Paso Robles Wine County Alliance.

The subcommittee supports these recommendations with the following revisions:

- Include a definition of "urban" as areas within the Urban Reserve Line of a community, as defined by SLO County and LAFCO, and, for Atascadero, the area within the Atascadero Mutual Water Company's service

area (which includes the original Atascadero Colony boundaries.). "Rural" refers to parcels outside the urban areas.

- Item 1 above should be revised to state: "In urban areas that do not have access to supplemental water (e.g. Nacimiento Project water or State Water Project water), require new discretionary development that uses groundwater to use the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) best management practices for water conservation and offset 100 percent of its new water use with non-agricultural water.
- Item 2 above should be revised to state: "In urban areas of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, including LAFCO Spheres of Influence for incorporated cities, that do have access to supplemental water, no land use restrictions are recommended by this Resource Capacity Study if the development application is accompanied by a "Will Serve" letter from a water purveyor that has access to supplemental water.
- Add the following: "General Plan amendments and land divisions in the unincorporated rural areas of the Atascadero Sub-basin that result in a net increase in the non-agricultural use of water must prove adequate long term water resources for the proposed project."
- Add the following: "The Department of Public Works will develop a model landscape ordinance that will limit that amount of turf and other high-water use features on all parcels within the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, including the Atascadero Sub-basin."

The majority of the subcommittee supports the following revision:

- Item 3 should be revised to state: "In unincorporated rural areas of the basin, do not approve General Plan amendments that result in a net increase in the non-agricultural use of groundwater. New subdivisions of land in the rural areas (as defined above) of the main Paso Robles Groundwater Basin are prohibited. All discretionary development shall offset water use with non-agricultural water."

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: December 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 6: Integrated Regional Water Management Program – Letter of Support for Grant Application

Recommendation

Recommend to the County Board of Supervisors that they authorize the Director of Public Works to submit an Integrated Regional Water Management Program Implementation Grant Application.

Background

On July 7, 2010, the WRAC supported proceeding with developing a grant application for the Integrated Regional Water Management Program which included the projects listed in the table below. Staff have been working with the project proponents to develop the materials and funding allocations for the application. On December 7, 2010, the Board of Supervisors will be considering authorizing the Public Works Director to submit the grant application. A letter of support for the application from the WRAC would be beneficial for the Board item and the grant application.

| Project | Project Cost | Grant Allocation* | |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------|
| Los Osos Wastewater Project | \$165 M | \$3.5M | \$7M |
| Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project | \$23.6 M | \$1.6M | \$2.8M |
| Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Management | \$5.4 M | \$500K | \$1.7M |
| Grant Administration | | \$100K | \$100K |
| Total | | \$5.7M | \$11.6M |

*The maximum grant award is \$11.6 Million. Applicants are also to be prepared for less funding should multiple applications score high. Project proponents have identified the listed grant allocations for each funding level per project.

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Courtney Howard, SLO County Water Resources Engineer

DATE: December 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 7: California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring

Recommendation

Support efforts by Flood Control and Water Conservation District staff to work with the California State Department of Water Resources and local stakeholders to participate in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program.

Background

In November 2009, California Legislature passed SBX7 6, which establishes collaboration between local monitoring parties and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to collect groundwater elevations statewide and that this information be made available to the public.

In accordance with SBX7 6, the DWR developed the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program which establishes a permanent, locally-managed system to monitor groundwater elevations in California's alluvial groundwater basins and subbasins identified in DWR Bulletin 118. More information regarding SBX7 6 and the CASGEM program can be viewed on at the following website: www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem.

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) intends to participate in the CASGEM program by working cooperatively with the DWR and other stakeholders to identify potential Monitoring Entities for each basin and subbasin, to develop and implement monitoring programs as required by the CASGEM program, and to perform other functions as required by SBX7 6. Consequently, Public Works staff is recommending Board approval on December 14, 2010 to formally notify the DWR that the District will participate in the CASGEM program.

As an important note, SBX7 6 establishes that if no local entities volunteer to monitor groundwater elevations in a basin or part of a basin, DWR may be required to develop a monitoring program for that part. If DWR takes over monitoring of a basin, agencies in the basin may not be eligible for water grants or loans administered by the state.