

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

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2007

Approximately 1:40 pm; Chairman Winn called the meeting to Order

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees – Quorum Established
- 2) Approval of January 2007 Meeting Minutes – The first sentence of item #3, Public Comment, is amended to read: “Member Greening asks when the Resource Management System (RMS) item will occur during the January 23, 2007 Board of Supervisors meeting and about the potential length of Board meetings due to action taken by Chairman Lenthall to include a 2:00 pm Los Osos Wastewater Project update at every Board meeting.” Item #4, Member Reports, is amended to read “. . . final *Phase V* decision. . .” Item #6, CCWA Membership Subcommittee, is amended to read “. . . Eric Greening, *Bill Boucher (or Betty Winholtz in his absence)*, Steve Senet. . .” In item #8, Appointment of TDC Blue Ribbon Committee WRAC Liaison, “TCC” is corrected to “TDC”. Upon motion by Member Mulholland, second by Member Bianchi, and vocal vote, minutes of the January 10, 2007 meeting of the Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) were approved as amended.
- 3) Public Comment – John Snyder offers to present his prospective as a landowner on the Santa Maria Groundwater Litigation Phase V Decision at a future WRAC meeting and invites others to present their perspective at the same time. Al Barrow requests an update on how local water purveyors are addressing the State mandate to reserve water for low income housing. Member Eby asks whether the WRAC will be making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the Level of Severity for Nipomo, which is confirmed. Member Allen informs the WRAC that the State Water Board fee schedule was determined to be illegal, and that the State Water Board is being required to provide refunds to impacted parties and to re-write their fee schedule. Member Bianchi reminds the WRAC that the first Wednesday in July is a holiday and confirms meetings are not normally held in July. Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, informs the WRAC that Farm Water Quality Planning Short Courses are being offered and provides a flyer (<http://waterquality.ucanr.org>).
- 4) Member Reports – Member Winholtz informs the WRAC that she will give her member report for Morro Bay at the March meeting.
- 5) Ongoing Updates
 - a. Groundwater Banking Subcommittee: Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2007 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at the Templeton Community Services District. The Consultant will be back to present the initial alternatives for coarse screening.
 - b. SLO County Ocean Disposal Alternative/Central Valley Selenium Project Update: Mark Hutchinson, SLO County Public Works, informs the WRAC

that the US Bureau of Reclamation intends to release their Record of Decision in February; the County has requested their Federal lobbying firm help oppose the Ocean Disposal Alternative; representative Lois Capps has come out in opposition to the Ocean Disposal Alternative; in-valley interests have been meeting to try and develop a settlement with the Bureau of Reclamation over the project. Member Greening discusses the content of a January 18, 2007 San Francisco Chronicle article on the topic, including the potential for solution that uses a combination of alternatives and ongoing congressional hearings.

- c. CCWA Interagency Efforts: Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, summarizes recent efforts, including the first meeting of the WRAC subcommittee to evaluate CCWA membership; the status of developing a local State Water Dry Year Reserve Program; existing and future infrastructure capacity analyses; a recent State Water Sub-Contractor meeting; and the status of CCWA's reacquisition of their suspended State Water allocation.

<Agenda Item #9 is moved up in order to ensure a quorum >

- 6) (9) WRAC Membership and By-Laws: Upon Motion by Member Sinton, second by Member Mulholland, and a brief discussion, Article II, #7, of the WRAC By-Laws is amended to read "Members are *encouraged* to provide . . ." rather than "*required* to provide . . ." by a vote of 12-0-1. Discussion ensues regarding the proposal to include a Development-at-Large member under WRAC By-Law, including: whether such a member should vote or not; potential for conflicts of interest; potential for a transient interest in water; comparison to Agricultural and Environmental memberships; whether developers are represented through agency members; validity as a stakeholder and their involvement with implementing conservation, smart-growth and sustainability measures; the appropriate number of members to represent the development community; criteria for WRAC membership - being a Home Builders Association member and/or a Landscape Architect contractor with knowledge of conservation techniques, for example; the title of the membership group. Upon Motion by Member Eby, and second by Member Sinton, County staff is asked to proceed with updating the WRAC membership and WRAC By-Laws as amended, but without reference to a Development-at-Large Membership position, and to come back with proposed By-Law language to incorporate an ex-officio Industry-at-Large membership position for WRAC review, by a vote of 13-2-1.
- 7) (6) Resource Management System: Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, summarizes the January 23, 2007 Board of Supervisors actions regarding the Resource Management System (RMS), including: direction to update the Nipomo Resource Capacity Study (RCS) and review it with the WRAC and Planning Departments prior to returning to the Board for a Level of Severity (LOS) III certification hearing; designation of a LOS I in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and direction to complete a RCS. James Caruso, SLO County Planning, explains the LOS certification process and terminology.

- 8) (7) Santa Margarita Ranch EIR – Water Resources Considerations: Jeff Werst, SLO County Public Works, summarizes County Service Area (CSA 23) involvement in the EIR process, informs the WRAC of the April 12, 2007 due date for public comment, and the location of a copy of the EIR at www.sloplanning.org. Doug Filipponi discusses the EIR process, the preferred project alternative and coordination efforts with County Public Works and CSA 23. Member Greening requests that the agenda item be deferred to March in order to allow WRAC members more time to review the EIR prior to discussions.
- 9) (8) Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Paavo Ogren, SLO County Public Works, summarizes the State’s proposal to eliminate Proposition 50 Round 2 funding and recent Board action to oppose the proposal unless the County can develop regional recommendations on the proposal with elected officials from the other counties in the Central Coast Region. Upon motion by Member Mulholland, second by Member Sinton, and unanimous vocal vote, a letter reflecting the WRAC’s opposition to the proposed modifications of Proposition 50 grant allocations is approved.
- 10) Future Agenda Items: March - Los Osos RCS, Santa Margarita Ranch EIR, By-Laws, Update on addressing State mandate for reserving water for low income housing. April - Nipomo RCS, Santa Maria Groundwater Basin Litigation, District Budget, Quagga Mussels.

Meeting adjourned approx. 3:30 pm