

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2008

Approximately 1:35 pm; Chairman Winn called the meeting to Order

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees – Quorum Established
- 2) Approval of January 2008 Meeting Minutes – The January 9, 2008, WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Buel, second by member Garfinkel, no amendments, and a unanimous vote.
- 3) Public Comment – David Blakely provides the WRAC Subcommittee to review the Santa Margarita Ranch Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) with a list of agencies to involve in its review of the RDEIR and suggests that Planning Department staff also reach out to these agencies. John Snyder provides an update on the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin litigation and the final judgment, and discussion ensues regarding the definition of participants, how the technical group will consider issues and/or analyses and present results and/or decisions, and the Judge's acknowledgement versus direction regarding those results and/or decisions. Member Sinton offers a copy of the revised Affordable Housing Ordinance to a WRAC member, with Member Winholtz accepting. Chairperson Winn discusses the process for revising the conservation ordinances for Nipomo. Alternate Member Bianchi requests that his input on the Data Enhancement Plan be posted to the WRAC website for review and comment.
- 4) Member Report – Linda Chipping, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD), provides the WRAC with a brief history of the RCD, the extent of its region, and its main goals in helping to control soil erosion, conserve agricultural soils, protect water quality and protect sensitive habitats and ecosystems. Member Chipping provides examples of implemented projects that demonstrate partnerships and best management practices. Discussion ensues regarding responsibility for ongoing maintenance; RCD funding, staffing and budget; terms of cooperation on projects; irrigation products and permitting challenges.
- 5) Assignment of Secretary/Secretary's Report – Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the Public Works Director has assigned her as the WRAC secretary for 2008. A list of agencies that will be contacted regarding their attendance in 2007 is provided and CMC offers to provide the March Member Report.
- 6) 2008 WRAC Goals and Discussion Topics – Discussion ensues regarding the general concurrence with the goals presented in the staff report, moving the Data Enhancement Plan goals next to the Ongoing Data Collection goals, and the need and approach to addressing environmental water demand.

- 7) Conflicting Water Resources-Technical Expert Findings Discussion – Alternate Member David Chipping presents his concerns with the decision of the Board of Supervisors to approve a project and the existence of conflicting testimony from technical experts. Discussion ensues regarding the use of a 3rd party to make a recommendation regarding the evidence and/or project, the role of arbitration, and the reliability of consultants. WRAC members express interest in learning about the Planning Department’s environmental review process.
- 8) State Water Reliability Contract – Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, summarizes the status of executing the State Water Reliability Program Agreements and the State Department of Water Resources’ (DWR) recent indication that an annual program does not comply with Article 56(d)(2) of the State Water Project Contracts, which requires annual transfers of allocation to go through the State’s turnback pool. This assertion conflicts with previous County and CCWA staff discussions with DWR regarding contract language that releases DWR from liability beyond Polonio Pass. The WRAC Subcommittee agrees to meet with County staff to discuss the modification of the Contract to a two-year agreement while County staff concurrently considers an appropriate response to DWR’s comments.
- 9) Ongoing Updates
 - a. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) – Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, mentions that the County successfully submitted the Step 2 application on January 28, 2008. Staff will be requesting participation in updating the IRWM Plan when Proposition 84 guidelines are available, and will continue coordinating with other regions on the central coast.
 - b. State Water – Central Coast Water Authority Liaison Report - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, attended the January CCWA meeting in Member Buel's absence, and informs the WRAC that CCWA’s Board authorized their General Manager to execute the Water Supply Reliability Agreement. Central Coast Water Supply Reliability Agreements – This item was discussed under Agenda Item #8.
 - c. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study – Brief discussion.
 - d. Conservation Ordinances for Los Osos and Nipomo – At the January 15, 2008, Board of Supervisors meeting, Board members decided to continue discussion on these items during a hearing to be scheduled for the March 18, 2008, Board of Supervisors meeting.
 - e. 2007 Annual Resource Summary Report – The Board of Supervisors approved the Report at their January 15, 2008, meeting.
- 10) Future Agenda Items – Transfer of Development Credit update, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) update, Conservation Element

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:30 pm