

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2008

Approximately 1:30 pm; Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees – Quorum Established
- 2) Approval of March 2008 Meeting Minutes – After a brief discussion regarding attachment of materials submitted during public comment to the minutes, the March 5, 2008, WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Allen, second by Member Garfinkel, and a unanimous vote.
- 3) Public Comment – Patrick Sparks asks the WRAC to consider recommending the Reclamator Project as an onsite wastewater system demonstration project in order to qualify for partial grant funding in its implementation (materials submitted by this speaker are available under the WRAC link at www.slocountywater.org). Dennis Gibbs updates the WRAC on Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District efforts in conducting a study of the Cuyama groundwater basin, including cooperative efforts with other agencies and challenges associated with overlying landowner participation. Marla Jo Burton shares a report entitled “Damaged Lines in Morro Bay’s Wastewater Collection System, Causes and Effects” (materials submitted by this speaker are available under the WRAC link at www.slocountywater.org). Al Barrow speaks to water quantity in the Los Osos Valley groundwater basin and biological wastewater treatment alternatives for the community. Richard Sadowski, former Cayucos Sanitation District Wastewater Collection System Operator, speaks to infrastructure impacts from the San Simeon earthquake, water quality in the Chorro and Morro Valley groundwater basins and advocates for onsite wastewater systems. Alan Volbrecht speaks to CSA 23 - Santa Margarita’s success in getting a USDA grant for water system infrastructure improvements, how a potential State Water connection will be addressed through a separate application process, and assistance provided by Public Works Department staff. Member Bianchi suggests monitoring for other constituents beside nitrates in the Morro and Chorro Valley groundwater basins.
- 4) Proposed Changes to the Basin Plan Criteria and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Onsite Wastewater Systems – Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has posted the proposed changes to the Basin Plan criteria and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for onsite wastewater systems, with a written comment due date of April 7, 2008, for their report, and a public hearing set for May 9, 2008. Member Fitzhugh speaks to the potential impacts for people in rural areas. Member Winn speaks to the Nipomo CSD’s comments, including the need to define the regulatory agency references in the proposed changes, existing wastewater system capacity implications, and Proposition 218 compliance. Several members of the public question the County’s response to and potential responsibilities under the proposed changes; water quality, selective enforcement and technology issues; and

encourage the WRAC to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (materials submitted during this item are available under the WRAC link at www.slocountywater.org). WRAC members discuss whether making a recommendation on this subject is within their purview and timing constraints.

- 5) Invasive Mussel Species – Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, points to the information provided in the staff report, including a summary of what invasive mussels are and actions taking place in California. Discussion ensues regarding recent preventative measures taken by neighboring communities, the importance of immediate action, political constraints, effectiveness of prevention and eradication measures, and available information. Member Fitzhugh moves, with a second by Member Hyman and clarifying discussion, to recommend that the Board of Supervisors:
- Agendize a hearing as soon as possible to consider action(s) against the threat of invasive mussel species to local reservoirs, perhaps calling an emergency meeting if allowed
 - Take immediate action at the hearing, at a minimum, to ban outside boats on an interim basis
 - Ensure that experts on invasive mussel species be present at the hearing
 - Communicate with Monterey County to coordinate a response to the threat of invasive mussel species in Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs
 - Encourage the State of California to quarantine infested lakes immediately
- The motion is approved by unanimous vote.
- 6) Ongoing Updates
- a. Rainfall and Reservoir Update – Member Bianchi indicates that springs from the ridge behind Cambria are abnormally dry.
 - b. IRWM – Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, reports that District staff is waiting for Proposition 50 Step 2 application results and appropriation of funding for Propositions 84 and 1E.
 - c. State Water – Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, reports that DWR is requiring CCWA to demonstrate a state of emergency prior to approving the annual transfer agreement.
 - d. Ag and Urban Water Use Efficiency Grants – Brief discussion.
 - e. Santa Margarita Ranch Revised Draft EIR – A copy of WRAC’s comment letter as submitted is provided for information.
- 7) Future Agenda Items – In-lieu of agendizing the proposed changes to the Basin Plan criteria and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for onsite wastewater systems, WRAC members reached consensus on submitting the following questions to the Board:
- References are made to “onsite system regulators” and “local jurisdictions”; what entities are these?
 - What would be the County’s role if the proposed changes were approved?
 - What would be the economic impact on individuals and agencies?
 - How will compliance with Proposition 218 be ensured?
 - How has the public been informed about the proposed changes and how will they be informed if the proposed changes are approved?

Additional topics discussed: Smart Growth principles with respect to water; SLO County FC&WCD Budget; Member Reports: Upper Salinas – Las Tablas RCD – May; Pismo Beach – June

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:30 pm