

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2008

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

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees – Quorum Established
- 2) Approval of October Meeting Minutes – The October 1, 2008, WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Mulholland, second by Member Greening, and a unanimous vote with three abstentions.
- 3) Public Comment – (An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available under the WRAC link at www.slocountywater.org.) Member Mulholland notes the discovery of a bacterium that is lethal to quagga and zebra mussels. Member Hyman states that the bacterium was discovered 10 years ago but its use was postponed to allow for a testing period. Member Bianchi introduces an article from Small Flows magazine on the topic of social marketing of wastewater and septic systems for water source protection. Conservation Coordinator for the Community Services Department Whitlow introduces Nipomo Mesa plumbing retrofit program which suggests a series of options for in-home (low-flow toilets and showerheads) and exterior (smart irrigation controllers) water conservation. Whitlow directs those interested to www.ncsd.ca.gov for more information. Member Greening suggests the WRAC consider making recommendations for planks of BOS platform on AB 2717. Member Greening reminds the WRAC that comments on the biosolids ordinance draft are due to the Environmental Health Department Dec. 1st and that the County Health Commission meeting is November 17th at 6:00pm at the county government center. Member Buel informs the WRAC that the BOS hearing on adoption of new onsite wastewater regulations is set for Nov. 25th. Alternate Member Lien informs the WRAC of two greywater workshops to be held December 2nd at the Arroyo Grande Women’s Club from 6-8pm and December 3rd at the Atascadero Lake pavilion from 6-8pm.
- 4) Member Report – Cambria CSD-(Postponed)
- 5) Conservation and Open Space Element- Review of Water Resources Section- Planning staff member Caruso begins his presentation of excerpts from the water resources section and outlines the following schedule for formation of subcommittees: copies of the complete draft document are made available before Thanksgiving, subcommittees are formed in December, subcommittees report to the WRAC in January for approval. Member Greening brings up WR 1.2 and expresses concern over biological impacts and energy requirements of desalination processes and stresses the need for consistency with environmental and energy policy. A discussion over the proper usage of the words should and shall begins and it is eventually concluded that rational arguments over should/shall conflicts be put into writing and submitted to the planning department for consideration. A question arises over why no drought management section was included. Planning staff member

Caruso cites lack of control over drought policy as reason for absence of such a section since each water purveyor manages supply under drought conditions. Member Winholtz requests clarification of whether WR 1.2 promotes expansion of desalination of continued support of existing facilities and questions consistency of WR 1.2 with IRWM desalination policy. Member Winholtz refers to WR 1.6 and questions whether the agricultural designation could be separated into food or non-food sub-categories. Planning staff member Caruso notes that current county policy makes no such distinction. Member Fitzhugh asserts that AGP6 would be more comprehensive if water resources in general rather than just groundwater were included. Chairperson Winn brings up the need to include urban village reserve lines in 1.7 and makes the distinction between mutual water company and public utility company water operations. Member Chipping notes the idea of preference in WR 1.6 toward agricultural over urban interests and calls for creation of numerical models of all groundwater basins. Member Harvey notes that energy and emissions data for water transmission should be included in EIRs and a short discussion about the large amount of water moved around in California ensues. Member O'Grady calls for a definition of "ecological health" in WR 1.2. Planning staff member Caruso quickly describes it as water allocations for plants and animals especially rare and endangered species. Winholtz questions whether threats to wells due to agricultural discharge would fall under WR 3.3 or WR 3.8 and planning staff member Caruso replies saying that issue is under state rather than county control. Upon inquiry, planning staff member Caruso assures the WRAC that examples of the point and non-point sources mentioned in WR 3.3. will be given in future revisions of the water resources section. It is suggested that MWP and PEP deliverables be included as implementation strategies in the Conservation and Open Space Element.

6) Ongoing Updates-

- a. Santa Margarita Ag Cluster EIR- Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the November 4th hearing is postponed until November 18th.
- b. Invasive Mussels- Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that a staff level meeting will occur in late November or late December to prepare for a larger meeting.
- c. Land Application of Biosolids Ordinance- Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that public comments on the draft of this ordinance are due to the Environmental health Department December 1st and to the BOS on December 10th.
- d. District Efforts Update- Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that SLO County will partner with the California DWR on the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program. Requests for qualifications for the Master Water Plan are due at the end of November. Greywater workshops and desalination information sessions have been rolled into the consultant scope of work. The County will find out November 21st if an expedited round of IRWM grant funding will occur. The Shandon Advisory Council is starting to prepare to have a water study session. Proposals from consultants for the Paso Robles groundwater Management Plan have been returned but no selection has been made.

7) Future Agenda Items- Cambria member report.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:30 pm.