

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2008

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

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees – Quorum Established
- 2) Approval of November Meeting Minutes – The November 5, 2008, WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Buel, second by Member Winholtz, and a unanimous vote with one abstention.
- 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 Buel informs the WRAC that comments on the draft EIR for the waterline intertie project with Santa Maria may be made until January 9th and that it is available on the NCSO website. Member Greening informs the WRAC of the Board of Supervisors’ tentative approval of Santa Margarita Ranch Ag Cluster and direction to staff to come back on December 16th with findings for approval. Member Winholtz informs of new documentary entitled “Flow” which explores the evolution of water from a resource to a commodity. Alternate member Harvey shares a UC Davis study on the Salinas River and various fish habitat documents for those interested. John Snyder of Nipomo provides an update on Santa Maria groundwater litigation including discussion of various appeals and denials, and an upcoming judgment clarification hearing on December 18th. Member Greening expresses concern over environmental degradation caused by aggregate quarrying for road expansion. Member Bianchi informs the WRAC of Santa Clara Valley’s move to use recycled water and the concern that this will aggravate salinity problems in the area. Chairperson Winn discusses a recent greywater presentation including implementation challenges associated with compliance with the uniform plumbing code and new buildings versus retrofits.
- 4) Resource Management System Annual Summary Report-Timing and Subcommittee Formation Discussion – James Caruso, County Planning, informs the WRAC that the draft 2008 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report will be available at the January WRAC meeting, with an opportunity for comments to be finalized at the February WRAC meeting before submission to the Board of Supervisors.
- 5) Water resources Section of the Conservation and Open Space Element- Timing and Subcommittee Formation Discussion – James Caruso, County Planning, presents the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) production schedule, including its availability in January, and suggests a WRAC subcommittee be formed. Mr. Caruso summarizes that the public draft period will run from December through March and a public Board of Supervisors hearing on the draft will occur after March. Caruso informs that the Paso Robles Basin and Santa Margarita Area Resource Capacity Studies will also be available in the first quarter of the 2009. A WRAC COSE subcommittee is formed, with Agriculture at-Large Member Allen, San Luis Obispo

City Staff Gary Henderson, Morro Bay Member Winholtz, Paso Robles Member Alakel, and Environmental at-Large Member Harvey volunteering to participate.

- 6) Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review Water Policy Implications of the Laetitia Agricultural Cluster Draft EIR – Tim Cleath of Cleath and Associates presents an overview of proposed Laetitia Agricultural Cluster. A discussion ensues over impacts of water supply wells on nearby streams and existing wells, with Mr. Cleath responding. Onsite wastewater treatment, its reuse and storm water issues, as well as the ecology and seasonality of the Los Berros Stream, are discussed. Chairperson Winn discusses differences between this project and the Santa Margarita Ranch agricultural cluster project, including the number of residences and availability of supplemental water. Consensus is reached to form a subcommittee, with Alternate Member Chipping (Environment at-Large), Mike Murphy (local landowner), Member Garfinkel (District 2), and WRAC Chairperson Winn (District 3) volunteering to participate.
- 7) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program – Courtney Howard, County Public Works, provides an update on the region acceptance process, including the requirement to justify the boundaries of the region to the State, form a regional water management group (RWMG) and staff's recommendation that the initial RWMG members be the County, Nipomo CSD and Los Osos CSD by way of Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Howard describes the \$100M expedited grant funding round for the IRWM Program and limitations on the amount of grant funding each region can request.
- 8) Ongoing Updates-
 - a.) Santa Margarita Ag Cluster EIR- A discussion ensues on whether or not an adequate, programmatic EIR certification took place.
 - b.) Invasive Mussels- It is reported that Utah has confirmed mussel infestation despite having preventative measures in place since 1999. Bioremediation as an eradication measure is discussed.
 - c.) District Efforts- Secretary Howard informs that consultant for the Master Water Plan should be retained by January and that development of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan will begin in early January.
- 9) Future Agenda Items-
Brief discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:30 pm.