

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

Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2009

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

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees – Quorum Established
- 2) Approval of December Meeting Minutes – The January 7, 2009 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Hyman, second by Member Garfinkel, and a unanimous vote with two abstentions by members who were not present last month.
- 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 Bill Bianchi informs the WRAC of an *LA Times* article in which the US Energy Secretary Steven Chu warns of the possibly devastating effects climate change could have on California’s agriculture. Member Hyman questions circumstances of a recent sewage spill in Orcutt Creek with SLO City staff member Henderson responding. Los Osos resident Jeff Edwards requests the WRAC form a subcommittee to opine on two policy issues related to the Los Osos Wastewater Project, including the exportation of water from the groundwater basin and the proposed allocation of costs to users. Los Osos resident Gewynn Taylor expresses concern that the WRAC did not appoint a subcommittee to review the Los Osos Wastewater Project draft EIR. Chairperson Winn agrees to ask the members whether or not to agendaize the issue at the end of the meeting. Member Sinton offered an electronic copy of the Cold Canyon Landfill Expansion Project Draft EIR to the WRAC and informed the WRAC that application of manure on agricultural lands might require non-point source discharge permits in the future. Chairperson Winn informs the WRAC of a renewable energy forum occurring on February 6, speaks to state agency water permitting and compliance, and indicates that the draft Nacitone Watershed Management Plan is available for review.
- 4) Conservation and Open Space Element-Subcommittee Report, for WRAC Action – James Caruso, County Planning, receives input from the WRAC on the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE). Member Alakel, comments that the suggestions of the COSE are too vague, citing the proposal for a countywide 20% reduction in water use. A discussion of the meaning of a 20% reduction in water use ensues that addresses ways to measure changes in water use, metering, and special considerations for agriculture. Chairperson Winn reiterates the need to clarify the meaning of “safe yield”, which should be the basis of the RMS Level of Severity definitions. Member Fitzhugh advises that the section on use of reclaimed water be revised to reflect health and economic issues related to its use as well. Discussion ensues. Member O’Grady moves to adopt and submit the language as suggested by the Subcommittee, with a second by Member Garfinkel. The motion passes by a vote of 16-0-1. A vote is taken to gauge support for including an educational effort to reuse wastewater for

drinking purposes. The motion passes by a vote of 14-1. Member Hyman highlights a need to change the headings in the document to ensure that they are in a parallel structure, improving readability. A vote to approve the comments made by the City of Paso Robles was taken. The motion fails with a vote of 6-8-4. Member Chipping calls for a dynamic hydrologic model based on drawdown data after an in-depth discussion of using basin safe yield as a Resource Conservation guideline. A vote to approve annual hydrologic modeling of groundwater basins was taken with unanimous approval.

- 5) Resource Management System Annual Summary Report – James Caruso, County Planning, receives input from the WRAC on the 2008 Annual Summary Report (ASR). Chairperson Winn suggests that the Level of Severity determinations need restructuring, with longer times. Discussion ensues.
- 6) Laetitia Ranch Development DEIR-Subcommittee Report - Item postponed until March 4, 2009 meeting.
- 7) San Miguel Ranch Draft EIR-Subcommittee Report - Member Luft reports that the subcommittee found the project violates Agriculture Policy 11, understates the impact of the project on the groundwater basin, and does not analyze the future required water treatment plant as required for EIRs. Member Winholtz moves to approve the comments from the subcommittee with a second by Member O’Grady. The motion passes with a vote of 16-0.
- 8) Chairperson’s report on meetings with Board members - Chairperson Winn reports on meetings with individual Supervisors and indicates they generally agree that the WRAC should maintain focus on water supply and quality, and continue to review County Planning documents related to water (ensuring consistency with other documents). Supervisors indicate they are in favor of appointing alternate members to the WRAC and continuing Resource Capacity Studies.
- 9) Ongoing Updates -
 - a. IRWM - County Utilities Staff Member John Diodati explains the Regional Acceptance Process and updates the WRAC on the current status of the IWRM MOU. Member Winholtz moves to approve the intent of the MOU and registers concern regarding the makeup of Items 2.4 and 5.5 of the MOU with a second by Member Garfinkel, and passes with a vote of 15-0-1.
 - b. Invasive Mussels - Dean Benedix, Utilities Division Manager, reports of no conformed positives at the monitored facilities and informs of proposed adjustments to the current boat decontamination process. A vote to accept the revised denomination process was taken with unanimous approval.
- 10) Future Agenda Items – A vote to agendize the consideration of how to approach two Los Osos Wastewater Project policy issues in March’s regular WRAC meeting was taken and passes by a vote of 6-3. A vote to have a representative of the Nacitone Watersheds Steering Committee present the San Antonio and Nacimientto Rivers Watershed Management Plan was taken with unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:50 pm.