

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

Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2009

An audio and video recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at www.SLOCountyWater.org.

At approximately 8:30 a.m., Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order.

- 1) Introduction of Members - Quorum Established.
- 2) Staff Report - Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works, introduces the project and project team to the WRAC. John Diodati, Department Administrator for Public Works, speaks to addressing project affordability. Mr. Ogren speaks to the project approach under Assembly Bill 2701 (Blakeslee, 2006). John Waddell, project engineer for the Los Osos Wastewater Project, speaks to the project description, including treated effluent management, water conservation, water purveyor responsibilities, treatment facility sites, treatment and collection system technologies, and other related topics. Mark Hutchinson, Environmental Division Manager of Public Works, speaks to the environmental review process, the environmental impact report, and the coastal development permit.
- 3) Member Questions of Staff - WRAC Members and Alternates ask questions of Staff. Discussion ensues regarding project timing, risk of nitrates and seawater intrusion, feasibility of an Ag exchange program, funding opportunities, site selection and hydrogeology, project review, water conservation, discharge vs. recharge, and tertiary treatment.
- 4) Public Comment – Eighteen (18) members of the public offer comments and ask questions of Staff related to the scope of the project, site selection, project costs and affordability, perceived project flaws including design capacity and test well data, groundwater protection, seawater intrusion, water conservation and sustainability, water reuse including agriculture exchange and in lieu programs, water disposal versus recharge, the 3/25/09 California Coastal Commission letter, the Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment, Assembly Bill 2701, STEP-STEP design, the use of spray fields, agriculture impacts, continuing the progress of the project, and the formation of a subcommittee. Discussion ensues.

Member Winholtz moves to extend the meeting to 12:30 p.m., with a second by Member Hyman. The motion passes unanimously.

- 5) Member Discussion - Discussion ensues among WRAC Members and Alternates, and Staff regarding the interlocutory stipulated judgment and Assembly Bill 2701.

WRAC Members and Alternates identify the following topics for further discussion and/or action; project scope, use of spray fields/effluent disposal, the need for tertiary water treatment and conservation, the implications or removal of agricultural lands, and the inclusion of STEP-STEG design. Member Greening asks questions of some individuals that spoke during public comment. Mr. Ogren indicates that tertiary treatment will be a part of the project. Member Kelly moves to recommend to the Board that the project scope includes tertiary treatment and that the budget for the project scope includes the costs for tertiary treatment, with a second. The vote passes unanimously. Member Hyman moves to form a subcommittee to look at the Los Osos Wastewater Project, and the ancillary items discussed at the April 4, 2009 meeting, with the intent of bringing their comments to the WRAC in May, with a second. The vote passes 14-0-1. Member Winholtz moves to recommend to the Board that they direct Staff to keep all technologies open, including STEP-STEG, within the design-build process, with a second by Member Fitzhugh for the purpose of discussion. The motion fails 2-13-0. Chairperson Winn moves to encourage the County to start encouraging, as they may, every water purveyor to develop and implement water conservation programs now, with a second by Member Mires. The vote passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

I, Courtney Howard, Secretary to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Water Resources Advisory Committee do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held Wednesday, April 4, 2009, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on May 6, 2009.

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD
Secretary

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