

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

Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2009

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An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at [www.SLOCountyWater.org](http://www.SLOCountyWater.org).

Approximately 1:30 p.m., Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order.

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees - Quorum Established.
- 2) Approval of June Meeting Minutes - The June 3, 2009 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Hyman, second by Member Allen, and a unanimous vote with three (3) abstentions.
- 3) Public Comment - Jeff Edwards requests that the WRAC review the surface-water discharge analysis for the Los Osos Wastewater Project. John Snyder speaks to the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin litigation, including the Santa Maria TMA meeting, Mr. Scalmanini's comments on the basin report, and new information on other sources of supply. Chairperson Winn, speaking on behalf of Nipomo Community Services District, responds to some of Mr. Snyder's comments. Alternate Member Bianchi requests that the WRAC agendaize a discussion on climate change and that John Lindsey (communications representative and meteorologist for Pacific Gas and Electric Co.) lead the discussion, with members expressing support for such a discussion. Member Hyman indicates that scientists think there are now 3 trillion quagga mussels in Lake Mead's Boulder Basin since they were first discovered there two years ago. Gewynn Taylor, Los Osos resident, requests that a WRAC subcommittee opine on saltwater intrusion in the Los Osos groundwater basin. Member Greening speaks about the Los Osos Wastewater Project, including the timing, schedule, Planning Commission meeting outcome, and future course of action. Secretary Howard informs the WRAC of a Pumping Efficiency Workshop, focused on municipal pumping systems, scheduled for July 22, 2009, and that the Lopez Water Treatment Plant no longer has use for a 12,000 gallon refurbished coagulant storage tank that will be available for purchase through the County Purchasing Department. Chairperson Winn discusses the timing of forming a subcommittee to review the Los Osos groundwater saltwater intrusion problem, and speaks to an article discouraging the use of traditional water softeners and related legislation. Member Hyman requests that individuals include their name on any documents submitted to the WRAC.

4) Ongoing Updates:

- a. Conservation and Open Space Element - Mike Wulkan, Department of Planning and Building, provides an update on the public hearing draft of the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) and discusses the status of the Planning Commission (PC) hearings. Chairperson Winn and Mr. Wulkan discuss the logistics of providing a revised report to the public prior to a vote by the PC. Member Alakel requests that his name be removed from the subcommittee report. Discussion ensues relating to the costs of requiring tertiary treatment, excluding septic tanks from tertiary treatment requirements, indicators of overdraft in confined aquifers, discouraging LAFCO annexations in tandem with non-approval of general plan amendments or land divisions, defining a “history of farming”, the appropriateness of WRAC comments on land use policy, per capita water use and the 20x2020 plan, logistics of using graywater for non-irrigation purposes, developing best management practices for public education on graywater systems, conversion of community wastewater treatment plants to tertiary treatment, permitting residential wells in LOS II or LOS III groundwater basins, requirements to release or publish groundwater data, subcommittee report typos, timelines and triggers associated with each Level of Severity, tracking waste from self-regenerating water softeners, subdivision of agricultural or rural land for residential subdivisions, defining “imported” water, and consideration of watersheds crossing political boundaries. Member O'Grady moves that these comments and suggestions are incorporated into another revision of the subcommittee report and that the revised report be brought back to the WRAC for further consideration, with a second by Member Winholtz. The motion passes unanimously.
  - b. Integrated Regional Water Management Program - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, provides a brief Region Acceptance Process update.
- 5) Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that Planning and Public Works Department Staff will be meeting with Atascadero Subbasin water purveyors on July 15, 2009, to discuss the process and scope for cooperatively updating the analysis of the Atascadero Sub-basin in response to Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study (RCS) comments. Ms. Howard indicates that it is unlikely the effort will conclude prior to an August WRAC meeting. Discussion ensues relating to the attendees of the July 15 meeting, the subcommittee report, and the urgency and goals of the RCS. General consensus is reached to continue the item until September.

Chairperson Winn takes Item 8, Consideration of an August Meeting, out of sequence.

- 6) Consideration of an August Meeting - No motion is made to meet in August; therefore, the next WRAC meeting will occur in September.
- 7) Agricultural Cluster Subcommittee Report - Chairperson Winn introduces the subcommittee report to the WRAC. Alternate Member Crabb offers written comments on behalf of Member Fitzhugh and the County Farm Bureau. Discussion

ensues regarding land use, existing legal lots of record, base density calculations, the availability and sustainability of groundwater, and the purpose of the WRAC relative to land use decisions. Alternate Member Crabb recommends that the language for the first recommendation be changed to read: "That agricultural clusters should be limited by the availability of sufficient water supply on the project property". A straw vote is taken, with seven (7) voting members in favor of the proposed change and eight (8) opposed.

Member Hyman moves to extend the meeting to 4:00 p.m., with a second by Member Winholtz. The motion passes.

Chairperson Winn speaks to the divided vote and recommends that the WRAC inform the Board that members had split opinions on the language of this recommendation. Alternate Member Eby speaks to the legal implications of the third recommendation. Discussion ensues relating to the intent of the recommendation, forcing post-subdivision requirements on developers, and holding developers accountable to ensure a sustainable and reliable source of water. Chairperson Winn, Member Greening, Alternate Member Crabb, and others discuss the concept of placing a cap on the maximum allowable number of residential units in agricultural clusters. General consensus is reached that there is no clear nexus between the number of residential units and water supply. Therefore, the WRAC did not opine on the issue. Member Mires moves that the language for the second recommendation be changed to read: "The sustainability of the agriculture's water supply must be determined prior to approval of an agricultural cluster", with a second by Member Allen. The motion passes unanimously.

- 8) Land to Sea Advisory Committee – Dr. Monica Hunter, Planning and Conservation League Foundation, describes the Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable, new marine policy, programs, and legislation, and coastal issues aimed to protect coastal resources. Dr. Hunter asks the WRAC to consider its role in participating in a proposed Land to Sea Advisory Committee. Discussion ensues relative to coastal water protection. Chairperson Winn speaks to the WRAC's mandate and funding. Member Greening speaks to the availability of marine science specialists. Dr. Hunter speaks to funding opportunities, and available program models. Member Greening moves to continue this item to the September WRAC meeting, with a second by Member Hyman. The motion passes unanimously.

- 9) Future Agenda Items - Brief discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:03 p.m.

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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, July 1, 2009, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on September 2, 2009.

/s/ Courtney Howard

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COURTNEY HOWARD  
Secretary

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