

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

Special Meeting

Minutes

August 26, 2009

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

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

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees - Quorum Established.
- 2) Ongoing Updates:
 - a. San Miguel Ranch Final EIR - Sue Luft, Subcommittee Chair, indicates that the San Miguel Ranch Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) inadequately addressed the subcommittee's original comments, indicates that the subcommittee drafted another letter and comments, provides a timeline for future Planning Commission meetings, and indicates that the subcommittee will present the draft report and cover letter to the WRAC on September 2, 2009. Discussion ensues relating to the timing, schedule, and intent of the August 27, 2009 Planning Commission meeting. Chairperson Winn and Subcommittee Member O'Grady outline the draft conclusions and main findings of the second set of comments, including the following items:
 - 1) potential impacts to groundwater are in fact significant, 2) the proposed project will adversely affect agriculture and is inconsistent with Ag Policy 11, 3) the proposed project is inconsistent with the current Conservation Element, 4) mitigation measures for water supply impacts must be required, and 5) the EIR must provide a project-level analysis for the wastewater treatment plant expansion. Member Reid indicates that Camp Roberts is opposed to the project, citing issues unrelated to water. No action is taken on this item.
- 3) Conservation and Open Space Element - Chairperson Winn, speaks to the format of the subcommittee report. Member Bianchi identifies the need to acknowledge the potential for conflict that County policies may have with State policies and California Water Law. Member Bianchi seeks clarification on "inconsistent recharge". Member O'Grady comments on the need to identify "periods of inadequate rainfall" as another reason for declining water supplies. Discussion ensues relating to declining rainfall, rainfall trends, the cyclical nature of rainfall, the impacts on smaller groundwater basins, and the number of areas in the County that are experiencing groundwater problems. Member David Chipping identifies the need to intertie management of water resources with biological resources. Member Greening questions if "beneficial

uses” include environmental and habitat needs. Member Winholtz notes that the wording of water resources Goal number two (WR 2) is not consistently written in the subcommittee report. Discussion ensues regarding collaborative management, riparian water needs, watershed analysis, potential issues related to inter-jurisdictional enforcement, and the County’s authority to enforce implementation strategies. Member Bianchi requests that the water chapter introduce the concept of climate change. Member Fitzhugh seeks clarification on the State’s 20x2020 Plan. Discussion ensues relating to Senate Bill 49. Members Neil and O’Grady recommend revising water resources goal number four (WR 4) as follows: “The County will achieve a significant reduction in per-capita potable water use by 2020”. Member Neil and Fitzhugh identify the need to differentiate between “development” and “subdivisions” in water resources goal number seven (WR 7). Member Fitzhugh speaks to the use of agricultural clusters as a planning tool. Discussion ensues relating to ensuring sufficient supplies of water, and the need for annexations and subdivisions to have supplemental water available.

Member O’Grady moves to extend the meeting past 2:30 p.m., with a second by Member Winholtz. The motion passes.

Member O’Grady seeks clarification on “support” of LAFCO annexations. Member Bianchi speaks to the need for establishing a water-efficiency monitoring program. Member O’Grady suggests that individuals consider cost-benefit analysis when developing new water supplies. Member Fitzhugh seeks clarification on “key” wells. Discussion ensues relating to groundwater basin adjudication and monitoring programs, operational logistics, the variety of groundwater data types, and groundwater monitoring. Member Neil seeks clarification on a recommended Level of Severity (LOS) versus a certified LOS. Member O’Grady requests proposed new development evaluate the cost impacts to existing users. Discussion ensues relating to passing project costs on to existing users. Member Fitzhugh speaks to self-regenerating water softeners and questions if the language is in the appropriate section of the subcommittee report. Member David Chipping requests that purveyors test recycled water for pharmaceuticals. Discussion ensues relating to the roles of the water purveyor and the costs associated with pharmaceutical testing. Member Hyman poses questions relating to the regulation of wastewater and permitting of wastewater facilities. Discussion ensues relating to County-owned facilities and statewide recycling objectives. Member Bianchi requests that a limit be placed on the depth and number of new wells in groundwater-depressed areas, and the need to reduce water demands to maintain sustainable groundwater elevations. Member Fitzhugh recommends that the phrase “agricultural practices” be removed from the paragraph describing Resource Conservation District support. At the recommendation of James Caruso, Department of Planning and Building, Member O’Grady moves to approve the revised portion of the subcommittee report (pages 2-6 of the August 26, 2009 WRAC agenda package) and distribute it to the Planning Commissioners, with a second by Member Luft. The motion passes unanimously. The WRAC confirms that the remainder of the subcommittee comments (pages 7-10 of the August 26, 2009 WRAC agenda package) will be reviewed at their regular meeting on September 2, 2009.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:05 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, August 26, 2009, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on October 7, 2009.

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD
Secretary

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