

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

Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2009

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

Approximately 9:00 a.m., Chairperson Winn called the meeting to order.

- 1) Introductions and Determination of a Quorum - Quorum Established.
- 2) Master Water Plan Workshop - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, provides an overview of the workshop and approach to the Master Water Plan. Jose Gutierrez, Carollo Engineers, reviews the proposed water planning areas for conducting the supply and demand analyses and to facilitate sub-regional discussion in the Master Water Plan. Discussion ensues regarding water supply overlap into other counties, correlation of the water planning area in South County with Santa Maria Groundwater Basin litigation outcomes, and separation of the Morro Bay and Los Osos planning areas. Annika Fain, ESA, reviews the calculation methodologies for urban, rural, agricultural and environmental water demand. Discussion ensues regarding the definition of each demand category; available organic agricultural information; whether the proposed agricultural demand equation represents a gross or net demand, accounting for cover crops, return flows, multiple crops per year and changes in irrigation practices or use over time; species basis for environmental water demand calculation and available data. Spencer Harris, Cleath-Harris Geologists, and Steven Tanaka, Wallace Group, summarize the water supplies in the County and provide a summary of supplies, water users and issues for each water planning area. Members provide feedback relative to the area they represent.

Noon Recess - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

- 3) Introductions and Determination of a Quorum - Quorum Reestablished.
- 4) Approval of August and September Meeting Minutes - The August 26, 2009, and September 2, 2009 WRAC meeting minutes were approved with two amendments to the September 2, 2009 minutes, by revising the text of Item 5 to read "September 10, 2009 ~~Board of Supervisors~~ Planning Commission hearing" and revising the text of Item 8 to read "Member Fitzhugh, speaking ~~as chair~~ on behalf of the subcommittee", upon a first by Member Hyman, second by Member O'Grady, and a unanimous vote with one (1) abstention.
- 5) Public Comment - Gewynn Taylor, Los Osos resident, requests that George Milanes' name be removed from the WRAC member list to reflect that he no longer represents

the Los Osos CSD. George Taylor, Los Osos resident, speaks to a news article regarding the possibility of invasive shellfish in Nacimiento and San Antonio Lakes, and speaks to current efforts by Monterey County to protect those lakes. Al Barrow speaks to the County Planning Department's application for a coastal development permit for the Los Osos Wastewater project, the notice of final determination, and the schedule to file an appeal. Ms. Taylor speaks to the supply and safe yield of the Los Osos groundwater basin, and requests that WRAC recommend to the Board of Supervisors to restrict further development in the basin. Frank Ausilio speaks to the County Master Water Plan Technical Memorandum No. 3, offering comments regarding the existence of antiquated data, the influence of groundwater pumping by private well owners, the boundary of the Los Osos building moratorium, the issuance of well permits and will-serve letters, and the focus of conservation measures within the prohibition zone. Mr. Ausilio also speaks to the 1992 Resource Management System Level of Severity (LOS) recommendations, to the implementation of section 8.40.065 of the County Code, and requests that the WRAC review the Los Osos retrofit program.

6) Ongoing Updates:

- a. Conservation and Open Space Element - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that the Planning Commission reviewed the entire water chapter and anticipates resolving any outstanding water-related issues on October 8, 2009.
- b. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that the Board of Supervisors approved the cost-sharing agreement and the consultant contract, and she expects to receive the draft results shortly. Discussion ensues regarding the project cost (\$64,200) and the project participants' collaborative work effort. Ms. Howard speaks to the status of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan and to the re-kick-off meeting tentatively scheduled for November.
- c. WRAC Membership Status - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that the WRAC Membership item will be going to the Board of Supervisors as "Board Business" (rather than on the consent agenda) in late October or early November. Discussion ensues regarding Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board representation on the WRAC and to encourage more communication with the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board.
- d. San Miguel Ranch EIR - Sue Luft, Subcommittee Chairperson, reports that their comments were distributed to the Planning Commission and that the Planning Commission recommended to the Board of Supervisors that they deny the General Plan Amendment (and thus the project). Chairperson Winn speaks to the Planning Commissioners' review process compared to the Santa Margarita Ranch project review process. Paul Sorensen, Fugro West Inc., speaks to the process of a General Plan Amendment.

- e. Los Osos Wastewater Project Subcommittee - Chairperson Winn reports that individual Supervisors did not ask for the WRAC to further opine on the Los Osos Wastewater project or any other documents related to the project, unless significant changes to the project occur or if new issues with policy implications arise. Jeff Edwards, member of the public, speaks to the California Coastal Commission review and seeks clarification on the WRAC's role in the Los Osos groundwater basin. Discussion ensues regarding the Los Osos Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment (ISJ), the nature and participants of the Los Osos ISJ meetings, the distinction between local and regional efforts, the relationship between County authority and policies, and ISJ activities and outcomes.
 - f. Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances Subcommittee - Chairperson Winn reports that the subcommittee has not yet met and that the subcommittee will attend the Planning Commission workshop scheduled on October 22, 2009.
- 7) Land to Sea Advisory Committee - Morgan Rafferty, ECOSLO, speaks to the need of the Coast and Ocean Regional Roundtable (CORRT) Project for a committee to advise the CORRT project on watershed-related issues. Ms. Rafferty suggests that three (3) members of the WRAC meet with others to flesh out how the Land to Sea Advisory committee might be funded and structured. Chairperson Winn speaks to the need for a structure that reviews the interface between the land and the ocean that would also review the environmental consequences of certain actions. Chairperson Winn speaks to hurdles to implement a group of this nature such as financing, staffing, liability. Member Bianchi, Member Allen, and Al Barrow suggest that the CORRT Project may be outside the purview of the WRAC. Discussion ensues regarding the differences between the proposed committee and other similar groups/agencies such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Ms. Rafferty speaks to the intent of the group to improve communication and coordination, not to regulate. Chairperson Winn recommends that a few members of the WRAC meet with CORRT representatives to flesh out how the committee may work. The suggestion was implemented by general consensus.
- 8) Data Enhancement Plan - Syllas Cranor, Public Works Department Staff, presents the methodology used to develop the Project Identification and Implementation Plan for the Data Enhancement Plan. Chairperson Winn speaks to the need for seawater intrusion monitoring. Mr. Cranor speaks to the differences between storage and recording rain gauges, the plan to determine planning-level cost estimates for new gauges, situations where real-time data acquisition is necessary, and the County well monitoring program evaluation. Member Hyman recommends that the County use existing groundwater wells for their groundwater monitoring program to save capital costs. Discussion ensues regard considerations for new well locations, program and human resources, real-time technologies. Gary Henderson, San Luis Obispo City Staff, speaks to the importance of ensuring a long-term continuous record and to the need for an even distribution of wells. Member Broadhurst speaks to the vast existence of unofficial data collected by volunteers in the region. Member Mires

recommends collecting groundwater level information from municipal water providers. Discussion ensues regarding the confidentiality of groundwater level measurements, and the need for well logs. Member Winholtz seeks clarification on the definition of “disadvantaged communities”. Discussion ensues regarding the definition of a disadvantaged community and environmental justice. Member O’Grady suggests adding “Imminent Major Projects” as another prioritization criterion. Discussion ensues regarding the “Under-Gauged Areas” prioritization criterion. Member Winholtz recommends that the point value for the “Under-Gauged Areas” prioritization criterion be raised from two (2) to three (3) points, which suggestion was adopted by general consensus. Member Bianchi speaks to adding California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) sites in the region. Discussion ensues regarding climate zones in the region, evaporation measurements at water supply reservoirs, the cost of a new CIMIS station, potential rain gauge sites and operators, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) integration, more affordable data collection equipment, and the value of folk data.

9) Future Agenda Items - Brief discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:25 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, October 7, 2009, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on November 4, 2009.

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD
Secretary

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