

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

Meeting Minutes

November 4, 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) Determination of a Quorum - Quorum Established.

By unanimous consent, the WRAC agreed to take the following item out of order.

- 2) Santa Maria Groundwater Basin - Northern Cities Management Area Water Issues - Dwayne Chisam, City of Pismo Beach, provides an update on the current water issues for the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, including: annual groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements, the results of the most recent monitoring event, the indication of potential seawater intrusion, the impacts of groundwater pumping and weather on local groundwater levels, the collaborative efforts by Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, and Oceano to reduce future groundwater pumping, the potential sources of additional surface water, the goals to prevent seawater from migrating inland, and the existing water conservation programs. Discussion ensues regarding the boundaries of the NCMA, the methods for testing and locations of the sentry wells, existing incentives to remove turf, the groundwater quality monitoring schedule, the opportunity to develop interties for better groundwater management, agricultural pumping within the city limits of Arroyo Grande, potential groundwater recharge sites, the availability of the raw water quality testing results, the potential downward migration of seawater within a well, the proper deconstruction of abandoned wells, the distance and general location of production wells relative to the sentry well(s), considerations of raising the Lopez dam spillway, and opportunities for bringing in additional State water.
- 3) Introductions - Introductions made.
- 4) Approval of October Meeting Minutes - The October 7, 2009 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Garfinkel, second by Alternate Member Eby, and a unanimous vote with two (2) abstentions.
- 5) Public Comment - Alternate Member Harvey reads a statement from Dorothy Jennings regarding rainfall, water availability in the headwaters of the Paso Robles creek, and the impact of new homes and intense agriculture on water availability. Member Hyman informs the WRAC of an article in the *New Times* on Nonylphenol, an emerging contaminant. Discussion ensues regarding the U.S. government labeling

system, local research on Nonylphenol, and concentrations of Nonylphenol in local waters. Alternate Member D. Chipping informs the WRAC of an article in a Colorado publication, the *High County News* (www.HCN.org), titled “Death by a Thousand Wells”, indicating that unregulated wells are straining groundwater supplies in Washington and throughout the West. Member O’Grady informs the WRAC of a newsletter published by Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee regarding the 33rd Assembly District as well as the California State Legislature, regarding recent water legislation. John Snyder, Nipomo resident, speaks to the missing coastal monitoring well in the Santa Maria groundwater basin, and to the need to properly abandon lost or abandoned wells. Frank Ausilio speaks to the need for clearly delineated groundwater basins. Discussion ensues regarding recent work efforts to define the Los Osos, Paso Robles, and Santa Maria groundwater basins, recognizing financial and budgetary constraints on those and other basins. Jaime Lien informs the WRAC of an upcoming workshop on rainwater harvesting focusing on rural residences and speaks to future workshops focused on ways to implement graywater systems in rural residences.

6) Ongoing Updates:

- a. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that a re-kick-off meeting for development of the Groundwater Management Plan is scheduled for November 12, 2009, in Paso Robles and that the water balance update is nearing completion. Discussion ensues regarding the schedule and contract.
 - b. Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances Subcommittee Report - Chairperson Winn, subcommittee chair, reports that the subcommittee to review the grading and stormwater management ordinances attended the Planning Commission meeting on October 22, 2009, and that the subcommittee does not recommend that the WRAC review the Grading and Stormwater Management Ordinances explaining that the proposed ordinance has minimal impact on groundwater quantity and quality. Discussion ensues regarding promoting greater stewardship of the ocean and surface waters that flow into the ocean. Alternate Member Bianchi speaks to sand dams, the removal of in-channel aggregates, gravel mining operations, in-stream groundwater recharge, and conditions in streams that improve recharge opportunities.
 - c. Rainfall and Reservoir Update - Syllas Cranor, Public Works Department Staff, provides a brief report on the November rainfall and reservoir report. John Snyder, Nipomo resident, requests that Nipomo rainfall be included in the report and recommends using the Nipomo CIMIS (California Irrigation Management Information System) gauge. Alternate Member Eby requests that future WRAC agendas include quarterly saltwater intrusion status reports.
- 7) Presentation on Regional Climate Change and Shifts in Local Weather Patterns - John Lindsay, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, presents information on regional weather and climate change, including items relating to: local geography, offshore conditions, regional weather observations, recent and historic rainfall, climate change, potential sea level change, El Niño and La Niña, the Pacific decadal oscillation, the correlation

between ambient seawater temperature and rainfall, the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, concerns regarding debris flows and urban burn areas, and rain gauge instrumentation. Discussion ensues regarding drought planning, increases of sea water level resulting from thermal expansion, practical forecast horizons, long-term water resources planning and impacts on flood zones, conditions that promote southern originating storms, and regional temperature and precipitation predictions.

- 8) Master Water Plan - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that comments on the technical memorandums were received and that the project team is reviewing those comments, asks agencies that have not yet submitted comments do so, and reminds the WRAC of an upcoming Master Water Plan workshop tentatively scheduled for December 2, 2009.
- 9) WRAC Bylaws - Membership - Chairperson Winn discusses the November 3, 2009 Board of Supervisors direction and action items, and asks for volunteers to serve on an ad hoc subcommittee to develop a vision for At-Large positions and to review the received membership applications. An ad hoc subcommittee is formed by the WRAC. Discussion ensues regarding representation by the County Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board and ensuring that the subcommittee has broad-based representation.
- 10) Future Agenda Items - Member Greening suggests that the WRAC discuss the proposed grading ordinance relative to sewage sludge. Members of the WRAC request that Cal Poly faculty, perhaps Lars Tomanek or Dean Wendt, present their research on Nonylphenol.

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, November 4, 2009, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

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

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD
Secretary

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