

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

Meeting Minutes

December 2, 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) Determination of a Quorum - Quorum Established.
- 2) Introductions - Introductions made.
- 3) Approval of November Meeting Minutes - The November 4, 2009 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Garfinkel, second by Member Allen, and a unanimous vote with no abstentions.
- 4) Public Comment - Member Hyman informs the WRAC of an article in the *Tribune* stating that the Department of Water Resources announced an initial allocation of five percent of total contracted water deliveries to the State Water Project contractors for 2010. Discussion ensues regarding continuing drought conditions and implications on coastal groundwater basins. John Snyder, Nipomo resident, speaks to his continued search for the missing coastal monitoring well in the Santa Maria groundwater basin. Keith Larson, Paso Robles City Staff, announces that on December 1, 2009, the Paso Robles City Council adopted a waterefficient landscape ordinance to reduce outdoor water use. Alternate Member Eby reports that Michael LeBrun was named interim General Manager of the Nipomo Community Services District (NCSO), replacing Bruce Buel, who retired because of health reasons, and that the NCSO is actively searching for a permanent District General Manager. Member Greening reminds members of the WRAC of the continued hearing by the Planning Commission to review the new Conservation and Open Space Element on December 17, 2009, and speaks to the schedule and scope of the updates to the Land Use and Circulation Elements. Member Kelly introduces Dan Gilmore, the new Los Osos Community Services District General Manager. Alternate Member Broadhurst speaks to the initial allocation of State Water in light of weather forecasts for an "above-average winter". Discussion ensues regarding existing water supplies and the timing for potential allocation increases. Alternate Member Harvey requests information on the cost of Nacimiento water. Discussion ensues regarding costs associated with operations, maintenance, infrastructure and the water itself, and debt financing. Frank Ausilio, member of the public, indicates that the total number of groundwater wells in Los Osos presented in a report by Cleath-Harris Geologists is inconsistent with information provided to Mr. Ausilio by the County Health Department, and speaks to the need to implement recommendations of the 1992 Resource Management System

Annual Summary Report. Dan Berman, Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) Director, informs members of the WRAC that the MBNEP executed the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Memorandum of Mutual Understandings. Discussion ensues regarding the likely schedule for the revised IRWM guidelines. Chairperson Winn informs members of the WRAC of an Annual Land Use Law and Planning Conference held by the UCLA Extension on January 29, 2010, in Los Angeles, and recommends that WRAC members review the proposed amendments to the County Land Use and Housing Elements of the General Plan, to be discussed by the Board of Supervisors on December 8, 2009. Member Greening informs members of the WRAC that the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to review the San Miguel Ranch project on December 8, 2009. Discussion ensues regarding the process to amend the County Land Use Element of the General Plan, the potential need for the WRAC subcommittee to review the revised project, and the implications of the California Environmental Quality Act relative to project alternatives. Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, provides a status update on the construction of the Nacimiento Water Project.

5) Ongoing Updates:

- a. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that the re-kick-off meeting to develop the Groundwater Management Plan on November 12, 2009, was successful, that the next groundwater advisory meeting is tentatively scheduled for late February, and that the water balance update is nearing completion. Discussion ensues regarding the schedule for internal and public review drafts.
- b. Rainfall and Reservoir Update - Alternate Member Eby requests that groundwater quality reports for coastal wells be provided to the WRAC on a quarterly basis. Discussion ensues regarding the availability and ownership of water quality data for coastal groundwater wells. Lowell Zelinski, irrigation specialist, speaks to the five percent initial allocation of State Water. Discussion ensues regarding impacts to local State Water contractors and potential increases of State Water allocations. Member Greening seeks clarification on the rainfall totals for the Nipomo rain gauge. Discussion ensues regarding recent rainfall totals in the vicinity of Nipomo, California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) weather stations, and possible sources of error in automatic rain gauge measurements. Member Allen asks that County staff evaluate the distribution of gauges provided in the rainfall report and try to better represent the North County and other unrepresented areas. Discussion ensues regarding the opportunity to improve the rainfall report using the County website or other existing resources. Member Allen seeks clarification on the Nacimiento Water Project contract with respect to the existence of a contingency plan to address drought years. Discussion ensues regarding the requirement to maintain a dead pool and other general issues regarding the contract with Monterey County.
- c. Master Water Plan - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, speaks to the schedule to address comments received on the three Master Water Plan (MWP) technical memoranda, and to the schedule and content of

the January MWP workshop. John Snyder, Nipomo resident, seeks clarification on the water planning area that encompasses the Nipomo area. Discussion ensues regarding the proposed planning area boundaries for the areas of Nipomo, Los Osos, and Morro Bay.

- 6) New Agriculture and Environmental At-Large Positions - Chairperson Winn summarizes the motion made by the Board of Supervisors to add one agriculture at-large member and one environmental at-large member and their alternates, speaks to Chairperson Gibson's direction to have the WRAC provide a memorandum to the Board of Supervisors outlining the WRAC's "vision" for these recently created member positions, and requests that members of the WRAC provide feedback on the subcommittee's vision. Discussion ensues regarding the adequacy of the subcommittee's vision, and the general format and content of the subcommittee report. Member Hyman requests that the subcommittee members be identified in the December 2, 2009 WRAC minutes. As of December 18, 2009, subcommittee members include: Member Hyman, Alternate Member Larson, Member Luft, Member Winholtz, and Member Winn. Discussion ensues regarding the regulatory / guiding nature of the vision, the application process and timing, and public noticing by the clerk and WRAC secretary. Member Fitzhugh speaks to the application review process. Discussion ensues regarding the potential need to conduct interviews, the process by which the subcommittee would come to a recommendation, subcommittee expectations of interviewees, the potential request to provide references on application forms, and the potential legal requirements when conducting interviews. Member Fitzhugh moves to approve the subcommittee vision, to direct the subcommittee to review all membership applications in light of the membership vision, to have the subcommittee recommend potential candidates to the WRAC on January 6, 2010, and to authorize the Chairperson of the WRAC to deliver the membership vision and a basic cover letter to the Board of Supervisors, with a second by Member Winholtz. The motion passes unanimously, 15-0-0.

- 7) Future Agenda Items - Brief discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 2:40 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, December 2, 2009, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on January 6, 2010.

/s/ Courtney Howard

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COURTNEY HOWARD  
Secretary

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