

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

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2010

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, provided an overview of the workshop. Jose Gutierrez, Carollo Engineers, provided a summary of work completed to date including the water supply inventory, urban demand, and summary of available information; water planning area (WPA) revisions; and demand methodology. Discussion ensues regarding the basis for defining WPAs including consideration of watersheds, groundwater basins and purveyor boundaries, and the appropriateness of the Atascadero and Salinas/Estrella WPA delineations. Annika Fain, ESA, provides an update on the demand methodology and addressed comments received, including assumptions on minimum and maximum development for the rural demand and the acknowledgment that County Planning is refining these assumptions; use of an annual average for environmental flows and recognition that, while important, seasonal, detailed modeling of watersheds was beyond the scope of this MWP; and conservation considerations in estimating future urban demands. Discussion ensues regarding seasonal watershed modeling, availability of information from Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, how unimpaired run-off is defined, the ability to calculate environmental water demand in the Salinas/Estrella WPA, surface water diversion rights, and the relationship of MWP demand estimates to California's 20 by 2020 plan. Mr. Gutierrez summarizes water supply and demand by WPA. In addition to specific comments for each WPA, discussion included the effect of climate change on supplies, the reliability of the State Water Project, the use of footnotes for data assumptions and sources, representing supply as a range, and the effects of increasing demand, seawater intrusion, water quality and imported water on groundwater basin yield. Mr. Gutierrez summarizes the proposed criteria for asserting a water supply shortfall and for evaluating solutions with discussion ensuing regarding whether to prioritize the criteria. The next WRAC MWP workshop is anticipated for April 7, 2010 and comments on the criteria and demand analysis are requested by February 3, 2010.

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

- 3) Introductions and Redetermination of a Quorum - Quorum Reestablished.

By unanimous consent, the WRAC agreed to take public comment from San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Jim Patterson in advance of the Public Comment item. Supervisor Patterson speaks to the resignation of Member O'Grady from the WRAC, announces that he intends to appoint Ms. Della Barrett as Member O'Grady's replacement, and shares written comments from Member O'Grady who gives thanks to the WRAC and reflects on his time serving on the WRAC

- 4) Officer Elections - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, calls for nominations for the 2010 WRAC Chairperson. Member Winholtz nominates Member Winn to serve as the 2010 WRAC Chairperson, with a second by Alternate Member Bianchi. Alternate Member Eby moves that nominations be closed, with a second by Alternate Member Bianchi. Alternate Member Vowell moves to approve Member Winn as the 2010 WRAC Chairperson by acclamation, with a second by Member Greening. The motion passes unanimously. Member Garfinkel nominates Member Luft to serve as the 2010 WRAC Vice Chairperson, with a second. Alternate Member Eby moves that nominations be closed, with a second by Member Hyman. Alternate Member Eby moves to approve Member Luft as the 2010 WRAC Vice Chairperson by acclamation, with a second by Member Garfinkel. The motion passes unanimously. Chairperson Winn speaks to meeting attendance and commends Members Hyman, Luft, and Russel for their perfect attendance for the 2009 year.
- 5) Approval of December Meeting Minutes - The December 2, 2009 WRAC meeting minutes were approved with one amendment, by revising the text of Item 4 to read "January 29, 2010" rather than "January 29, 2009", upon a first by Member Greening, second by Member Garfinkel, and a unanimous vote with no abstentions. Discussion ensues regarding the 2010 Annual Land Use Law and Planning Conference in Los Angeles.
- 6) Public Comment - Member Greening reminds members of the WRAC of the upcoming Board of Supervisor's January 26, 2010 hearing to consider ordinance amendments relating to grading and storm water management, and of the February 9, 2010 study session to consider the new Conservation and Open Space Element. Member Hyman speaks to a study commissioned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that evaluates the impact of pharmaceutical drugs on the coast and ocean environment, and indicates that an environmental group from Santa Barbara is suing the State and county agencies for allegedly killing steelhead while using fire retardant to fight a wildfire. Chairperson Winn speaks to a recent study in Santa Cruz to evaluate the effect of flame retardant on flora and fauna in downstream and offshore environments. Ken Smokoska, Program Coordinator, encourages members of the WRAC to participate in a special topics class presented by Cuesta College titled "An Introduction to Green Building", asking that WRAC members volunteer to serve as guest speakers, and to help develop curriculum and projects for the class. Discussion ensues regarding the class schedule and timing, and regarding student demographics. Gwynn Taylor, Los Osos resident, raises concern regarding pharmaceuticals entering local water supplies and speaks to potential new regulation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requiring sewage facilities to monitor these containments. Discussion ensues regarding the need to establish a standard testing protocol. Member Luft speaks to the use of satellites to estimate water loss in

the central valley as a result of pumping, and speaks to a local study by the USGS to evaluate land subsidence in the Paso Robles area. Frank Ausilio, member of the public, indicates that there is currently no state agency that has the authority to protect local groundwater basins from saltwater intrusion and non-point source pollution. Alternate Eby reports that on January 5, 2010, the Santa Maria City Council adopted an agreement between the Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) and the City of Santa Maria to provide 3,000 acre-feet of water to the NCSD, and requests that groundwater quality reports for Santa Maria Groundwater Basin coastal wells be provided to the WRAC on a quarterly basis. Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, responds that groundwater quality data will be reported consistent with the reporting schedule of the groundwater management areas. Discussion ensues regarding the water quality reporting schedule and the judicial requirements of the management groups.

7) Ongoing Updates:

- a. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that the water balance update is nearing completion and anticipates providing a substantial update at the February 2010 WRAC meeting.
- b. Land to Sea Advisory Committee - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department Staff, reports that the Land to Sea Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for mid January.
- c. Rainfall and Reservoir Update - Brief discussion.

8) Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review the 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report - James Caruso, Department of Planning and Building, speaks to the timing of the 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report (ARSR), identifies some past and planned changes to the format of the report, emphasizes the need for public water agencies to report their annual water use and production data to the County Public Works Department, and requests that individual members of the WRAC review the data and figures within the draft report and provide those comments directly to him. Discussion ensues regarding the need to form a policy-level subcommittee and the effectiveness of the current retrofit-upon-sale program, and to the timing of future revisions to the report. Chairperson Winn speaks to the advantage of forming a subcommittee in advance of the February 3, 2010 WRAC meeting. Chairperson Winn, and Members Garfinkel, Luft, Thompson, and Winholtz volunteer to serve on a subcommittee to review the 2009 Annual Summary Report. Member Luft moves to form a subcommittee to review the 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report, with a second by Alternate Member Larson. The motion passes unanimously.

9) Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review the Proposed Updates to the Land Use and Circulation Elements - James Caruso, Department of Planning and Building, speaks to the schedule and scope of the proposed updates to the Land Use and Circulation Element. Discussion ensues regarding the relationship between the Land Use Element and the Rural Area Plan Update, Planning Commission and Board

of Supervisor meeting schedules, and the potential need to form a subcommittee in advance of the February 3, 2010 WRAC meeting. Chairperson Winn opts to defer consideration of forming a subcommittee until the February 3, 2010 meeting.

10) Subcommittee Report on New Agriculture and Environmental At-Large Positions - Subcommittee Chair Winn speaks to the subcommittee process and summarizes the membership recommendations of the subcommittee, which are to recommend the Board of Supervisors appoint Daniel Berman and Annie Gillespie Environmental At-Large member and alternate member, respectively, and to appoint Lowell Zelinski and Steve Lohr Agriculture at-Large member and alternate member, respectively. Daniel Berman, applicant for the Environmental At-Large member position, introduces himself to the WRAC. Annie Gillespie, applicant for the Environmental At-Large alternate member position, introduces herself to the WRAC. Member Garfinkel moves to adopt the subcommittee recommendations for the Environmental At-Large member and alternate member positions, with a second by Member Hyman. The motion passes unanimously. Steve Lohr, applicant for the Agricultural At-Large alternate member position introduces himself to the WRAC. Member Sinton moves to adopt the subcommittee recommendations for the Agricultural At-Large member and alternate member positions, with a second by Alternate Member Larson. The motion passes unanimously. Chairperson Winn reminds members of the WRAC that the membership recommendations must be conformed by the Board of Supervisors before they are official.

11) Presentation on the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program - Shayna Bailey, District Conservation Planner for the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, presents information on the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), describes the goals and mission of the AWEP, and identifies the regions in which the program can be implemented. Ms. Bailey speaks to the growth and function of the mobile water lab service and outlines the eligibility rules and application process. Discussion ensues regarding program operations and funding.

12) Future Agenda Items - Brief discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:00 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, January 6, 2010, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on February 3, 2010.

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD
Secretary
