

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

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 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) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions - Quorum Established.

- 2) Master Water Plan Workshop - Courtney Howard, Public Works Department, provides a review of the work to date, an overview of the workshop agenda, and discusses various water management strategies beginning with water conservation. Discussion ensues regarding lifestyle and cultural impact on water use, public education challenges, Proposition 218 implications, per capita water reduction, growth inducing potential through conservation, volunteer monitoring programs, agricultural water use and reductions, irrigation efficiencies, financial incentives to reduce agricultural pumping, potential for future agricultural water conservation, enforcement in adjudicated groundwater basins and the role of a watermaster, the concept of “buildout”, regional conservation targets, planning for unforeseen changes in future water supply, impacts of conservation on environmental dedications, future annexations and Local Agency Formation Commission water supply assessment requirements, cost-benefit considerations, and Partners in Water Conservation. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to optimize the State Water Project. Discussion ensues regarding underutilization of the existing pipeline, off-peak water deliveries, long-term negotiations with the Central Coast Water Authority, the feasibility of regional groundwater banking, State Water Project beneficiaries, and State Water Project water reliability. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to optimize the use of unsubscribed Nacimiento Water Project water. Discussion ensues regarding potential water banking opportunities, procedures for considering new Nacimiento Water Project participants, Environmental Impact Report considerations, and groundwater banking opportunities and challenges. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to optimize the use of the Lopez Reservoir. Discussion ensues regarding the Arroyo Grande Creek Habitat Conservation Plan, potential changes to safe yield estimates, riparian rights, declining reservoir capacity caused by siltation, potential spillway modification projects, and impacts on downstream habitats. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to optimize the use of the Santa Margarita Reservoir. Discussion ensues regarding computer modeling, aerial surveys, and water rights and permits. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to use desalination plants to increase the regional water supply. Discussion ensues regarding the cost of desalination plants, reduction of salt content in wastewater discharge, underutilized resources, existing ocean outfalls, and environmental impacts associated with desalination projects.

Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to use recycled water to increase the regional water supply. Discussion ensues regarding project expenses and feasibility, the potential for excess salt accumulation, increasing regulatory requirements, lack of a delivery system, including use of graywater as a management strategy, and the need for salt management and reduction. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to use under-utilized groundwater basins to increase the regional water supply. Discussion ensues regarding riparian streamflow, agricultural and urban uses, and environmental impacts. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to use land use management to increase the regional water supply. Discussion ensues regarding low impact design, stormwater runoff management, smart growth principles, and quantification of benefit. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to use precipitation enhancement to increase the regional water supply. Discussion ensues regarding historic cloud seeding programs. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential of using rainwater harvesting to increase the regional water supply. Discussion ensues regarding the voluntary nature of rainwater harvesting systems and potential impacts of storage facilities. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to use on- and/or off-stream storage facilities to increase the regional water supply. Discussion ensues regarding water rights permits and environmental considerations. Ms. Howard speaks to the potential to develop regional reliability programs to increase the regional water supply and the next steps for the Master Water Plan.

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

- 3) Redetermination of a Quorum and Introductions - Quorum reestablished. Chairperson Winn provides an overview of the morning Master Water Plan (MWP) workshop and speaks to the timing for submitting comments on the technical memorandums and other MWP documents.
- 4) Approval of March Meeting Minutes - The March 3, 2010 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Garfinkel, second by Member Greening, and a unanimous vote with three (3) abstentions.
- 5) Public Comment - John Snyder, Nipomo resident, reports that he obtained readings from a particular sentry well in the Northern Cities Management Area from the City of Grover Beach. Discussion ensues regarding the public disclosure of these readings and City Counsel's consent to release this data. Dwayne Chisam, Pismo Beach Public Works Director, indicates that all groundwater data will be released as a part of the Annual Monitoring Report. Gewynn Taylor requests that documents and reports related to the Los Osos Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment be released in advance of the meeting by the California Coastal Commission to consider the Los Osos Wastewater Project. Linde Owen, Los Osos resident, recommends that Basin Management Plans include monitoring of private wells. Jeff Edwards requests that the WRAC increase their participation to review issues related to salt water intrusion. Member Fitzhugh informs the WRAC that the comment period for the new draft Agricultural Order has passed and that a future workshop to discuss the draft Agricultural Order is scheduled for May 12, 2010. Alternate Member Bianchi requests that the WRAC agendaize an informational agenda item on reducing pesticide runoff in urban creeks and waterways. Paavo Ogren, County Public Works Director, indicates that issues related to salt water intrusion are under jurisdiction of the

Superior Court, and speaks to the unique situations in Los Osos and in the Northern Cities Management Area. Frank Ausilio indicates that the Los Osos Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment does not preclude the County from implementing a building moratorium or landscape ordinance, or prevent the County from monitoring private groundwater wells for use in the Annual Summary Report.

6) Ongoing Updates:

- a. Membership - Environmental At-Large - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that an Environmental At-Large position is vacant, and asks members of the WRAC to notify appropriate and qualified individuals of the vacancy. Discussion ensues regarding membership requirements, application instructions, the current bylaws, and expectations of the current alternate member.
 - b. Integrated Regional Water Management - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the draft Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program guidelines are available for review, speaks to when funding may become available, and indicates that staff will review and comment on the draft guidelines and begin to identify priority projects that are in the IRWM Plan for future grant applications. Discussion ensues regarding past and future success to obtain implementation grants.
 - c. Status of Negotiations with the Central Coast Water Authority for Emergency Water to South County - Paavo Ogren, County Public Works Director, provides an overview of the current negotiations with the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) for emergency water to South County, and speaks to the historic sales of excess allocation, the anticipated State Water allocation amount, the impacts of last year's State of Emergency proclamation by Governor Schwarzenegger, the potential countywide benefits, future delivery scenarios, the development of a regional drought reliability program, and future financing. Member Greening speaks to equity and fairness among the Northern Cities Management Area agencies. Discussion ensues regarding the need for multiple contacts or agreements at different levels, the need for emergency water in the South County, Santa Margarita's potential involvement in State Water programs and regional drought reliability programs, and CCWA water recipients and membership. Member Greening requests that the WRAC agendaize the Santa Margarita Water Supply Reliability Report for a future date.
 - d. Rainfall and Reservoir Update - Alternate Member Bianchi speaks to the potential to use Whale Rock Reservoir to store excess water from Lake Nacimiento. Discussion ensues regarding significant environmental hurdles and water quality issues, and infrastructure costs.
- 7) Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review the Draft Shandon Community Plan and Environmental Impact Report - Jay Johnson, County Planning, provides an overview of the draft Shandon Community Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and speaks to the project history, the schedule, the availability of the public

review draft and comment period, and to the anticipated release of the EIR. Member Greening suggests that if a subcommittee were formed, it should coordinate with the Shandon Community Advisory Council. Discussion ensues regarding Shandon's participation in the State Water Project, the scope of the Shandon Community Plan, the proposed plan layout, proposed build-out population, representation in the Shandon Community Advisory Council, and the likely EIR comment period. Member Sinton volunteers to serve as ad hoc subcommittee chair. Member Luft, Member Barrett, Chairperson Winn, and Member Allen volunteer to serve on the subcommittee. Member Mires moves to form a subcommittee to review the draft Shandon Community Plan and Environmental Impact Report, with a second by Member Hyman. The motion passes unanimously.

- 8) 2009 Resource Management System (RMS) Annual Summary Report - Planning Department Overview and WRAC Subcommittee Report - Member Luft, subcommittee chairperson, provides a brief overview of the subcommittee report. Discussion ensues regarding required monitoring for all new agricultural wells, the intent of the subcommittee's first recommendation, and the mechanism by which these recommendations become policy. Alternate Member Chipping recommends that the County establish a dedicated monitoring groundwater well network. Discussion ensues regarding water level monitoring, water quality testing, and infrastructure costs. Member Greening requests that the report include a map of the entire county showing the areas covered, and not covered, for water supply findings. Discussion ensues regarding a project owner's responsibility to perform monitoring, incremental approaches to improve monitoring networks, and collecting data in a way that does not compromise privacy. Member Hyman recommends that the word "County" be replaced with the words "Flood Control and Water Conservation District" where appropriate. Member Eby indicates that revised numbers for the Nipomo Community Services District and Nipomo Mesa Management Area will be available shortly. John Snyder, Nipomo resident, recommends that the word "overdraft" be removed from the RMS draft and be replaced with a term that does not have legal complications. Discussion ensues regarding current efforts to improve the District's groundwater monitoring program.

Member Sinton moves to extend the meeting to 4:00 p.m., with a second by Member Hyman. The motion passes.

Discussion ensues regarding the success of various voluntary monitoring programs, the County's ability to establish and fund a dedicated monitoring network, developing methods to encourage participation in voluntary programs, and the types of groundwater monitoring needed for the Resource Management System. Member Hyman moves to adopt the subcommittee recommendations on the 2009 Resource Management System Annual Summary Report with the following additions and amendments, with a second by Member Ashbaugh:

- Add "non-agricultural" to the first recommendation so that it reads: "Permits for new *non-agricultural* wells".
- Replace the word "County" with the words "Flood Control and Water Conservation District" throughout the recommendations, as appropriate.

- Add recommendation #8: The District shall continue to implement its Data Enhancement Plan with respect to well monitoring, and consider establishing an independent automated observation well program for groundwater basins with levels of severity (LOS) I, II, or III.
- Add recommendation #9: The report should include a map of the entire county showing the areas covered, and not covered, for water supply findings.

The motion passes unanimously.

- 9) Presentation on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Water Balance Update - Due to time constraints, the presentation on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Water Balance Update is not presented. Paul Sorenson, Fugro West, Inc., indicates that he will be available for questions regarding the Water Balance Update following the meeting. Chairperson Winn informs the WRAC that future questions should be directed to Courtney Howard at the County Public Works Department.

- 10) Future Agenda Items - No discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:45 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, April 7, 2010, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on May 5, 2010.

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD
Secretary
