

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

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2010

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 and Introductions - Quorum Established.
- 2) Approval of April Meeting Minutes - The April 7, 2010 WRAC meeting minutes were approved upon a first by Member Fitzhugh, second by Member Sinton, and a unanimous vote with two (2) abstentions.
- 3) Public Comment (15 minutes) - Marshall Ochylski, Los Osos Community Services District President, informs the WRAC that the Los Osos Groundwater Basin Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment (ISJ) Working Group released a Groundwater Basin Update, which includes the results of recent saltwater intrusion monitoring and a peer review of the basin modeling analysis. Jeff Edwards requests that the WRAC discuss the issue of saltwater intrusion in the Los Osos groundwater basin in light of the Groundwater Basin Update that the (ISJ) Working Group recently released. Frank Ausilio speaks to the 2009 Resource Management System (RMS) Annual Summary Report and suggests that it address impacts of future Proposition 218 votes, basin-wide conservation measures, landscape ordinances, monitoring of new wells, and utilization of catch basins for groundwater recharge. Gwynn Taylor requests that the WRAC review saltwater intrusion in the Los Osos groundwater basin, and informs the WRAC of an invasive alga, commonly referred to as "rock snot", that may cause significant negative impacts to regional rivers, streams, and reservoirs. Richard Margetson indicates that the Board of Supervisors continued the hearing to consider the 2009 RMS report to June 8, 2010, and asks if it is the intention of the WRAC to review the revised report. Member Hyman informs the WRAC of an article in The Tribune which indicates that the State could end seawater cooling by Diablo and Morro Bay power plants, and of another article indicating that mandatory water conservation measures are in now in effect for customers of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Member Greening requests that the WRAC review both the Los Osos saltwater intrusion study and the updated 2009 RMS report at the June WRAC meeting. Member Gilmore speaks to the Los Osos Groundwater Basin Update, and to its relation with the groundwater Basin Management Plan and other ISJ work products. Member Eby asks which agency has jurisdiction of saltwater intrusion in Los Osos. Chairperson Winn supports consideration of forming a subcommittee to review the Los Osos saltwater intrusion issue, and speaks to the schedule and Board direction regarding the 2009 RMS.

4) Ongoing Updates:

- a. Master Water Plan - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, provides an update on the Master Water Plan (MWP), and speaks to incorporating comments into MWP documents, to revising the scoring system for water management strategies, to the availability of presentation materials online, to efforts to evaluate individual water planning areas (WPA) and how different water management strategies may meet the needs of each WPA, and to the status of associated Technical Memoranda. Discussion ensues regarding the distinction between anticipated cost estimates and actual project costs, varying levels of cost-benefit certainty among different projects, the use of the word *criterion* for the singular rather than *criteria*, and the reliability of an overall system versus the reliability of specific projects.
- b. Planning Department Efforts - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, indicates that the discussion points related to this agenda item were declared during the public comment period. Member Greening encourages members of the WRAC to provide water related input at the Land Use and Circulation Element and Climate Action Plan Town Hall event scheduled on May 13, 2010. Discussion ensues regarding private property owner requests for zoning changes and regarding the policy/planning nature of these documents.
- c. Procedures for Well Permit Referrals - Syllas Cranor, County Public Works, informs the WRAC that procedures are established with the Department of Planning and Building to address new well permit referrals for wells located in the Coastal Zone, that the Public Works Department is working with a consultant to develop a protocol to help evaluate these well permit applications, and that the consultant is also helping to evaluate additional wells to add to the District groundwater measuring program. Discussion ensues regarding the types of groundwater monitoring that may be required.
- d. Rainfall and Reservoir Update - Brief discussion.
- e. Status of Negotiations with the Central Coast Water Authority for Emergency Water to South County - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, informs members of the WRAC that District staff, Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) staff, and Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) representatives have mutually agreed on recommendations to provide emergency water to South County to mitigate the risk of seawater intrusion in the NCMA. Discussion ensues regarding the extent of the seawater intrusion, water quality trends for the Pier Avenue well, the potential terms of such agreement between the District and the CCWA, conceptual plan for a Santa Margarita exchange agreement, the costs that are generally included in a Proposition 218 initiative, other funding mechanisms to finance ongoing operations and maintenance expenses, the availability of the NCMA 2009 Annual Report, the current State Water delivery allocation, and potential impacts to State Water Project subcontractors that are not part of the NCMA.

- 5) Consideration of Forming a Subcommittee to Review the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Draft Agricultural Order and Public Feedback - Chairperson Winn provides background information on agricultural community and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) perspectives regarding the RWQCB's draft agricultural order, and asks WRAC members if they want to form a subcommittee to review the draft agricultural order and other related reports. Discussion ensues regarding the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board's (ALAB) general role in reviewing draft agricultural order. Member Fitzhugh provides background information regarding the 2004 agricultural waiver, and speaks to current efforts between the agricultural community and the RWQCB to update the agricultural order. Discussion ensues regarding the conceptual nature of the agricultural community's alternative, the anticipated actions by the County Board of Supervisors, the development and content of the agricultural community's alternative, the past collaboration conflicts between the agricultural community and the RWQCB, the impacts of the draft agricultural waiver to low-risk dischargers, the content and schedule of future RWQCB workshops, the purpose and schedule of an ad-hoc subcommittee if it were to be formed, the current and future efforts between Agricultural Commissioner Robert Lilley and the Board of Supervisors, the involvement of other advisory committees, the quantity of public comment on the draft agricultural waiver, the validity and sources of supporting documents and reference materials, the need for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the potential actions by the Board of Supervisors in response to advisory committee recommendations, the need for the WRAC to review water issues related to the county's largest industry, and the impacts of agricultural water use on urban communities. Member Winholtz moves to form a subcommittee to review the RWQCB draft agricultural order and supporting background materials, to review concerns raised by the agriculture community, to take into account the reports made by Agricultural Commissioner Robert Lilley to the Board of Supervisors, and to return to the WRAC with a clearer definition of the subcommittee goals, with a second by Member Hyman. The motion passes unanimously. Member Hyman, Member Luft, Member Fitzhugh, Member Zelinski, Alternate Member Broadhurst, and Alternate Member Gillespie volunteer to serve on the ad-hoc subcommittee. Member Luft volunteers to serve as subcommittee chair.
- 6) Subcommittee Report on the Draft Shandon Community Plan - Member Sinton, subcommittee chairperson, provides the WRAC with a summary of the subcommittee report, and reports that the proposed project will likely violate Policy AGP 11 and AGP 24 of the County Agriculture Element. Discussion ensues regarding declining groundwater levels in Shandon and the need to optimize groundwater recharge. Member Greening recommends that the text of the last sentence in the third paragraph read: "*The applicability of this ~~This~~ policy should ...*". Discussion ensues regarding the applicability of AGP 11 for areas with changed land use zoning and the need to require tertiary treated wastewater. Member Alakel speaks to the lack of a reliable groundwater supply and to current efforts to manage the Paso Robles groundwater basin, and recommends that the County consider including the community of Shandon in the "area of concern", as defined in the draft Paso Robles Resource Capacity Study. Discussion ensues regarding the boundary of the "area of concern" and the Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan. Member Alakel recommends adding the following language to the end of the subcommittee report: "*The Shandon*

Community Plan does not reflect prudent water planning, and contradicts current basin management efforts and established land use policies. It is for these reasons that the WRAC strongly objects to the proposed plan.”. Member Greening moves to adopt the subcommittee report with the amendments suggested by Member Greening and Member Alakel (specified herein), with a second by Member Fitzhugh. The motion passes unanimously. Discussion ensues regarding the need for the ad-hoc subcommittee to review the Shandon Community Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report.

7) 2010-11 Fiscal Year Flood Control General Proposed Budget and WRAC Priorities - Courtney Howard, County Public Works, presents the proposed 2010-11 fiscal year Flood Control and Water Conservation District general budget and WRAC priorities, reviews the 2009-10 budget expenditures, and highlights budget allocations for the completion of the Master Water Plan, to perform the State Water Project Coastal Branch Capacity Analysis, to improve on and maintain existing hydrologic monitoring sites, to support Integrated Regional Water Management planning and County Planning and Building Department efforts, and increased participation with the Cachuma Resource Conservation District Mobile Irrigation Lab. Discussion ensues regarding the interest rates earned on reserves, the invasive mussel prevention efforts, the sources of potential revenue and the potential for grant opportunities, the necessity to fund county drainage studies, the increased costs associated with additional permitting requirements for perspective projects, and the desire to establish a budget for regional hydrologic modeling. Member Hyman moves to approve the 2010-11 fiscal year Flood Control General proposed budget and WRAC priorities, with a second by Member Ashbaugh. Discussion ensues regarding expenses related to the “Master Water Plan Coordination” and “Hydrological Data” budget items. The motion passes unanimously.

8) Future Agenda Items - Brief discussion.

9) Public Comment (cont.) - None.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:30 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, May 5, 2010, by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee approved these minutes on June 2, 2010.

/s/ Courtney Howard

COURTNEY HOWARD
Secretary
