

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD
CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FOR OCTOBER 20, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2004, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Giovanetti, Gilmore, Nomellini, Pinhey, Alternate Herrick, Chairman McGurk, Alternate Williams, and Secretary Lytle. Vice-Chair Price arrives late. Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet.

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of August 18, 2004.

Motion carried to approve the minutes (Pinhey/Herrick).

SCHEDULED ITEMS

I. Discussion Items:

A. Update on City of Tracy's Aquifer Storage and Recover Project

Dr. Nicholas Pinhey, City of Tracy Public Works Director, explained that the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project uses available space in aquifers to store treated water for later use and that it would provide a means to conjunctively use surface and groundwater to increase yield and reliability of water supplies. Tracy's long term goals for the project were:

- 1) Optimize the take of DMC surface water when quality is the highest
- 2) Seasonally store up to 4,600 AFY of drinking water for use during high demand periods
- 3) Created a reserve storage "bubble" of 15,000 AF for emergency or drought needs

Tracy's short term goal was to implement an ASR test program to assess the feasibility of ASR, provide design data, and provide adequate CEQA documentation for an ASR program.

The Tracy ASR Test Program consists of 4 ISR (Injection, Storage, and Recover) Cycles. Water quality is monitored during all phases of each cycle. When water is recovered, it is then delivered to the City water distribution system. Regular sampling is performed at 8 well sites.

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) staff expressed concerns that include that the injected water contains DBP's (disinfection byproducts); during the tests, some water may migrated away from the capture zone of the test well; there are not enough monitoring wells to demonstrate recapture of all injected water.

Dr. Pinhey said that RWQCB staff recommended restrictions on the test program that reduce the quality of the data collected and additional studies/data that cost as much as \$500,000 that is not budgeted by the City of Tracy. Dr. Pinhey said that there is no guarantee to go forward with the project, however, if there is no ASR project, the City of Tracy would at least have needed production wells added to the water supply system. Dr. Pinhey added that City of Tracy and RWQCB appear that they are headed toward an agreement to add 2 more monitoring wells in the 4 cycle pilot project.

Commissioner Nomellini asked if there is a way to avoid disinfection byproduct. Dr. Pinhey replied by explaining a few different costly options.

Commissioner Herrick asked if south San Joaquin water can be used. Dr. Pinhey answered that because South San Joaquin water would be delivered to the southeast corner of the City of Tracy to develop a right of way and pipeline is a non-feasible cost.

B. Update on State Board Public Workshops on Potential Amendments or Revisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary

Included in the Agenda packet was a copy of the Notice of Public Workshop to be held by the State Water Resources Control Board for the Consideration of Potential Amendments or Revisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. DeeAnne Gillick, attorney for Neumiller & Beardslee and San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Special Water Counsel, said that these workshops are to begin next week and are extended through February. Of the 10 workshop topics, San Joaquin County will take a position on the following:

- River flows: San Joaquin River at Airport Way Bridge, Vernalis: February – April 14 and May 16 – June
- Flow objectives in the San Joaquin River at Airport Way Bridge, Vernalis: 31-day pulse flow April 15 – May 15
- Southern Delta electrical conductivity

Mrs. Gillick added that most likely a hearing is to follow the workshops.

Vice-Chair Price asked if the workshops cover all topics. Gillick replied that the workshop topics are set in a specific order and are covered sequentially. However, the workshops are fairly loose and one may arrive with materials to distribute and present issues.

C. Presentation on San Joaquin River Resolution and Next Steps

Dr. Mel Lytle, Water Resource Coordinator, began his presentation by showing U.S. drought maps. Dr. Lytle explained that the drought appears to be moving into the plain states and westward each year. He also showed pictures of various water sites such as the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River to emphasize the critical impact of the drought. Lake Mead is currently at 60% capacity with approximately 2 more years of water supply. Since the creation of Friant Dam and the subsequent lack of river flows, the San Joaquin River has essentially been in a 55 year drought with impacts of poor water quality, loss of supply to the Eastside Districts and cities, groundwater overdraft, saline intrusion, and health and environmental issues.

Recently, the Friant Dam ruling declared that the Bureau of Reclamation violated State and federal law by failing to provide sufficient releases to sustain fisheries in the San Joaquin River. To improve the San Joaquin River, the Bureau of Reclamation has proposed and implemented various projects which were unsuccessful in improving the San Joaquin River. More recent proposals include the Upper San Joaquin River Storage Investigation, improvements to Franks Tract, permanent operable barriers in the South Delta, spot dredging, and recirculation of the San Joaquin River and Delta Mendota Canal water.

The County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted last week to adopt the Resolution for Restoration of the San Joaquin River. This resolution offers support for the restoration of river flows from Friant Dam to support an historic salmon fishery and other beneficial uses and authorized County representatives to participate in negotiations regarding San Joaquin River

restoration issues. Dr. Lytle expressed that there is a need to gain support of elected representatives and to prepare for an action and response plan.

Dr. Lytle introduced Jerry Huffman, Senior Attorney for Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC). Mr. Huffman reiterated the Court's ruling that there has to be a restoration of flows from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin River. The Court had also communicated that it understood the effect the ruling has on local users. Huffman explained that his team will produce evidence of options to better manage waters. In the mean time, water is also being exported. Friant Water Users are plotting to sell high-quality Millerton Lake water to Metropolitan Water district of Southern California (MET) in exchange for cash and infrastructure. As for any new reservoir above Millerton Lake, Friant Water Users have already entered into agreement with Westlands Water District to share the project yield.

Huffman said that it's either win or lose at this juncture. He emphasized that Friant users are fighting vigorously to change regulations in their favor. Huffman felt that San Joaquin County is a critical partner and encouraged the County to take an active role. Huffman expressed that water is out there; it just needs to be better managed.

Huffman concluded his presentation by distributing brochures and conveyed that he hopes the County will step up and support their effort.

II. **Action Items:**

A. *Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation to Adopt the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan*

Brandon Nakagawa, Water Resources Engineer, gave a review of the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan (Plan). He stated that the process began in April 2003. Through regular monthly meetings over the next year, the Groundwater Banking Authority (GBA) Coordinating Committee and Planning Group prepared and submitted the Draft Administrative Plan in April 2004. In June 2004, the GBA Board accepted the Plan and solicited public and agency comments through September 2004. On September 22, 2004, a Public Hearing was held and the Plan was adopted unanimously by the GBA Board.

The Plan's purpose is to maintain the long-term sustainability of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin through the development of management objectives, practices, and conjunctive use projects. Plan objectives include:

- Prevent further saline intrusion and degradation of groundwater basin
- Development of Program to monitor, evaluate, and predict basin conditions
- Maintain local control of the Groundwater Basin
- Financing Strategies for plan implementation

Mr. Nakagawa showed maps of the Groundwater Management Area that defined the Eastern San Joaquin Sub-Basin location and the water agencies or districts located within San Joaquin County. He also showed a table that outlined the requirements of the Plan as recommended by AB 3030 and required by SB 1938. Mr. Nakagawa touched upon the Groundwater hydrology as he noted that an extensive area of the County have heads below mean sea level.

Mr. Nakagawa indicated that the next steps or future activities include developing qualitative objectives. He would like to expand the monitoring and science program that entailed a Groundwater Data Center that identifies wells within the County and holds records of their

groundwater level readings that span over the past few decades. Another step was to continue with the USGS Joint Salinity Study. This study involved the investigation of the source, areal extent, and vertical distribution of high-chloride groundwater and of the source, distribution, and rates of groundwater recharge. Financing options from federal, State, local, and regional partnerships were also being explored. Lastly, other future activities will include developing Basin Operations Criteria, groundwater modeling, Programmatic CEQA review of the Integrated Conjunctive Use Program, and reviewing Plan and Basin governance issues.

Nomellini moved to recommend to the County Board of Supervisors to adopt the Plan and Price seconded. The vote was unanimous to make the recommendation.

III. **Communications:**

A. *Flood Management Workshop: Options and Opportunities Sponsored by the Water Education Foundation – November 9-10, 2004 at the Sacramento Convention Center*

B. *EIP's Water Resources Group Publication EIP's Water Front – August 2004*

Public Comment:

None.

Possible Future Agenda Items:

Next Regular Meeting: November 17, 2004, 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

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