

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FOR JANUARY 19, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2005, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

Roll Call.

Present were Commissioners Giovanetti, Nomellini, Robinson, Taro, Chairman McGurk, Vice-Chair Price and Secretary Lytle. Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet.

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of December 15, 2004.

Motion carried to approve the minutes (Robinson/Giovanetti).

SCHEDULED ITEMS

I. Discussion Items:

A. Update on the State Water Resource Control Board Water Quality Control Plan Review Workshop Activities

Dr. Lytle, Water Resource Coordinator, explained that the State Water Resource Control Board is currently hosting workshops as part of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta region, which was last updated in 1996. The workshop announcement has been provided in the AWC Agenda packet. Dr. Lytle indicated that workshop topics #'s 8 & 9, which address flow on the San Joaquin River, may be of particular interest to area cities and water districts and the County. Dr. Lytle added that Commissioners and area staff should check the State Board website for any changes in meeting times and dates.

Dr. Lytle reported that CDWA, SDWA, SEWD and the County have jointly hired Phil Unger, independent fisheries consultant, to report on the scientific validity of fish flows on the Stanislaus River. The purpose of the report is to provide expert testimony refuting excess fisheries releases made out of New Melones Reservoir above and beyond a scientifically adequate flow on the Lower Stanislaus River. Mr. Unger is currently working to complete the report and will be called upon to update the Commission when the report is completed.

Chairman McGurk commented that he did not remember hiring Mr. Unger and asked for an explanation of Unger's role. Commissioner Nomellini replied that Mr. Unger is simply an expert for the lawyers on whether the fish flows make sense. To date, there is no scientific basis established on the flows. The report that Mr. Unger will generate is not intended to be a public document.

B. Summary of Activities Regarding the 2000 DWR Integrated Storage Investigation MOU

Dr. Lytle informed the Advisory Water Commission (Commission) that the County Flood Control and Water Conservation District signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DWR in 2000. DWR will host a workshop to take place tomorrow in Sacramento to review the MOU Program and to determine its value. The MOU Program touts DWR's ability to provide technical support, input, development, funding, and other benefits to its MOU partners.

Dr. Lytle explained the history of the MOU with the SJCF & WCD that began with stakeholder assessments. Carolyn Ratto, a facilitator with the Center for Collaborative Policy, interviewed Commission members and numerous stakeholders or interests on their knowledge of water issues in San Joaquin County. Ms. Ratto's findings indicated that there is a common understanding of the concept of groundwater basin depletion and that conjunctive use as a way of maintaining Basin health and the economy locally. Ms. Ratto also indicated that the Community had developed

enough of an understanding and commitment to proceed with a consensus-based approach to water resources planning.

After the MOU, the Commission entered into 2 years of consensus based activity to develop the Countywide Water Management Plan. The Countywide Plan involved 29 stakeholders working together to characterize demands, develop goals and objectives, rank and develop conjunctive use projects, and develop a groundwater Basin model. The model revealed that if no action is taken on the Basin by the year 2030, an additional 3 to 4 million acre-feet of water will be mined.

In 2001, the Groundwater Banking Authority was formed. Recently, the GBA adopted the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) which involved the participation of individuals representing over 45 regional agencies and interests. The GWMP was also formally adopted by the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors in September 2004. The purpose of the GWMP is to maintain the long-term sustainability of the Basin.

The Groundwater Management Plan also includes a comprehensive plan for groundwater monitoring. In 2002, DWR assisted in installing two depth-specific multiple zone monitoring wells. DWR was also able to leverage the initiation of a joint project with the U.S. Geological Survey to study the saline groundwater intrusion. The 5-year study will be funded in part by the USGS, DWR, and local agencies.

With all the activities that took place, Dr. Lytle explained that the benefits of an MOU include: meeting facilitation, technical support, increased communication, movement to an additional collaborative process with the Mokelumne River Project, increased groundwater data collection, and Program funding. Dr. Lytle stated that the primary reasons for continuing the MOU is that a regional consensus based approach to water resources planning increases our chances for success and that DWR and the County working cooperatively on conjunctive water management issues has been successful.

Vice-Chair Price questioned whether the MOU is a cooperative understanding or a facade for DWR to appear supportive. Dr. Lytle responded that relationships with DWR staff have been positive and that the MOU enabled them to make requests.

Chairman McGurk recalled being approached by DWR with the Integrated Storage Investigation and said he had the impression that DWR looked upon the Commission as stepchildren that needed to be brought up to speed. Vice-Chair Price concurred with Chairman McGurk with the impression by DWR. Commissioner Nomellini also expressed his feelings of an ulterior motive by DWR. However, Dr Lytle clarified that the Memorandum of Understanding is specifically agreed to between the DWR Conjunctive Water Management Branch which is different than the State Water Project Operations group.

II. Action Items:

A. Appointment of Officers – Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2005

Commissioner Nomellini motioned to keep the same officers, Taro seconded. Majority voted “aye” and Vice-Chair Price abstained. The Commission Officers shall be as follows:

Chair: Tom McGurk, SEWD

Vice-Chair: Will Price, At-Large Representative

B. Discussion and Possible Action in Support of Prop # 40 Urban Streams Restoration Grant Program Proposal

Dr. Lytle introduced Denise Thomas, Management Analyst II, and Sam Sharideh, Engineer III, of the Storm Management Division of Public Works. Ms. Thomas initiated the discussion by stating that the purpose of her division is flood management, erosion control, enhancement and

maintenance of streams, and promotion of public education and involvement. The Prop. 40 Urban Streams Restoration Grant Program is administered by the DWR and is currently accepting applications for projects. The Stormwater Division proposed a project which entailed the eradication of Arundo Donax, a non-native and invasive plant that runs through several waterways in San Joaquin County. The proposed project limits extend from Pacific Ave west to Interstate 5 on the Calaveras River (approximately 3 miles).

Ms. Thomas indicated that the proposed project is consistent with Plans the University of Pacific (UOP) has to improve the section of the Calaveras River in the adjacent to the campus. Professor Greg Anderson of the UOP has proposed to a \$1 million a restoration project on the Calaveras River from Pacific Ave to Pershing Ave where the campus foot bridge crosses the river. In that location, UOP will build a student center facing the water and a new foot bridge. UOP is an excellent source of volunteers that could participate in re-planting of native flora.

The removal process of the Arundo begins with mowing or manual removal with the use of hand tools. Once the Arundo reaches sprout, it is sprayed and will be cut down to low levels. Lastly, a 3-step herbicide application is performed on the roots by a licensed pesticide applicator. After the complete Arundo removal, native flora will be planted with the help of volunteers through the Storm Water Program and other various agencies.

Lastly, Ms. Thomas requested a letter from the Commission in support of their application for the Prop 40 Urban Streams Restoration Grant.

Commissioner Nomellini asked what type of herbicide will be used. Ms. Thomas answered that she received a list from a Sacramento County Parks and Recreation employee of herbicides that may be used. The selected herbicides will be applied under the guidance of a licensed pesticide advisor.

Commissioner Nomellini then asked what native plants will be planted. Ms. Thomas responded that the Division of Channel Maintenance had voiced what not to plant and that she had received a list of plants approved by the Dept of Fish and Game.

Commissioner Nomellini moved and Commissioner Giovanetti seconded to support the application of the Prop 40 Urban Streams Restoration Grant by the Storm Management Division. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion and Possible Recommendation on the Formation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Task Force

Dr. Lytle described the issues and activities surrounding the San Joaquin River beginning with a synopsis of the Friant Dam ruling. He then spoke of the activities resulting from the ruling that included:

- Informational hearing, *Resurrecting a Dead River*, held by Senator Machado at UOP
- All Valley Legislators Water Forum where Senate Bill 21 was introduced to undo the ruling
- Meeting in Modesto with Bureau of Reclamation and DWR to propose various plans for the River
- Action against the ruling by the lobbying group, Valley Water Alliance

Dr. Lytle then described the actions taken by the Board of Supervisors that entailed the development of a resolution that called for restoration of the River from Friant Dam to the Delta, restoration of the historic salmon fishery, and authorization of County representatives to participate in River restoration negotiations.

Dr. Lytle proposed that the San Joaquin River Restoration Task Force be a subset of Commission members to help develop a mission statement, goals, and objectives and to act as a sounding board. Dr. Lytle had drafted the following goals and objectives:

- Develop a regional coalition of interested stakeholders
- Work to inform the public and local, State, and federal representatives on San Joaquin River restoration issues
- Develop outreach program and action plan to engage other interested parties
- Review and participate in the evaluation of potential river restoration plan

Vice-Chair Price voiced that he does not believe that all stakeholders will come to an agreement. Commissioner Nomellini asked if interested stakeholders meant including Friant. Dr. Lytle answered that it does not.

Vice-Chair Price questioned the extent of the region. Dr. Lytle replied that the Commission should define the region by however it benefits the County.

Brent Williams asked about the expected time frame. Commissioner Nomellini answered that they're already behind while Vice-Chair Price agreed. Commissioner Nomellini also commented that the goal should be what Dr. Lytle outlined with the addition of water quality needs.

Vice-Chair Price made the motion to create the task force consisting of Advisory Water Commission members and staff. Commissioner Nomellini seconded. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III. Communications:

- A. State Water Resources Control Board Groundwater Ambient Monitoring & Assessment (GAMA) Program Kick-Off Meeting – 01/20/05 at the California Water Service Stockton Field Operations Center – 10:00 a.m.
- B. 2005 Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Washington DC. Conference – February 15-17, 2005

Public Comment:

None.

Possible Future Agenda Items:

- Presentation of South Delta Water Agency Flood Conveyance Plan
- Corral Hollow Creek Off-Channel Detention Feasibility Study
- Update on Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program Activities

Next Regular Meeting: February 16, 2005, 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

RV