

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FOR APRIL 16, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Nomellini, Dhaliwal, Weybret, Herrick, Kamper, Gilmore, Edwards, Alternate Madison, Secretary Lytle, Vice-Chairman Price, and Chairman McGurk. Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet.

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of March 19, 2008.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of March 19, 2008 (Williams/Herrick).

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

I. Discussion Items:

A. Update on San Joaquin Council of Governments One Voice Trip to Washington D.C.

Dr. Mel Lytle, Water Resources Coordinator, reported that the 2008 Annual San Joaquin Council of Governments One Voice Trip to Washington D.C. was a success as they were able to meet with numerous elected officials and their respective senior staff members including those responsible for the Federal appropriations process. Dr. Lytle also reported that Congressman Jerry McNerney submitted several appropriation requests to Congress several County's projects including MORE WATER. In addition, Senator Dianne Feinstein indicated significant interest in the County's efforts to recover groundwater basin and stop saline intrusion. More particularly, Senator Feinstein had interest in the MORE WATER Project and the Urban Flood Protection Project. Overall, Dr. Lytle felt that best efforts were put forward to earn federal participation and support for some of the projects.

Mr. Tom Flinn, County Public Works Director, stated that about 60 representatives of the San Joaquin County Region were in attendance with a primary focus placed on water issues. Unified efforts between the County and Cities are underway and are important for success of water projects.

Mr. Steve Winkler, County Public Works Deputy Director, stated that the request for the Urban Flood Protection project feasibility study will likely be \$1.3 million, the federal share of entire study. The project received support from Congressional staff, Standing Committee members, and other representatives.

B. Update on Flood Management, FEMA Map Update and SJAFCA Activities

Mr. Winkler reported that the County is focused on public outreach meetings with areas within the greater Stockton area that have been included in the latest Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). One particular meeting will be held with residents in the Twin Creeks area where eight property owners are triggering deficiencies and possibly putting the area into a floodplain. Mr. Winkler also indicated some optimism that some areas will be removed from the final FIRM maps because of positive communications with FEMA and the US Army Corp of Engineers. Aggressive efforts are also being made for lower Calaveras and Bear Creek on various deficiencies. With March 28th deadline behind them, the County requested for possible

additional time until December to work out permit and US Army Corp of Engineer issues. Mr. Winkler stated that he was cautiously optimistic that extension of time will be granted.

In other County activities, the County continues to discuss global issues during Technical Advisory Committee meetings. The County also has contracts underway with the State to continue investigating urban levees. Expected findings on the Calaveras River and Reclamation District 17 are expected by early summer 2008.

Commissioner Dante Nomellini asked where the dividing line is for Calaveras and where does Smith Canal flood impact begin assuming favorable action, Mr. Winkler stated that probably east of the extension of Pacific Avenue to the south and possibly all the way to Pershing Avenue. The final determination of the boundary will be made by FEMA.

Mr. Roger Churchwell, for San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA), reported that Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL) applications have been submitted for Lower Calaveras. Mr. Churchwell added the FEMA requires that PALs are to be submitted as a Letter of Map Revision or LOMAR, which requires certain documentation that include geotechnical information and hydraulics. Currently, SJAFCA is working to develop a schedule to acquire geotechnical information that DWR will be collecting on various levees. Mr. Churchwell also reported of feasibility studies on the lower San Joaquin River and Smith Canal which should be completed in May.

Vice-Chairman Willard Price inquired about elevation boundaries whereas some homeowners are getting letters about possibly being in a floodplain while others across the street with the same elevation are not getting the letters or are not being warned. Mr. Churchwell responded that FEMA is using USGS map type data to determine boundary lines. Homeowners may provide information to FEMA to remove their homes from the floodplain.

C. Update on Department of Water Resources Bay-Delta Conservation Plan

Dr. Mel Lytle reported that the DWR has released a Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. The EIR/EIS is intended to analyze alternatives that will help protect endangered species in the Delta while continuing to export water south of the Delta. DWR has scheduled scoping meetings which includes one meeting to be held at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation on May 5th. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to solicit input from the public regarding reasonable alternatives and potential environmental impacts. Written comments will also be accepted.

Dr. Lytle conveyed that the BDCP EIR/EIS will be sued to justify the construction of the Peripheral Canal, a massively expensive engineered structure that will move water around the Delta. Dr. Lytle expressed his concern that the actual Bay-Delta Conservation Plan has not been put together although the presupposed solution is to export water through a Peripheral Canal as recommended by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Delta Vision Panel.

II. Action Items:

A. Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation to Approve Resolution on the Blue Ribbon Task Force Vision for the Delta

Dr. Lytle discussed recommended revisions for the resolution provided by Stockton East Water District (SEWD) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District. These revisions were also discussed during the Brown Bag meeting prior to the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Nomellini argued that a peripheral canal cannot be built and be consistent with the Delta Protection Act.

Commissioner Nomellini moved and Commissioner Edwards seconded to direct Staff to incorporate

language as discussed at the Brown Bag and AWC. Motion received unanimous approval.

III. **Communications:**

A. *Letter from Mountain House Community Services District Soliciting Participants in the Storm Water Stakeholder Group*

B. *Letter from San Joaquin County Agricultural Advisory Board to Board of Supervisors Regarding the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007*

Public Comment: Please welcome Cathy McKinney as new Administrative Assistant.

Possible Future Agenda Items: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **May 21, 2008, 1:00 p.m.**

CM