

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
August 19, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Nomellini, Lowery, Taro, Herrick, Edwards, Alternates Conarro and Holbrook, Secretary Lytle, Vice Chair Price and Chairman McGurk. Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet. The Commission had a quorum.

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting(s) of July 15, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes of July 15, 2009. (Edwards/Price).

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

I. Discussion Items:

A. Presentation on Statewide Drought Status and Forecast for Next Year

Dr. Lytle presented information on the statewide drought status and his forecast for the next winter and spring. For the last few years, precipitation has been below average for California. Data released from the Department of Agriculture shows the western United States including California; parts of Nevada, Arizona, all the way through and including eastern Washington are in various stages of drought. Currently, nationwide 25-30 states are in some stage of drought or drought monitoring; southern Texas is experiencing exceptional drought.

In 2009, the Governor released a drought declaration and state of emergency due to very low snow melt, a few years of below average rainfall, as well as the court order of water transfers with restricted pumping to southern California. The Department of Water Resources released data of average (76% in March) snow water content. Precipitation for the San Joaquin Region is at an average level. Statewide emergency actions for this year include a 20% reduction conservation campaign and technical assistance from federal agencies to implement reduction plans. The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors declared a drought this past spring for our county. The Two Gates project is gaining attention; this project would change the flow of water in the Delta and hopefully keep some endangered species away from the pumps which would allow the pumps to operate more frequently, possibly at a greater flow rate to relieve the South.

Dr. Lytle discussed reservoir storage levels from March after a winter of low snow melt. Some reservoirs are far below normal; Shasta at 44%, New Hogan 30%, Pardee 89% and Camanche 37% and Millerton (Friant) 58% while others are not. Current reservoir conditions are Shasta at 46%, Trinity 44%, Folsom 51%, New Melones 49% is at the same level as last year, New Don Pedro 77%, and Millerton at 69% capacity is above average. San Luis is very low at 19% capacity. Down south, Castaic and Pyramid are kept as full as possible. Both Camanche 79% and Pardee 92% are in good condition. In order to operate the Freeport system once built, a combined storage capacity below 500,000 AF would be required in order for EBMUD to divert. So, they wouldn't be able to operate Freeport next year even if the project were complete. Groundwater is continually a concern; the fall 2008 report shows groundwater levels lower than fall 2007 levels.

Discussing the fall/winter forecast for 2009-10, Dr. Lytle mentioned the forecast for El Niño – La Niña, we have been under the La Niña for the last two years. Typically, La Niña conditions are colder and drier for our area of the country. Over the summer, a weak to moderate El Niño condition has been

developing for California. This means a warmer/wetter scenario; warming of the ocean water occurs off the coast of Peru causing changes throughout the world. The forecast for the northern hemisphere is a moderate to strong El Niño during late fall and winter of 2009-10. Above average precipitation in North America is expected. The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is important to the forecast in the way that the winds circulate in the Gulf of Alaska area. There are two phases, negative and positive; negative being cold and positive being warm. The PDO moves in cycles some lasting 20-40 years in length. Beginning in 2006, we moved from a warm phase (+PDO) to a cooling phase (-PDO). Typically during a cold phase, the hurricane season is advanced in the Atlantic Ocean causing more dry weather in the southwest and southeast and cooler/rainier weather in the northwest. Cooler water flows in from the Pacific Coast. The PDO also has a relationship with the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation (AMO); the same kind of condition that occurs in the Atlantic Ocean. These two wind currents react with one another causing different weather conditions. Over the last couple of years, we've had a -PDO and a +AMO which causes greater drought possibilities in the southwest. This is changing; the AMO went into a cool phase back in January 2009. When both AMO and PDO are negative, this causes possible drought relief for California (southwest) with the possibility of rain increasing.

Another great concern to some scientists is the decrease of magnetic intensity in sunspots which have been tracked for many years. The concern is moving to a Dalton-like solar minimum which appears to be a real possibility that could potentially affect many things here on earth. The energy from the sun is changing; if this continues as it has for the last 15 years, the sun will be devoid of sunspots in five years time. Overall, the sun's energetic output would decline significantly inducing the possibility of another Little Ice Age on earth. The last time this happened was in the late 17th century (1645 to 1715) called the Maunder Minimum (The Little Ice Age) which occurred for approximately 70 years in Europe. It caused extreme famine, hypothermia, and tremendous crop failures. Civilizations failed in Iceland as well as Greenland, Finland lost a third of their population to starvation and disease.

Dr. Lytle noted July 2009 was officially the coldest on record in six states (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania) throughout the U.S.; cold records have been kept since 1895. Also, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri and Kentucky had their second coldest July ever recorded. The measured temperature is not indicating global warming. The media state that all glaciers in the world are receding which is not the case, glaciers are growing. In Alaska, glaciers are growing for the first time in 250 years according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Alaska's Hubbard Glacier in May was advancing at the rate of seven feet per day. In Icy Bay, at least three glaciers have advanced. Glaciers are also growing in California (Mt. Shasta) and Washington (Mt. Rainier, Mount St. Helens and Glacier Peak). In summary, 90% of the world's glaciers are growing.

B. Update on Flood Protection and SJAFCA Activities

Mark Connelly, County Flood Management Division, provided an update on public outreach meetings regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map modernization program and the new maps in effect as of October 16, 2009. All residents from the Smith Canal area were invited, as well as residents from other areas impacted by the new flood maps. The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2009 hosted by University of Pacific. The Woodbridge and Farmington areas will also hold meetings. All residents in effected areas will be given the opportunity to purchase flood insurance before October 16, 2009. Also, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board has decided to host a three-day hearing for the state to make decisions regarding encroachments along Bear Creek and the Calaveras River.

C. Update on Delta Activities, 5-Delta Counties Coalition, and BDCP Activities

Mr. Terry Dermody, County Special Water Counsel, stated there are five pre-print legislative bills (Senate Bills by Simitian, Pavley, Wolk, and Assembly Bills by Huffman and Feuer-Huffman) before the legislature for review. Joint committees from the assembly and senate will hear and review these bills. This package would include changes in governance within the Delta, water monitoring throughout the State of California, and ideas involved regarding the Peripheral Canal. It was stated at the hearing that there is no proposal in this legislation for a Peripheral Canal, and that is wrong. This legislation authorizes a proposed Delta Stewardship Council to authorize a Peripheral Canal alternate conveyance system (isolated conveyance system) upon making certain determinations. The determinations will be based upon studies done by the state, and the Council is run by the Governor's appointees. Local government would possibly obtain one seat on the Council. Mr. Dermody stated these bills and the process, by which they are being considered, are very dangerous. The Five-Delta Counties Coalition is trying to work together as a group with the legislators to seek a livable solution without compromising base principles.

Vice Chair Price asked if there is any requirement in legislation for which bonds are paid back. Mr. Dermody said there is no bond money for the five bills that are out right now. Vice Chair Price asked if there is anything in these bills regarding the conditions or situations in which certain flows can exist in an alternative conveyance structure. Meaning, are they open to whatever flows they need or are they required to minimize the flows according to some standard. Mr. Dermody stated the general language says the flow determinations need to be prepared by the state and reviewed by the Delta Stewardship Council for approval.

II. Action Items:

A. Discussion and Possible Action on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Legislation Package

Dr. Lytle stated this action item follows the hearing at the state regarding the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Legislation Package. Agencies that have interest in this legislation should provide the county with detailed comments regarding the latest version of these pre-prints. These comments will be shared with the 5-Delta Counties Coalition to form a united representation regarding this legislation. Commissioner Nomellini commented that the state shouldn't pass laws that benefit one area of the state, also money should not be spent that benefits one area and hurts another area.

No action was required from the Commission at this time. Dr. Lytle requested that comments from agencies be forwarded to him.

III. Communications:

- A. Notice of Petition for Change of Place of Use and Re-notice of Water Right Applications for the Delta Wetlands Project
- B. City of Stockton Resolutions Regarding the 5-Delta Counties Coalition and Peripheral Canal
- C. Release of San Joaquin County General Plan Update Draft Issues and Opportunities Report and Draft Background Report

Public Comment: None

Possible Future Agenda Items: None

Adjournment: 2:35 pm

Next Regular Meeting: September 16, 2009, 1:00 p.m.
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