

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF  
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
January 20, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

**Roll Call**

Present were Commissioners Nomellini, Dhaliwal, 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 December 16, 2009.**

Motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 16, 2009 (Holbrook/Conarro).

**SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**I. Discussion Items:**

*A. Update on Statewide Drought Status, Snow Report and Extended Forecast for Winter/Spring 2010 – Mel Lytle*

Dr. Lytle first reviewed his past weather summary from August 2009 where he described weather forecast conditions with possible improvement in rainfall for the upcoming winter/spring season. Over the fall and winter, Dr. Lytle described El Nino conditions where sea surface temperatures are above normal in the equatorial Pacific. The results are typically above average precipitation in the Southwestern United States and extreme cold in some parts of North America. An Additional climate related condition, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, has moved into a negative condition which causes a colder/wetter scenario along the pacific coast. Dr. Lytle also described a similar oscillation on the Atlantic side which moved into a negative phase in January 2009 which causes cooler conditions along the eastern seaboard. With both the PDO and AMO in negative positions and an El Nino conditions in the equatorial Pacific, cooler wetter conditions in the American Southwest are predicted. The Farmer's Almanac forecasts a significantly colder winter in the Midwestern United States with mild and wetter conditions along the eastern seaboard.

In October, we saw a very large departure from normal as far as cold temperatures in the Midwest. Near record breaking temperatures have been seen throughout many parts of the Midwest and the south. The northern hemisphere has set records this winter for December through January with snow cover over 60% in the United States and Canada. And, the entire country of England and Scotland were covered in snow which hasn't been seen in over 35 years. Germany and Russia have experienced cold temperatures not seen in many years. China, Korea and Mongolia are seeing the worst winter probably on record. Dr. Lytle stated one of the explanations for this is another oscillation called the Arctic Oscillation (AO). Over this last fall, it has moved into a steeply negative condition. So, there is a triple action with the PDO, AMO and the AO all moving into a negative condition which causes colder than normal conditions. El Nino conditions have set the stage for California. The latest snow/water equivalence reports provided by the state show 86% of normal before the storms developed. The depth of the pacific storms is so significant; they have the power to pull moisture and clouds from below the equator. The power of these storms could produce flooding conditions. The jet stream has been recorded with over 250 mph winds that is driving these storms. Early predictions were rain in feet and snow in yards. In southern California, predictions are 20-30" of rain along the coast range.

In Northern California, immediate forecasts for Consumnes River stages due to late January storms are approximately 34 feet with no chance of flooding. The Sacramento River is predicted to rise to 13 feet with a monitoring stage of 25 feet. The latest for the reservoirs storage reports from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) website show some reservoirs are at typical levels for this time of year. All indicators are showing an improvement in drought conditions over the winter season.

Overall, data for climate change actually show global temperatures cooling worldwide over the past ten years. A hypothesis is that the lack of sunspots is the reason for this cooling. The sun is in a minimum period for sun spots and the lack of these spots translates into the Earth receiving less radiant energy. The last time recorded time of minimum sun spot activity was 1645 to 1715 when the Maunder Minimum created the "Little Ice Age" and devastated population centers throughout Europe.

*B. Update on San Joaquin County Flood Protection and SJAFCA Activities – Mark Connelly and Roger Churchwell*

Mr. Connelly, County Flood Management Division stated no action has been taken by the State Flood Protection Board regarding the encroachments along the Calaveras River. The county is waiting for the State to take enforcement action for Bear Creek encroachments. A response was received from the State last week stating they have done their part and encouraged work with the local districts to remove the encroachments. The State also said they were creating a plan for the Calaveras River. A Central Valley Flood Planning Forum has been postponed by the state. A public meeting is being held on January 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Pacific regarding the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study. Lastly, the Water Education Foundation Flood Management Tour is being held May 12-13, 2010; registration is made through the Water Education Foundation.

Mr. Churchwell, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA), gave an update on the Provisional Accredited Levee (PAL) submittals. A letter was received from Federal Emergency Management Agency providing accreditation on the Shima Tract levees. Evaluations on the Calaveras River revealed a minor issue on the north bank of the Calaveras River at El Dorado Street. This is a theoretical issue based on geotechnical data and projected river stages. SJAFCA is moving forward with a small project which will cost approximately \$32,000 for design and a repair cost estimate at \$35,000 which should be completed by the summer of this year. The PAL submittal along with a Conditional Letter of Map Revision will be submitted on time by March 28, 2010. 14-Mile Slough information has been submitted; there is no update. Currently, work is being done on Walker Slough and working in partnership with Reclamation District D 404.

*C. Update Regarding Payment of Association of California Water Agencies Annual Membership Dues – Tom Gau and Tom Flinn*

Mr. Tom Gau, Chief Deputy Director of Public Works stated a letter was received from ACWA defending their action to support the package of Delta and Water related legislation passed in November. Mr. Granberg gave an update of the ACWA Region 4 meeting related to the action taken by the ACWA Board as many member agencies in Region 4 do not have favorable positions on the legislative package. It was suggested by all regions attending this meeting that the bi-laws of ACWA be reviewed and suggestions made to the ACWA Board to make changes that would better represent the all members. A draft of these changes is being made and Mr. Granberg will share this information with the AWC as it is developed. Vice Chair Price asked if there is a clause within the bi-laws that specifically prohibits the action that was taken. Mr. Granberg stated that the bi-laws aren't clear, so they want to review the details. Mr. Gau stated the County has not paid their membership dues.

*D. Discussion on 5-Delta Counties Coalition Review of Federal Action Plan, the Two-Gates Project, and the National Research Council Committee Meetings – Tom Flinn, Mel Lytle and Terry Dermody*

Mr. Flinn, Director of Public Works stated the 5-Delta Counties board members met last week to determine who would be considered to represent the counties on the Delta Stewardship Council once convened. The counties are struggling with resources, funding and advocacy at the State and federal levels.

Dr. Lytle gave an update on the Interim Federal Action plan for the California Bay-Delta. This document is a series of projects and programs that the federal government is interested in to help fix the Delta. There is discussion about the idea that there should be State, federal and local partnership in developing further plans. Various projects of support are discussed with attention to one project on page 8-Section II, Smarter Supply and Use of Bay-Delta Water. The construction of the Delta-Mendota and California Aqueduct Intertie Project would allow them to pump and move water expeditiously. This would allow them to share the capacities of the facility in a better way. This project will need to be reviewed before a position is taken. Item B discusses Enhancement of Water Transfers for Improved Water Supply and Item C discusses Expediting the Scientific Evaluation Called for in the Two Gates

Project. Conservation measures are also discussed. Dr. Lytle said the overall focus of this document looks for ways to move water south in a more expedited fashion. There is little or no discussion on the potential impact of the proposed activities on the Delta or to folks upstream of the Delta. The 5-Delta Counties TAC group is reviewing this document to develop comments for a letter of response. Dr. Lytle also shared an e-mail regarding the Two Gates project which has been put on hold indefinitely. The National Research Council has begun a review of the biological opinions of smelt and salmon. Their first meeting is scheduled for January 24-28, 2010 in Davis, and the agenda allows time for public comments.

Mr. Dermody, County Water Counsel stated legislation is being implemented – a \$11.14 Billion bond bill is being put on the November 2010 election which will not benefit the Delta, but will benefit regions outside the Delta. The language in this bond is written stating monies will be used for watershed protection and enhancement, but actually will be used to ease the responsibilities of the exporters to pay for the preliminary activities for a Peripheral Canal. The language in this bond is very dangerous in terms of how this money will be used. Legislation that created the Delta Stewardship Council which constitutes the Delta Protection Commission that provides a number of studies and efforts, of which none are happening. The beginnings of the Delta Flow studies by the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) sets criteria for Delta outflow, but should include a study of Delta inflow. The language calls for studies of tributaries in the watershed between 2012 & 2018 as completion dates. Mr. Dermody said clean-up legislation will correct inconsistencies in the current language, and will require more stringent standards for agriculture, water use and groundwater measurement throughout the state. The deadline for approval of legislation is February 19, 2010. On the federal side, legislation will be presented in March and April, of particular interest is a bill by Senator Feinstein which has significant ideas for the Delta.

## **II. Communications:**

- A. Letter from Senator Barbara Boxer on DCC Trip to Washington, D.C.
- B. Bureau of Reclamation Announcement on Aqueduct Intertie Record of Decision
- C. Newsletter from the California Latino Water Coalition

### **Public Comment:**

Jane Wagner-Tyack, League of Women Voters, announced a forum on Our Delta Water in Antioch on January 23, 2010. The forum is sponsored by San Joaquin and Diablo Valley League Chapters.

Katie Patterson, San Joaquin Farm Bureau attended a water forum in Fresno where discussions of a Peripheral Canal were the focus.

**Possible Future Agenda Items:** None

**Adjournment:** 2:20 pm

**Next Regular Meeting:** February 17, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

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