

**REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF  
THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
June 16, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

**Roll Call**

Present were Commissioners Nomellini, Edwards, Alternates Conarro and Williams, Secretary Lytle, and Chairman McGurk. Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet. The Commission had a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes for the Meeting(s) of May 19, 2010.**

Motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes of May 19, 2010 (Edwards/Williams).

**SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**I. Discussion Items:**

*A. Special Presentation – North Valley Regional Recycled Water Project – Nick Pinhey*

Mr. Pinhey, City of Modesto gave a presentation on the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Project. He introduced Mr. Brad Hawn, Councilmember from the City of Modesto and liaison for this project, and Mr. Bill Harrison, General Manager for Del Puerto Water District. Mr. Harrison stated this project will support the local economy and is now in the process of conducting a Feasibility Study. A Memorandum of Understanding has been created for this regional project between the City of Ceres, City of Turlock, City of Modesto, Stanislaus County and the Del Puerto Water District. The first phase will produce approximately 31,252 acre feet (AF) of water per year. Construction of the pipeline alignment for the districts will be determined. Water storage will be a challenge for the District. The City of Modesto has significant storage at their facilities on the San Joaquin River. Commissioner Edwards asked if they are considering incorporating other irrigation districts, Mr. Pinhey stated there could be potential for participation in the future, but presently they are focused on the partnership with Del Puerto. Commissioner Edwards asked if they were considering a storage facility on the west side of the valley, Mr. Pinhey stated they are looking at both sides of the river.

Commissioner Nomellini stated there is a conflict ongoing between local Delta water right holders and the Modesto Irrigation District and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. The theory is that the two entities are trying to put farmers in the Delta out of business. Commissioner Nomellini asked why the recycled water be delivered to the east side of the San Joaquin River. Mr. Pinhey stated the City of Modesto's tertiary treatment is 8 miles outside the city. To pump the water back up across 9 miles to the point of use would be costly. Alternate Conarro asked if the \$180 million is for additional tertiary treatment of the secondary portion, Mr. Pinhey stated yes, it is a cost share. Alternate Conarro asked what the percentage of reclaimed water vs. CVP water is; Mr. Pinhey stated it would be 50/50.

*B. Update on 2009-10 Forecast Summary and Current Statewide Drought Status – Mel Lytle*

Dr. Lytle reviewed his past weather summary from January 2010 where he described weather conditions with above normal precipitation improvements for the winter/spring season. Last year, as we moved into the fall/winter period there was an El Niño condition coupled with the effects of the cool phase Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) condition. Beginning in October of last year, temperatures were significantly cooler in the Midwest. Record breaking cold temperatures were recorded throughout the United States. Another reason for these cold temperatures besides the PDO and the Atlantic Multi-Decadal Oscillation (AMO) was the Arctic Oscillation (AO) which moved into a negative phase, and caused a triple action. This allowed wind patterns in the arctic to move colder air south into the United States as well as Europe. Snow in the northern hemisphere increased over the past ten years. Some experts say there could be a dramatic cooling trend in climate. This past year 2010 was a record year for arctic ice; the size of arctic ice is comparable to 30 years ago.

In California, conditions improved tremendously due to heavy precipitation in January and February. Large Pacific storm patterns pulled moisture from the equatorial Pacific regions into California. Overall, precipitation for the year in the San Joaquin Basin is above average. Precipitation came mostly from snow, not rainfall. Currently, snow/water equivalents in the northern part of California are 276% of normal, central Sierras 118%, and southern Sierras 88%. So, the overall average is 130% of normal for the middle of June. This is interesting because typically events are warmer with an El Niño pattern producing more rain than snow. Throughout the western United States, Nevada had 186% of average snowpack, and Arizona 90% precipitation from rainfall, not snow. Reservoir conditions have also improved throughout California; Lake Shasta is as full as it has ever been at 113% capacity, Lake Oroville 87%, Folsom Lake 112%, Don Pedro 96% and Millerton 72% which has been emptied once this year. In April, Millerton was full with 500,000 acre feet (AF), and they released 265,000 AF for groundwater banking and storage, and is again filling. San Luis has reached 85% capacity, New Melones 90%. Folsom Lake is completely full at 112% capacity. Locally, New Hogan reservoir has improved with 100,000 AF added this year. Both Pardee and Camanche are nearly full, and Lower Bear is at 98% capacity. Groundwater levels for 2010 are similar to levels for 2009. Southern California is doing well; the lakes are at 50% to near full capacity. Lake Mathews is at 67%. San Diego County has a number of small reservoirs currently at 56% capacity; they are on drought alert status. Lake Powell is at 62% capacity, but Lake Mead continues to drop in elevation primarily due to lack of flow. The entire lower Colorado system is at 58% capacity.

Overall, drought conditions have improved from last year; there are still some areas in the Great Basin in northern Arizona and Montana that are experiencing drought issues. Future conditions will move into a neutral condition between El Niño and La Niña. Predictions are sea surface temperatures will decrease rapidly which moves into a negative condition (La Niña), and may continue into the fall/winter.

*C. Update on San Joaquin County Flood Management and SJAFCA Activities – Mark Connelly*

Mr. Mark Connelly, County Flood Management Division, gave an update on flood management activities. He announced the visit with General Rock Donahue from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on August 16-17 regarding flood emergency operations which will involve a tour of areas in the Delta. Commissioner Nomellini wants to make sure to address the levee inspection criteria and the disqualification for the U.S. Corp rehabilitation program following an emergency. Levees are being inspected to identify serious issues which will remove them from the rehabilitation program. Mr. Connelly stated the Preferred Risk Policy program has been extended for two years to urban residents in the greater City of Stockton area. Encroachment hearings are being conducted for Twin Creek residents along Bear Creek; the enforcement process has also begun. An update regarding SJAFCA activities will be offered at the next meeting.

*D. Update on 5-Delta Counties Coalition, BDCP and other Delta CCC Activities – Mel Lytle*

Mr. Connelly, County Flood Management Division gave an update on the DCC meeting of June 3, 2010 with Leah Russin, Environmental Counsel for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. The meeting included a tour of Suisun Marsh Overlook, Sherman Island and the Smith Canal in Stockton. Discussions by San Joaquin County staff focused on the risk of flooding to urban areas and the Delta. The afternoon tour included the Freeport Intake, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Headquarters and ended in Sacramento. Mr. Connelly commented on the letter received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to the State of California Department of Water Resources regarding the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) findings. The DRMS asserts that the Delta is unsustainable; levees will fail due to a major seismic event. But, historical records show that levees have not failed due to the result of an earthquake; they did not fail during two major seismic events in 1906 or 1989.

Dr. Lytle stated the BDCP produced a new map that shows the All Tunnel concept where tunnels are installed below the Delta to convey water from Sacramento to the project pumps. Also, the new Delta Conservancy Board held their first meeting on June 9, 2010; Supervisor Ken Vogel was elected as vice chair.

## **II. Action Items:**

### *A. Discussion and Possible Action on Flood Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation Regarding Additional Commission Membership – Mark Connelly/Mel Lytle*

Mr. Connelly, County Flood Management Division stated the Flood Technical Advisory Committee would like to add three new members to the committee. The three agencies being considered is the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA), Reclamation District 2074 and Reclamation District 1608, and the Building Industries Association (BIA). Chairman McGurk directed staff to move forward on the recommendation of new membership and to provide a current list of membership at the next Advisory Water Commission meeting.

## **III. Communications:**

- A. SWRCB Statement on Water Diversion and Use Deadline: **July 1, 2010**
- B. Lodi News Sentinel Article – Measure C: What’s the Next Step?
- C. Senator Boxer Letter – Water Resources Development Act of 2010

**Public Comment:** None

**Possible Future Agenda Items:** None

**Adjournment:** 3:00 pm

**Next Regular Meeting:** July 21, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

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