



**Stanislaus County
Water Advisory Committee**

Minutes

August 13, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Alliance's Kirk Lindsey Center
1020 10th St, Suite 102
Modesto, California

Members Present:

Louis Brichetto	Michael Lynch	Walter Ward
Larry Byrd	Jim Mortensen	Terry Withrow
Francisco Canela	Tom Orvis	Forrest White
Richard Gemperle	Sean Roddy	Wayne Zipser
Neil Hudson	Cooper Rossiter	Bill Zoslocki (<i>left 7:25</i>)
Ray Kablanow	Thomas Smith (<i>arrived 7:15</i>)	

Members Absent:

Donald Petersen
Rob Santos
Chris Vierra

I. Called to Order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

Sharon Getchel, representing the Stanislaus Water Coalition, spoke to the committee regarding the need for the County Board of Supervisors to declare a moratorium on the issuance of any additional water well construction permits on the eastside of Stanislaus County.

Vance Kennedy addressed the committee and implored that they seek funding for the implementation of the Groundwater Management Action Plan and stated that in his opinion that large agricultural water wells on the eastside of the County were having a detrimental impact on the local groundwater and surface water supplies. His further stated that if nothing is done now to address the situation, and next year is another dry year, then we have all failed. "Prepare for the worst, and hope for the best" was his message.

IV. Roll Call

A quorum of voting members was present.

V. Approval of July 30, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Louis Brichetto

Second: Tom Orvis

Vote: Unanimous

Abstentions: Forrest White and Bill Zoslocki

VI. Water Well Permitting Activity (Ward)

Walter Ward presented an update regarding the number, type and general location of new water well permits that have been issued in the County. These charts are available on the WAC webpage on the County's website under the tab for this meeting's presentation materials.

VII. Rural Domestic Well Issues (Ward)

Walter Ward presented an update regarding what is known about the California Air Resources Board emissions regulations pertaining to the operation of water well drilling rig equipment. For the duration of the declared drought emergency, all two-engine drilling rig equipment (including the auxiliary engine) is exempt from the air emission regulations. This information is posted at the following web address: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/waterwelldrillrigs.htm>. The CARB will be issuing further guidelines related to single-engine water well drilling equipment which is the predominant type of water well drilling rig equipment in our area. Ward also updated the committee regarding the County's proposal to develop a low-interest loan program for County residents in rural settings that have experienced "dry well" problems and whom are in need of financial assistance. It is anticipated that this program will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval in late August. Ward also updated the committee on the number and location of dry wells being reported to him and that the "Report a Well Problem" form was available for use on the County's website.

VIII. Groundwater Ordinance Revision (Jack Doering)

Stanislaus County Counsel Jack Doering walked the committee through the revisions made to the existing Groundwater Mining & Export Prevention Ordinance. The significant revisions pertain to the definition of "mining" which now is described as "unsustainable groundwater extraction." This approach is consistent with state legislative intent insofar as the overarching objective of the state is to achieve and maintain sustainable groundwater management. Unsustainable groundwater extraction ("mining"), as such, would not be allowed, unless conditionally permitted under the ordinance. The revised ordinance also includes mandatory monitoring and reporting requirements pertaining to groundwater levels and groundwater extraction data. These requirements are also consistent with the emerging state legislation regarding sustainable groundwater management. The revised ordinance (in strike-out and underlined format) is also available on the WAC webpage of the County's website. The revised Groundwater Ordinance will be taken to the Technical Advisory Committee for further vetting, analysis and discussion.

IX. Groundwater Legislative (Ward)

Ward provided an overview of the status of the legislation working its way through the legislative process in Sacramento. There is no question that some form of legislation pertaining to sustainable groundwater management will be approved by the legislature this summer (likely by the end of August) and will be enacted into law by the Governor.

A five-page, bullet point summary of the recently merged Pavley/Dickinson bills on this subject is included on the WAC webpage along with the other presentation materials used at tonight's meeting.

X. Governance Discussion (Ward/All)

This is emerging as a very important and politically strategic topic. It has been discussed multiple times at both the WAC and TAC levels and yet there remain concerns regarding historical groundwater management within the County by various cities and irrigation districts vs. some new course of direction that may be taken in response to the pending groundwater legislation. The TAC has been assigned to develop alternative governance structures and will present them to the WAC at the September 10th WAC meeting.

XI. Year 1 Cost-Share (Ward)

Ward mentioned the meeting that the County held with the City Managers within Stanislaus County regarding the cost-share effort regarding Year 1 of the GMAP. There will be more to come of this effort related to the ongoing Governance discussion as described above.

XII. Meeting Adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 27th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
Alliance's Kirk Lindsey Center
1020 10th St, Suite 102
Modesto, California

PREPARED BY:
ANETTE ARIAS, Administrative Secretary