



**Stanislaus County
Water Advisory Committee**

Minutes

September 29, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Via Zoom Video Conference

Members Present:

Joe Alamo
Rachelle Antinetti
Daniel Bays
Louis Brichetto
Erika Durrer

Jim Mortensen
Tom Orvis
Cooper Rossiter
Rod Vilas

Walter Ward
Terry Withrow
Wayne Zipser
Bill Zoslocki

Members Absent:

Larry Byrd
Francisco Canela

Vince Dykzeul
Richard Gemperle

Sean Roddy
Tim Sanders

- I. Called to Order at 9:01 a.m.** (The entire meeting can be viewed at <https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm> and by selecting the video option for the September 29, 2021 Water Advisory Committee meeting)

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Upon request of Chairperson Daniel Bays, the attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IV. Roll Call

A quorum of voting members was present.

V. Approval of May 26, 2021, Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 26, 2021, meeting were presented by the Chairperson. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval.

The action was taken as follows:

Motion: Jim Mortensen
Second: Tom Orvis
Vote: Unanimous

- I. Drought Summit – Walter Ward, Stanislaus County Water Resources Manager**

Walt Ward shared information with the group pertaining to where additional information and resources can be found pertaining to the ongoing drought conditions and problems being experienced with private supply domestic water supply wells. More information can be found on the County's website at the following address:

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/wac/drought-information.pdf>

VI. Water Well Construction Permitting and CEQA – Thomas Boze, Stanislaus County Counsel

Tom Boze, Stanislaus County Counsel, explained the judgment pertaining to the California State Supreme Court ruling in the matter pertaining to Stanislaus County vs. POWER. The judgment finds that Stanislaus County's historic practice of treating all water well construction permits as "ministerial" is unlawful and that all well construction permit applications should be treated as discretionary acts that trigger review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Specifically, matters pertaining to Part II, Section 8, Parts A, B and C of Bulletin 74, California Well Construction Standards, need to be addressed. The County's Department of Environmental Resources is currently developing a process for dealing with the existing permit backlog and will be evaluating various alternatives for how to deal with this issue going forward, including using a programmatic environmental impact report approach to group applications together that share common resource concerns. In addition, the water well construction permit application form will be amended to address these new requirements and education/public workshops will be held with the well drilling community.

VII. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Preparation of Groundwater Sustainability – Phyllis Stanin, Todd Groundwater

Phyllis Stanin, Todd Groundwater, made a comprehensive presentation regarding the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (PSPs) that are under development for both the Turlock Groundwater Subbasin and the Modesto Groundwater Subbasin. Both of these GSPs will be formally acted upon by the appropriate jurisdictional Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and their respective member agencies later this fall and early winter. Both GSPs are due for submittal to the Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2022 pursuant to legislative mandate. The presentation may be viewed in its entirety at the following electronic address:

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/wac/StanislausCountyWaterAdvisory092921.pdf>

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting location to be determined.

PREPARED BY:
Anette Arias, Administrative Secretary