



County of Santa Cruz ¹²⁵

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 3/9/99

February 24, 1999

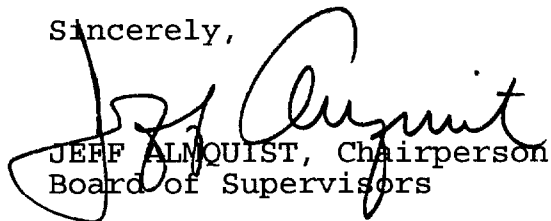
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL, REPORT OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the Annual Report of the Water Advisory Commission for calendar year 1998. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairperson to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,


JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JA:ted

cc: Water Advisory Commission

01165196

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER



WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 400, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION
1998 ANNUAL REPORT

This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission during 1998. This year was notable in that the Commission benefitted from outside participation of individual members covering the following topics: Pajaro Valley Local Water Recharge Projects: Water Resource Monitoring and Management; San Lorenzo River Watershed Management Plan Update; and Watsonville Slough System Water Quality Management Planning. It was an active year for Commission members both, as a group and individually.

CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED EVENTS

Numerous letters were prepared on behalf of the Commission and by individual commissioners. Several letters were submitted to the Board of Supervisors expressing comments regarding updates to the report, entitled, "An Evaluation of Water Resource Monitoring and Management in Santa Cruz County". Another pertinent letter outlined the Water Advisory Commissions intentional lack of involvement with issues addressed at the Interagency Water Resources Working Group. Several individual letters were submitted to the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) relative to that agency's assignment of water from a willing seller of Central Valley Project water and/or the refinement of PVWMA's proposed Local Water Recharge Projects. Individual correspondence was, also, prepared regarding Scotts Valley Water District's Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and upon the proposed Fire Suppression Main located on Manana Woods property. A Commission letter with comments was sent to the Scotts Valley Water District regarding bringing the Updated Safe Yield Study to the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee prior to acceptance of the report. Lastly a revised individual letter with comments on the DEIR Coastal Marine Research Center was prepared.

The Commission actively participated in the review and discussion of the above items, the Soquel Creek Water District's Integrated Resources Planning efforts, Santa Margarita Groundwater Management issues, and in the debate over how best to facilitate discussion regarding protecting baseflows to the County's surface water resources in the years ahead. This report describes organizational activities, additional significant items discussed and meetings attended by individual Commissioners.

ROLES OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Commission was established in 1975 to serve as a policy advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to the use and protection of the County's water resources. The roles of the Commission, as outlined in its by-laws, were revised in 1996 and are as follows:

1. Advise the Board of Supervisors (Board) on all issues impacting water resources in Santa Cruz County, including but not limited to the following categories:
 - a. Water quality and conservation.
 - b. Water supply development, storage and distribution.
 - c. Forestry and watershed management.
 - d. Preservation of fish, wildlife, and riparian habitat.
 - e. Groundwater extraction.
 - f. On-site sewage disposal systems.
 - g. Recreation.
 - h. Water reclamation.
 - i. Public health and safety.
 - j. Monterey Bay preservation.
2. As appropriate, comment upon or participate in the formulation, implementation, review and updating of water oriented plans and policies such as the following:
 - a. Local agency water management plans.
 - b. Water resource development proposals.
 - c. Environmental impact reports/statements.
 - d. Santa Cruz County Water Master Plan/General Plan.
 - e. County ordinances, and departmental policies and regulations.
3. The duties and responsibilities outlined above will necessarily be limited by staffing, funding, and other resources available to the Commission. Therefore, the Commission will utilize discretion in devoting time to those activities which are most important to achieving its overall goal of enhancing and preserving Santa Cruz county water resources. Individual Commissioners are authorized and encouraged to sit on and/or attend local agency committees as Commission representatives. County departments (and in particular Advance Planning, Environmental Health, and Public Works) will assist the Commission in its work, by including the Commission in water related correspondence, and by having staff provide timely oral reports on pending issues.

MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

Meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each active month in the County Governmental Center Planning conference room. (January and August are considered inactive months). Agendas are posted five days in advance of meetings, and are distributed to all Board members, local water districts, AMBAG, interested persons and the press.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission consists of seven members, five of whom are concerned citizens appointed by individual supervisors and two that are appointed at-large. The two at-large positions represent public water purveyors and private or mutual water companies in the County. Betty Petersen was elected as Chairperson this year. Bruce Oneto was elected as Vice-Chair.

Membership during 1998 was as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1st District: | David Reetz |
| 2nd District: | *** Vacant all year *** |
| 3rd District: | Linda Wilson |
| 4th District: | Richard Hendry |
| 5th District: | Bruce Oneto |
| At-large: | Al Haynes |
| Mutual: | Betty Petersen |

COMMISSION STAFF

Bruce Laclergue, a staff Hydrologist in the Advanced Planning Section of the Planning Department, funded by the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, served as Administrative Secretary to the Commission throughout calendar year 1998. John Ricker, Water Quality Program Manager, of Environmental Health Services again provided substantial assistance to the Commission this year.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance by Commission members is shown on the attached roster. The Commission typically recesses for vacation during the month of August. January's meeting was cancelled this year because of cost reduction strategies directed at the Housing Advisory, Water Advisory, and Fish and Game Commissions. All subsequent January meetings will be cancelled.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Listed below are the principal issues and events that were discussed by the Water Advisory Commission during the year.

1. Water Resource Monitoring and Management

The Commission provided Board requested comments to staff of Environmental Health and Advanced Planning on each revision or byproduct of this item. Revisions to the item initially included edits to the content from Department heads in Planning, Public Works, and Environmental Health. The Commission was then asked to review the edited report as well as the newly drafted fact sheet. The fact sheet was prepared by staff to synthesize issues, goals, and objectives for each of the four planning areas covered in the report. The fact sheet was reviewed by the County's principle water managers to achieve consensus on the status of the County's water resources. The Commission was asked to comment on each new round of edits. Upon completion of the consensus fact sheet. the Commission continued to sup-

port the effort yet felt that the substance of many issues had been compromised through the consensus process.

2. Santa Margarita Groundwater Issues

Dialogue about groundwater management issues in the Santa Margarita area closely paralleled discussions held at the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee. Early in the year efforts at both advisory bodies were directed at efforts to pursue a regional water supply planning effort. This effort was supported by the County Commission but did not get a majority vote at the regional Committee. Other significant issues discussed by the Commission included development and use of reclaimed wastewater. Urban Water Management Plans and the accompanying Drought Contingency Plans. Recent dialogue involves locating artificial recharge project locations and identifying and protecting lands for their natural recharge characteristics. Most recently the Commission has been concerned with the findings of the update to the Safe Yield study, and the apparent provision of service to new areas without the benefit of LAFCO considerations. Several Commissioners have been independently active in this region throughout the year on a myriad of other issues.

3. Pajaro Valley Water Supply Project and Groundwater Management Issues

Numerous information items on the Pajaro Local Water Recharge Projects, Independent Engineering Analysis of the proposed long-term project, the PEIS for implementation of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Seawater Intrusion, the content and implementation of Measures D and K and the controversies within the agricultural community that relate the initiatives to the long-term project. Other specific issues discussed included water export to the Rancho Larios Project, the pending assignment of CVP water from Mercy Springs to the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Westlands Water District and the North Monterey County Hydrogeologic Study and the pertinent Critical Issues Study. Since the release of the PVWMA's General Manager, discussion and controversy continue at each Commission meeting and throughout the Pajaro Valley. The PVWMA began to send a staff member, whenever possible, to Commission meetings to help manage perspective on the information that is discussed. County staff has expressed their disappointment to the Commission regarding the lack of management activity emanating from the PVWMA on issues like nitrates and water conservation. Legal opinions have been rendered on the County's authority to regulate groundwater and about expanding the qualifying nominating criteria for the County's appointment to the PVWMA Board. The importance of this Pajaro groundwater issues will continue for many years at the Commission.

ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

The Commission also reviewed or followed the progress of the following issues and ongoing projects:

- Assessing and Promoting Regional Cooperation on Water Supply Planning
- Watsonville Slough System - Water Quality Management Planning
- San Lorenzo Valley Water District's Waterman Gap Committee
- LAFCO - Water Agency Supply and Demand Info / Potential Changes to LAFCO

Policies Relating to Water Service
Managing Groundwater to Maintain Baseflow to Streams
Soquel Creek Water District's Information Items and Newsletter
Conclusions based on Current Knowledge of Groundwater Impact on Baseflow
of Soquel Creek

- General Plan Policy Language Review
- Change of Water Rights for Loch Lomond Reservoir
- Report on Cost Reduction Strategies for the Housing Advisory, Water Advisory, and Fish and Game Advisory Commissions

It should be noted that Commissioners attended a wide range of public meetings on water resource related matters. Their attendance at other public meetings occurs either in the interest of the Commission or to satisfy or educate the individual interest of each Commissioner. In addition, Commissioners were regularly updated on actions taken by the Board of Supervisors on items that affected water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge, flood control, drainage, reclaimed wastewater and other related issues.

FUTURE GOALS

The direction and goals of the Water Advisory Commission for 1999 has not yet been discussed by Commission members. Once again, one can ascertain from their actions over the past year that the Commission has a keen interest in promoting regional water resource management, water supply planning and monitoring. There is also a growing desire to solicit a greater involvement from the Water District managers from the Pajaro Valley and Santa Margarita areas at the Water Advisory Commission meetings. Until that discussion has been completed, the Commission will continue to evaluate important issues affecting the County's water resources, respond to requests by your Board and the public, and make timely recommendations on both policy and other appropriate matters.

Submitted by:



Bruce Laclefue
Administrative Staff
Water Advisory Commission

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION
1998 ATTENDANCE ROSTER

131

| MEMBERS | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1st DISTRICT: REETZ | | E | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | P | E |
| 2nd DISTRICT: VACANT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3rd DISTRICT: WILSON | | P | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | P | P |
| 4th DISTRICT: HENDRY | | P | P | P | P | P | E | | P | P | P | P |
| 5th DISTRICT: ONETO | | P | P | P | P | P | P | | P | P | P | P |
| AT-LARGE POSITION REPRESENTING PRIVATE/ MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES: PETERSEN | | P | P | P | P | P | P | | P | E | P | P |
| AT-LARGE POSITION REPRESENTING PUBLIC WATER PURVEYORS: HAYNES | | P | E | P | P | P | P | | P | P | E | E |

January and August meetings cancelled.

P = Present

E = Excused

A = Absent

R = Retired

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2/99