



County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

April 2, 1999

AGENDA: April 20, 1999

Board of Supervisors
 County of Santa Cruz
 70 1 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Members of the Board:

On January 26, 1999 your Board received a status report on the County's Water Resources Management efforts and directed that a further report be presented on this date. Additional direction was given to include the minutes of the Water Advisory Commission that pertain to the January 26, 1999 Water Resources Management Report. The minutes from the February 3, 1999 and March 3, 1999 Water Advisory Commission meetings are included as Attachment 1 to this report. The item is covered in section F. I in each months minutes. Commissioners were pleased with the report and were satisfied with the minor differences noted in the underline and strikeout changes of the document. They specifically wanted your Board to know that the Commission "revisited the work and desired to make sure to signal appreciation, approval and concurrence that consensus has been reached on a regional basis". An update on additional water management activities is included in the following paragraphs.

New Positions

In the January 26, 1999 report, your Board was informed that an Environmental Health Aide position was filled within Environmental Health Services. That staff person is reviewing private well water usage in the Soquel and Bonny Doon areas, setting up additional groundwater and streamflow monitoring, updating the County's water quality database, and assisting in broader watershed management programs. The new Water Resources Manager position was filled, the effective date being March 6, 1999. The new Manager is actively coordinating recruitment and filling of the new Resource Planner III and vacant hydrologist positions,, coordinating water programs shared jointly in Environmental Health and Planning, carrying forward time-sensitive work components of the water management function, coordinating the Interagency Water Resources

Working Group, and establishing an Interdepartment water resources team.

Interdepartment Team

An interdepartment team has been established for the purposes of review and coordination of work programs and staff level discussion of pertinent water resource policy issues. The team has been comprised of the Water Resources Manager from Planning, the Water Quality Manager from Environmental Health, a Senior Civil Engineer from Public Works, and an Analyst from the County Administrative Office. This team will provide a forum to achieve consensus amongst County staff on program direction and communicate shared information back to each respective department. The main objective for the team is to promote cooperative and individual work programs that are consistent with a common perspective for managing the County's water resources.

Interagency Water Resources Working Group

As Board members may recall, the Interagency Water Resources Working Group is comprised of the managers of the eight principal water districts in the County, the County Administrative Officer, the Planning Director, the Health Services Agency Administrator, and staff from their respective departments. The group has been meeting monthly since June 1998, primarily to review the Water Resources Management Report prepared by County staff. That report was brought to your Board as a consensus document of this group on January 26, 1999. The current objective of the Group is to find areas where County staff and water district staff can work cooperatively on water supply and water resource management issues.

The Interagency Water Resources Working Group met in full force on March 18, 1999. Soquel Creek Water District and the City of Santa Cruz Water Department managers brought their respective conservation coordinators to the meeting. Their combined presentation helped focus the working group dialogue on conservation. The entire meeting was spent discussing how to approach conservation throughout the County. The group agreed to form a subcommittee to further explore what can be done countywide with water conservation activities.

At the March 18 meeting, the Water Resources Manager also stated that he will initiate discussion on regional water supply planning and strategic planning to manage the County's water resources at the April 15 scheduled meeting. The Water Resources Manager has also committed to bringing the work programs of County water management staff to the working group for their review. High priority new or expanded work programs were identified in the June 9, 1998 report to your Board and are included below for your information:

- * Increase County support of coordinated water resources development and management
- * Promote regional water supply planning
- * Monitor and investigate baseflows of critical streams
- * Monitor and evaluate water levels and pumpage outside water districts and nondistrict uses within Districts (including well metering)
- * Implement a comprehensive erosion control program with other agencies
- * Inventory major erosion problems
- * Provide education, outreach, and technical assistance
- * Provide cost sharing incentives
- * Provide improved erosion control along public roads

- * Support watershed management efforts in the following areas:
 - San Lorenzo Watershed Management Plan
 - Water Quality Protection Program
 - Water supply protection programs (DHS)
 - Soquel Creek, Corralitos Creek, North Coast Streams
- * Establish mechanisms for interdepartmental and interagency coordination
- * Provide education and outreach on watershed protection and water resources management
- * Develop funding mechanisms for increased watershed and water resources management efforts
- * Support ongoing steelhead and habitat monitoring
- * Work with CDFG, USNMFS, USFWS to evaluate stream clearance practices and develop measures for habitat protection and improvement
- * Expedite upgrade of sewage collection systems.

Well Ordinance

On June 9, 1999 your Board considered a report regarding proposed amendments to the County's well ordinance. Your Board approved in concept some technical changes and some amendments which would further limit construction of wells within the Soquel Creek and Central Water Districts (as requested by the Central Water District). These amendments were reviewed by the Environmental Coordinator and the Planning Commission. However, after Planning Commission review, representatives of the well drillers and the California Groundwater Association raised questions regarding the proposed restrictions within the Water Districts. Staff is now working with the Districts and the drillers to further investigate and resolve those issues.

Staff also met with representatives of the Farm Bureau to discuss restrictions on drilling of replacement agricultural wells, particularly with regard to the requirement for environmental review of permit applications for well drilling. Environmental review for an agricultural replacement well was recently completed and resulted in a mitigated negative declaration. Based on the information developed in the review of that well proposal, staff is developing a set of guidelines to clarify the environmental review process related to wells, Planning department staff will continue to work with Environmental Health Services and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency personnel to develop the guidelines.

The June 9, 1998, report also presented a work plan to develop other well ordinance amendments that could provide for well metering, water use reporting, water conservation, and reduced environmental review of individual wells not related to other discretionary permits. These potential amendments will be further investigated and developed, within the context of the overall water resources management program.

FishNet 4C (Fishery Network of Central California Coastal Counties)

On March 4 and 31, 1999 staff from Environmental Health Services, Planning, and Public Works met with the FishNet 4C Program Director to begin an Inventory of County Land Use Policies and Management Practices and Assessment of their Effect on Anadromous Salmonids and their Habitat. During those meetings, work began on Objective 1 - Inventory and determine the effectiveness of existing county policies, regulations, the CEQA process, existing project mitigation measures, and land use practices in minimizing effects of County regulated or funded activities on anadromous salmonids and their habitat. Five tasks comprise Objective 1. They are as follow:

- Task 1: Identify the types of impacts or potential impacts to the anadromous fishery within each County
- Task 2: Identify activities with potential impacts on anadromous fish and their habitat
- Task 3: Conduct an inventory and review of the formal and informal ways in which each county intervenes to prevent or reduce potential impacts on anadromous salmonids
- Task 4: Identify, review and evaluate a sample of land development case studies
- Task 5: Conduct field site reviews and assessment of activities that take place throughout the County

Objective 1 is to be completed around November-December 1999 with a report summarizing the findings from tasks 1-5. Objective 2 will be to determine what, if any, additional procedures may be necessary to protect fish and habitat and where. Final recommendations from Objective 2 are anticipated to be completed in April 2000.

Coordinated Watershed Protection Enforcement Project

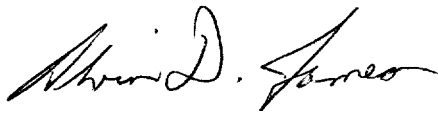
The County Code Compliance Section of the Planning Department is coordinating with the City of Santa Cruz Water Department to expand enforcement of Environmental Protection Ordinances. The opportunity for expanding enforcement will come at no expense to the County Planning Department. The City will provide a staff Watershed Protection Specialist to work with County Code Compliance staff addressing illegal grading and accelerated erosion violations within the water supply watersheds of the City of Santa Cruz. The City's staff would conduct field observations to identify the most serious violations and provide educational outreach to residents. Legal actions including Notices of Violations, recordation of violations and the imposition of property liens would be performed by County Planning staff. A Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared to formalize the coordinated effort.

Conclusion

The Water Resource Management Programs of the County are developing and efforts have begun to coordinate the work of individuals, departmental programs, and the Interagency Water Resources Working Group. Additional details on these efforts and the overall Water Resources Management Program, together with specific action oriented recommendations will be provided to your board as the Program realizes full staffing and new or expanded programs develop further.

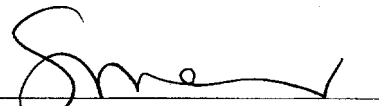
It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report and direct the Planning Department in consultation with Environmental Health Services and the County Administrative Office to report back on September 28, 1999.

Sincerely,



ALVIN D. JAMES
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Blc/WRM99-04
Attachments

 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



 WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

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GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

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

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION
 Wednesday, March 3, 1999, 4:00 P.M.
 County Governmental Center - Fourth Floor
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Petersen at 4:07 p.m.
2. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners. Wilson, Oneto, Siri, Petersen, Hendry, Haynes, and Reetz
 Excused: None
 Staff: Bruce Laclergue.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were amended to note the presence of Commissioner Siri at the February Commission meeting. Commissioner Hendry moved approval of the amended minutes. Commissioner Siri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in approval.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Oneto spoke about a joint meeting of the SLVWD's Waterman Gap Committee and the Sempervirens Fund, and handed out a Sustainable living brochure.

E. STAFF REPORTS

Staff addressed the following points: announcing the new Water Resource Program Manager, Form 700 - Statement of Economic Interests, the omission of Pajaro Valley and Santa Margarita groundwater issues from this months agenda, the development of a County staffed water management function, clerical sup-

port for minutes, the WAC Annual Report, strategic planning for managing the County's water resources. and the impending MOU for identification of potential groundwater recharge areas in the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1. Staff, again, explained that the Board requested that a copy of the WAC minutes on this item be attached to the next staff report on Water Resources Management and that this was the WAC's last chance to comment on the report for the Board of Supervisors. Discussion included whether the Commission should acknowledge concurrence with the report by resolution. The Commission didn't feel it was necessary. All expressed satisfaction that the report was produced. All expressed satisfaction with the minor differences as noted on the "strike-out/ underline" copy of the report. Commissioner Oneto specifically wanted the Board to know that the Commission "revisited the work and desired to make sure to signal appreciation, approval, and concurrence that consensus has been reached on a regional basis." Staff acknowledged that prior concerns of the WAC regarding the potential lesser priority of watershed, erosion, sedimentation type issues is being directly addressed through recruitment and filling of the new resource planner position. Staff additionally noted that the utility of the present document was also as justification to changes in work programs.

ACTION: Commissioner Reetz moved formal Water Advisory Commission endorsement of the final product known as the Water Resources Monitoring and Management Report. Commissioner Haynes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in approval. .

F.2. Staff introduced the Annual Report and noted differences in the report from previous years. It was additionally noted that it was late being turned in and that the Clerk of the Board had called to request its speedy delivery. Staff explained that the report was turned into the Clerk of the Board prior to bringing it to the Commission for their acceptance.

ACTION: Commissioner Hendry moved acceptance of the 1998 Annual Report of the Water Advisory Commission. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in approval.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. Staff explained the history of revisions to the well ordinance and the recent amendments. including proposals from Central Water District. Staff went on to discuss recent meetings of County staff and the Farm Bureau, the Agricultural Commissioner, a representative on their behalf, and an agricultural client. The meeting was held to discuss the CEQA requirements relative to applications for agricultural well permits. Additional discussion addressed a subsequent meeting of County staff with the PVWMA. and their consultant. That meeting addressed preferred land uses, PVWMA's programmatic EIR for their BMP. water rights. coastal exemptions and how these issues may influence further amendments to the well ordinance. Additional dialogue ensued, largely related to a March 2cd article in the Register Pajaronian. No Action was taken.

G.2. Commissioner Oneto introduced the concept of regional review of Capital Improvement Planning so as to allow for restructuring a supplemental supply for multiple stakeholders in the Pasatiempo area of the Santa Margarita groundwater basin. Discussion ensued. The discussion covered issues of distribution systems, water allotments from Loch Lomond, regional cooperation and the notion of leadership by example. The example of treatment and use of turbid Saratoga Creek water was mentioned. The discussion moved to the notion of inviting the City of Santa Cruz Water Department and other stakeholders to comment on restructuring of water systems in the Pasatiempo area and to what was Commissioner Oneto expectations for WAC involvement on the issue. Commissioner Oneto agreed to draft a concept of his ideas for future WAC discussion. No Action was taken.

H. INFORMATION AGENDA

No Discussion.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

J. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTIONS ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER

None.

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Inviting the City of Santa Cruz Water Department to address the WAC on integrated efforts between the City Water Department and the San Lorenzo Valley Water District. Staff was also requested to invite Jane Orbuch of the San Lorenzo Valley High Watershed Academy to speak to the Commission.

L. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Bruce Laclergue

Bruce Laclergue, Administrative Staff

WAC0399m
03/05/99

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION
 Wednesday, February 3, 1999, 4:00 P.M.
 County Governmental Center - Fourth Floor
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Petersen at 4:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners, Wilson, Oneto,
 Petersen, Hendry, and Reetz
 Excused: Haynes
 Staff: Bruce Laclergue, John Ricker

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hendry moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Oneto seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in approval.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Oneto spoke about SLVWD's Waterman Gap Committee, specifically citing two meetings and attempts to keep the lands under a local community management structure. He also spoke of a visit to San Lorenzo Valley High-Schools watershed academy questioned whether there is a need for regional peer review of SLVWD's \$12 million Capital Improvements over the next ten years.) He then asked to put this item on next month's agenda. SLVWD's water rights at Loch Lomond were also discussed.

E. STAFF REPORTS

Staff distributed copies of Bulletin 160-98 to each of the Commissioners. John Ricker discussed recent activities related to supplemental well permits, the negative declaration on the Justin Brown application, and the process of

CEQA review in general. Commissioner **Hendry** requested looking at the well policy/CEQA requirements issue at a subsequent Commission meeting. Staff also mentioned recent actions at the Soquel Creek Water District related to development of their groundwater model and investigating potential changes to baseflows in Soquel Creek.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1. Staff explained that the Board requested that a copy of the WAC minutes on this item be attached to the next staff report on Water Resources Management. He then went on to introduce the item to the Commission as a consensus fact sheet of the Interagency Water Resources Working Group. It was explained to the Commission that minutes were requested by the Board to insure that the Commission's feedback was part of the product received by the Board. It was further explained that the WAC would have two meetings in which to consider the item prior to the next Board meeting on the subject. Staff made it clear that the Commission had the prerogative to make additional new comments or to choose to stay with the comments previously transmitted to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Discussion began with concern over whether the fact sheet was now a "watered down" document or not. The sentiment of the discussion was that, although, changes were acknowledged to be minor and not basic changes, that the document was somewhat compromised from the original. Commission members, however, did expressly support the document. Staff explained that these facts were now common ground agreements and that the utility of the document was to justify and support changes to existing work programs.

Further discussion ensued, largely related to what constitutes meaningful progress in the Santa Margarita area and to a letter handed out at the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee by Larry Prather, a director at the SLVWD. The Prather letter more appropriately was directed at proposed changes in the Forestry Rules package that dealt with sediment issues. Some discussion occurred on deciding what form of acknowledgement should be given to the letter. All commissioners agreed that the minutes should show Mr. Prather's comments were valuable. Not much more was said about the report other than the Commissioners would continue the item until next month and then move on. Lastly it was suggested that the efforts of staff and the water managers to reach a consensus document deserves praise. It was further acknowledged that the Commission could do so by resolution but no such effort was enacted at this meeting. No official action was taken.

F.2. Time constraints existed when this item was heard so no discussion or action was taken.

F.3. Commissioner Petersen initiating discussion by addressing two reports prepared for the SVWD. The two reports cited are the Urban Water Management Plan and Drought Contingency Plan, and the Reevaluation of the Water Balance (updated Safe Yield study). The ensuing discussion focused on three points. They were as follow: Groundwater storage figures cited lumped the Santa Margarita and Lompico formations skewing the picture about changes in storage in the Santa Margarita.

Favorable storage figures cited for the Lompico included a regional area larger than the service area of the SVWD. No specific changes in storage for the southern and northern portions of the SW service area were delineated. The second point addressed the provision of extra-territorial service by the SW at the Inn at Scotts Valley and at Gateway South without routine LAFCO involvement. The third point of discussion included an item on the SLW agenda referring to "South System Moratorium". Staff explained to the Commission discussions held at the SLW Board meeting pertinent to this item. The crux of the discussion at SLW involved vacant lots of record, potential lot splits and new connections. That Board left it with thoughts that multiple connections would need Board discussion prior to approval.

Closing dialogue included discussions about the 2/25/99 Public Hearing for the Urban Water Management Plan. The Commission addressed concerns that the SW approve the report at the close of the hearing potentially ignoring comments made at the hearing.

ACTION: Commissioner Reetz moved sending a brief letter suggesting scheduling acceptance of the report at the next subsequent meeting. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in approval.

G. NEW BUSINESS

Limited discussion occurred about the content of the Commission's Annual Report. Staff would proceed to prepare the document.

H. INFORMATION AGENDA

No Discussion.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

J. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTIONS ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER

No discussion.

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Discussed in items D and E above.

L. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



Bruce Laclergue, Administrative Staff