



County of Santa Cruz⁰²⁷⁹

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454.2123

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WALTER J. SYMONS
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 1/25/00

January 14, 2000

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 1999. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chair to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,

MARDI WORMHOUDT, Chair
Board of Supervisors

MW:ted

cc: Water Advisory Commission

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION
1999 ANNUAL REPORT

This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission during 1999. This year was notable in that a prior initiative of the Commission directed the completion of a report entitled, "Water Resource Monitoring and Management in Santa Cruz County, CA". The report was synthesized down to a Countywide water resources fact sheet that included facts, goals, objectives, and strategies for the principle planning areas of the County. The report's content also directly led to the reorganization and new staff in the Water Resources Management program. Additionally, it was another active year for Commission members both as a group and individually.

CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED EVENTS

The Commission prepared one letter to your Board and numerous other letters were prepared either by the full Commission or by individual commissioners. The letter prepared for your Board was submitted in advance of the October 5, 1999 Public Hearing To Consider Declaring A Groundwater Emergency in the Pajaro Valley. The letter recommended deferring further consideration of a groundwater emergency until additional background work was completed in January 2000. This letter is addressed further in the section entitled, "Organizational Activities". Several individual letters were also sent to the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency expressing comments regarding updates to that Agency's groundwater model and the resulting analysis of implications to basin overdraft, sustainable yield, and seawater intrusion.

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, the City of Santa Cruz water supply planning efforts, notably their conservation program, and in the debate over how best to facilitate regional water supply planning and watershed restoration in general. 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

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WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION
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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.

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The two at-large positions represent public water purveyors and private or mutual water companies in the County. Betty Petersen was re-elected as Chairperson this year. Linda Wilson was elected as Vice-Chair.

Membership during 1999 was as follows:

1st District: David Reetz
2nd District: Frank Siri
3rd District: Linda Wilson
4th District: Richard Hendry
5th District: Bruce Oneto
At-large: Al Haynes
Mutual: Betty Petersen

COMMISSION STAFF

Bruce Laclergue, the County's Water Resource Manager served as Administrative Secretary to the Commission throughout calendar year 1999. John Ricker, Water Quality Program Manager, of Environmental Health Services again provided substantial assistance to the Commission this year. It was announced at the December 1999 Commission meeting that Mike Cloud, the new staff Hydrologist, would staff the Commission beginning in February 2000.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance by Commission members is shown on the attached roster. The Commission typically recesses for vacation during the months of January and August. This year, however, the Commission opted to meet in August rather than July. April and November meetings were also canceled this year, largely due to time constraints on the new Water Resources Manager.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

1. Water Resource Management

The Commission continued to provide comments to water resource staff on the water resources 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 Commission also received numerous status reports and provided input on the draft Revised Procedures for Well Permit Processing for Compliance with CEQA. Conservation was another dominant topic of discussion. Individual Commissioners were busy promoting the public advisory committee approach utilized by the Soquel Creek Water District. Commissioners also sought more information on the City of Santa Cruz Water Commission activities to address institutional and behavioral components of conservation. The Commission ended the year expressing an interest to assess the water use and conservation potential in County owned facilities.

2. Santa Margarita Groundwater Issues

Discussion about groundwater management issues in the Santa Margarita area focused on the Scotts Valley Water District, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District, the Manana Woods Mutual Water Company, and water use concerns at the Mt. Hermon Association and Conference Grounds. Dialogue at the Commission largely related to efforts to promote regional cooperation on water supply, and water management policy. Individual Commissioners expressed dissatisfaction with both individual member agencies and the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee's reluctance to address comprehensive, basinwide water management and policy. Other issues of concern to the Commission was the detection and spread of MTBE into the Manana Woods Mutual Water Company water distribution system and that Mutual's plight to obtain another water source. Water use and demands associated with Mt Hermon Association Christian Conference Center Master Plan was a continued topic of discussion. The development and use of tertiary reclaimed wastewater by the City of Scotts Valley was also a recurring theme for discussion.

3. Pajaro Valley Water Supply Project and Groundwater Management Issues

Evaluating the performance of groundwater management activities and discussion surrounding the potential declaration of a groundwater emergency in the Pajaro Valley was the most dominant issue for the Commission in this calendar year. This item culminated in a special meeting of the Commission on September 29, 1999. The General Manager of the PVWMA, the PVWMA's groundwater model Consultant, a PVWMA Board member, and the USGS hydrologist responsible for the independent review of basin conditions made presentations at the meeting and responded to questions of the Commissioners. The special meeting was held in advance of the Board of Supervisors October 5, 1999 public hearing so that Commissioners could receive information pertinent to supporting or opposing the declaration of a groundwater emergency at the hearing. The Commission took action to recommend deferring further consideration of a groundwater emergency until additional background reports (State of the Basin, Basin Management Plan update, and Water Conservation 2000 etc.) were completed in January.

It should also be stated that with respect to understanding the magnitude of the problem, individual Commissioners opinions differed. The Commission wrestled with results from the groundwater model throughout the year and prepared letters to the PVWMA soliciting clarification. This activity largely related to the use of model results to quantify basin overdraft and sustainable use figures as a means to characterize the magnitude of the water problem and the appropriate scale of response to the problem. This is an issue which continues to plague the PVWMA and their public.

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

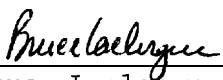
- Revised Procedures for Well Permit Processing for Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
San Lorenzo Valley Water District's Capital Improvements
- Association of Environmental Professionals Water Resources Forum - Environmental Challenges of Planning for Future Water Demand
 - A Proposed Reservoir in a Mining Pit at Olympia Quarry
 - Joint Study Session With The Board of Supervisors and the PVWMA
 - PVWMA Computer Groundwater Model runs
 - 1998-1999 Final Report Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury Report
 - CALFED Phase II Report and draft Programmatic EIS/EIR
 - City of Santa Cruz Water Commission Activities to Address Institutional and Behavioral Components of Conservation
 - AB 807 (Keeley) Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority
 - Assessing Water Use and Conservation Potential in County Owned Facilities
 - National Marine Fishery Service's Final "Harm" Rule

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 2000 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, additional surface, groundwater and baseflow monitoring, and watershed restoration. There is also a growing desire to solicit a greater involvement from the Water District managers 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 Laclergue
Administrative Staff
Water Advisory Commission

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION
1999 ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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MEMBERS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	SEP	NOV	DEC
1 ST DISTRICT REETZ		P	P	CANCELLED	P	P		P	P	P		P
2 ND DISTRICT SIRI		P	P		P	E		P	E	E		P
3 RD DISTRICT WILSON		P	P		P	P		P	P	P		P
4 TH DISTRICT HENDRY		P	P		P	P		P	P	P		P
5 TH DISTRICT ONETO		P	P		P	P		P	P	P		P
AT-LARGE POSITION REPRESENTI NG PRIVATE/ MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES PETERSEN		P	P		P	P		P	P	P		P
AT-LARGE POSITION REPRESENTI NG PUBLIC WATER PURVEYORS HAYNES		E	P		P	P		P	P	P		P

January and July meetings canceled.

P = Present

E = Excused

A = Absent

R = Retired