

San Luis Rey Watershed Council  
**Meeting Minutes for  
January 23, 2006**

**The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by acting facilitator Judy Mitchell.**

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Sandra Stoneburner, seconded by Paul Campo, the minutes of the November 28, 2005 meeting were approved.

**New Business:**

Jason Giessow, the Restoration Program Specialist for the Santa Margarita-San Luis Rey Weed Management Area Program (WMA Program), presented an overview of the WMA Program and summarized past, present, and future work done by the program. The WMA Program, which is grant funded, has focused on the removal of invasive plant species, primarily *Arundo donax* (giant reed), from the upper portion of the San Luis Rey Watershed. This approach was taken as the invasive species can move downstream and so the proper and effective removal technique is to start at the top of the watershed and work down towards the bottom (in this case, the mouth of the San Luis Rey River at the Pacific Ocean). At this time, the entire upper portion of the San Luis Rey River (and all of its tributaries) has been treated for *Arundo*, from the head waters down to the mainstem at the I-15. The work to be performed in 2006, the last year of funding, is to treat the mainstem of the San Luis Rey River from the I-15 and move towards the Pacific Ocean.

The WMA Program has submitted several grant applications to continue the removal of invasive plant species from the San Luis Rey and Santa Margarita River Watersheds (and other watersheds). Prop 50 funds have been applied for to remove invasives in the San Luis Rey, San Dieguito, and Carlsbad Watersheds. This will be an integrated approach that will also collect scientific data on invasive plant species removal and water quality. The WMA Program has also applied for funding to help complete the San Luis Rey River Trail and help with riparian restoration and flood risk reduction.

A question was raised about the clearing of vegetation at the mouth of San Luis Rey River and Giessow gave a summary of what was occurring and why. The project has three phases to reduce the flood risk at the mouth of the river that is caused by non-native plant species choking and blocking the flow of the river. The first phase of the project, mowing 23 acres of *Arundo* (around native plant species), has been completed. The second phase still needs environmental clearance and will consist of clearing and mowing a 125 ft strip along both sides of the river (while avoiding sensitive species). The third and final phase of the project is unfunded, as of now, and would entail rotational mowing to keep the non-native invasive species from recreating a flood risk.

After a brief summary of the process of the removal of *Arundo*, a question was asked regarding the invasiveness of *Tamarix* and the SLR River. Tamarisk

cannot become a dominant species along the entire SLR River due to the dynamic system of the river and the scouring floods that occur during heavy rains that will usually remove the young *Tamarix* plants. Larger stands are removed by the WMA Program as it removes *Arundo*. The *Arundo* eradication success of the WMA Program, with the necessary retreatments, is almost 100%. If the areas are not retreated for several years after the first treatment, the *Arundo* will grow back as if the area had never been treated.

### **Old Business:**

Judy Mitchell explained that Mission Resource Conservation District has been providing administrative support to the Council for a year out of District reserve funds. The annual watershed report shows that the District has applied for funding which would help fund a watershed coordinator position but asked the council to consider a bi-monthly meeting schedule with a change to Tuesdays until the funding comes on line. A suggested series of meeting dates was attached with the handouts. Current MRCD staff are working on other projects but this schedule would allow Mission to continue to dedicate an employee's time to arrange programs, distribute agendas and attend meetings to take minutes and follow up on Council approved actions. This offer and suggested change in meeting day was the purpose of this agenda item on the November agenda and on the January agenda.

Jack Griffiths, representative from Rainbow Municipal Water District, indicated that the Council members present at the last meeting took a vote and decided that they wanted to continue meeting on Monday. Paul Campo, representative from Vista Irrigation said changing the meeting day would not be acceptable and suggested that a letter be sent out to all voting members asking them to pay dues. Oggie Watson, representative from Pauma Valley Community Service District agreed that the Council should not be asked to change meeting day. Mitchell suggested that some Council members had suggested that another meeting day would allow them to attend. Rob Roy, representative from the La Jolla EPA, suggested Council members should be polled because attendance is down at the Monday meeting. Mitchell will look to see when the last survey was completed and pass that along to Roy.

Mitchell suggested that the Council could meet whenever it wanted but that they would have to supply their own administrative support for monthly Monday meetings until the new funding begins for a Watershed Coordinator position. Jesse Hutchings, representative from Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District, suggested the Council could ask for dues payment and hire an employee through a temp agency to take minutes. He felt this could be accomplished at \$12.00 an hour. Rob Roy will present a letter at the February meeting for Council approval asking for membership dues and including a formula for assessing those dues. Jack Griffiths offered to do the agenda, arrange for a program and take the minutes for the upcoming meetings so the Monday schedule could be maintained.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 27, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**Meeting Attendees:**

Jesse Hutchings..... Upper San Luis Rey  
Oggie Watson ..... Pauma Valley Community Services District  
Paul Campo ..... Vista Irrigation District  
Sandra Stoneburner..... Los Coyotes Band of Indians  
Heidi Brow ..... EPA, Pala Band of Mission Indians  
Dan Diehr..... San Diego County Water Authority  
Jack Griffiths ..... Rainbow Municipal Water District  
John Beresford ..... La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians  
Rob Roy ..... La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians  
Rachel Borgatti ..... La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians  
Chris Griff..... La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians  
Vic Smothers ..... Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Judy Mitchell .....Mission Resource Conservation District  
Bethany Brock.....Mission Resource Conservation District