

**SAN LUIS REY WATERSHED COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES: 02/26/2007**

- **Call to Order:** 1:05 pm by George Wilkins.
- **List of Attendees present on 2/26/07:**

Heidi Brow	Pala Band of Mission Indians, EPA
Anne Burdick	Mission Resource Conservation District
Paul Campo	Vista Irrigation District
Paul Dorey	Vista Irrigation District
Jack Griffiths	Rainbow Municipal Water District
Mo Lahsaie	City of Oceanside
Vic Pankey	San Luis Rey Municipal Water District
Don Smith	Vista Irrigation District
Vic Smothers	USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wallace Tucker	Fallbrook Land Conservancy
George Wilkins	Pacific REMS
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - The minutes of 01/22/07 were approved, with no additional changes.

- **Attendees' News:**

--JACK GRIFFITHS: Rainbow MWD raised \$500 for SLR Watershed Council dues—if the Council decides to issue dues to its members/stakeholders. Rainbow MWD is interested in their water rights along the SLR River, and has no plans at this time to incorporate with SLR MWD.

--MO LAHSAIE: The Regional Water Quality Control Board recently issued a State Municipal Permit for waste discharge requirements on urban runoff & construction activities. This is a general permit for all of San Diego County; Oceanside is the lead agency for the SLR Watershed. A county-wide plan will be developed over the next 2 years, which will define the necessary requirements, so that no waste discharge would impact downstream areas. Section 4c of Mo's handout deals applies to the SLR Watershed Council, dealing with an education factor and a watershed management program. Agricultural entities are still separate from this, however the RWQCB is preparing a new Ag Waiver, which will require monitoring run-off. The RWQCB will use this permit plan in order to issue future TMDL's (violations). It would be in the best interest of the SLR Watershed for its' stakeholders to begin working together now, to gather baseline data and improve water quality (before its' cited a violation & forced to do so by the RWQCB). In the March 2007 SLR Watershed Council Meeting, Mo will give a more detailed presentation on this topic.

--ANNE BURDICK: Anne represents both the Mission Resource Conservation District and the Fallbrook Planning Group, while at the SLR Watershed Council. The proposed 80-acre Palomar College expansion site, along I-15 & 76, will only give 1 opportunity for public comment on the project. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project will be published March 30th, and there will be a 45-day comment period.

--VIC SMOTHERS: The Natural Resources Conservation Service has recently been working with the La Jolla Tribe on a wetland and stream corridor restoration/conservation plan. This Wetland Restoration Program (WRP) would restore 3 wetland/pond areas.

--PAUL CAMPO: The Vista Irrigation District would be willing to give some money to the SLR Watershed Council, *if* the council is able to hire a coordinator or become more structured.

--VIC PANKEY: The San Luis Rey Municipal Water District is continuing to work toward providing water service from the western edge of the Pala Reservation to the I-15. Any progress towards this goal is still pending a decision from LAFCO; a decision may come around mid-year. The San Luis Rey Municipal Water District will be conducting water quality monitoring on 2 wells (which they feel are representative of

the water quality in the San Luis Rey River), immediately west of Gregory Canyon, in order to gather some baseline data. The data collected will not be in real-time.

--WALLACE TUCKER: The Fallbrook Land Conservancy is working with Anne Burdick on a wetland restoration project in Fallbrook, in order to minimize the impact of the Cal Trans' project of widening Highway 76. Cal Trans may be available within the next few months to give the SLR Watershed Council a presentation on the progress of their project.

- **(Item 5) UPDATE: California Dept. of Fish & Game—Steelhead Project:**

The California Department of Fish & Game (DFG) already did a tour of the watershed, and they are now in the process of collecting information about the area (ie: historical water quality/quantity info., etc.). They have started to send out Access Agreements to stakeholders, so that they can obtain permission to conduct site visits on the river. Starting at the mouth of the SLR River, and working eastward, they will do a walk through assessment of the river/watershed, in order to determine it's suitability to host Steelhead Trout.

- **(Item 6) Grant Announcements:**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is looking for creative/innovative grant proposals from individual farmers and agricultural groups. This grant funding is to be used for developing agricultural production and/or new technologies. Some examples of this could be: more effective sprinkler irrigation, or using remote telemetry, etc. For more info: <http://www.ca.nrcs.gov/programs/cig/cig2007/html>

- **(Item 7) SLRWC Nonprofit Formation (discussion):**

--OPTIONS & PROS/CONS: This is outlined in greater detail in the handout that was brought to the 2/26/07 Watershed Council Meeting. The SLR Watershed Council has been discussing the possibility of converting the current Council into a Non-Profit (501c3) Group, or possibly forming a second group that would be the nonprofit group; the purpose of this 2nd group would be to raise funds for projects along the San Luis Rey Watershed, and to help support the SLR Watershed Council.

-- THINGS TO DISCUSS/DEFINE --If the SLR Watershed Council forms a Nonprofit Groups:

- Discuss fiduciary & legal obligations of a Nonprofit Group.
- Define the Nonprofit's Goals, Purpose, Mission, & Bylaws : *We need to decide what our mission is & who are potential members should be; should all individuals be allowed to vote, or limit 1 vote per voting group/stakeholder; the new bylaws could be modeled on the current SLR Watershed Council's bylaws.*
- Define how to organize the Nonprofit Board: *a smaller board can make decisions & apply for grant funds faster than a large board.*
- Discuss how to make the nonprofit group effective
- Discuss how to make the Nonprofit Group fair and balanced between participating groups.
- Discuss the need for Project Workgroup Meetings: *This workgroup would periodically meet to list watershed issues and prioritize that list; this would be brought back to the SLR Watershed Council/Nonprofit Group to be voted on. The goal is to have a list of prioritized projects (with detailed descriptions and tasks), which the Nonprofit Group could then seek funding for.*
- Discuss the formation of a 'tangible goal' for the Watershed: (ie: a flowing SLR River, re-introduction of Steelhead Trout, a Riverpark running from the headwaters to the coast, etc.) *By giving the public a tangible goal to focus on, we would increase public support & funding. This 'tangible goal' would serve as an umbrella (which the public could focus on), under which issues such as increasing the water quality & water quantity along the SLR River, would fall. The council would still be able to focus on the same issues along the SLR River that we have been working on, but we would be able to draw more attention to what we do.*

--In past years, the option to make the San Luis Rey Watershed Council into a Nonprofit Group, was the most popular. Although, it was suggested that we conduct another survey on the topic to verify that this is the current consensus among the members.

--Jack Griffiths offered to do some of the work, to set up the Nonprofit Group, pro bono.

--At the March 2007 Meeting, we will discuss what our mission would be.

- **(Item 8) Upcoming Meeting Facilitators:**

George Wilkins or Cynthia Mallett will be the facilitator for the April Meeting. Anne Burdick has offered to facilitate the meeting(s) later on in the year (ie: April/June).

- **Voting Item: MOU—Santa Margarita & San Luis Rey Watersheds Weed Management Area:**

Mission Resource Conservation District (MRCD) helped put this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) together, in order to help combat the invasive, non-native plants (ie: Arundo—or Giant Reed; Tamarisk—or Salt Cedar, etc) along the SLR Watershed. In January 2007, MRCD asked the SLR Watershed Council if they would like to sign this MOU, which was recently updated, and is based on an earlier MOU already signed by the SLR Watershed Council. At the February 2007 meeting, Vic Pankey made a motion that the SLR Watershed Council signs this MOU, as a declaration supporting the overall concept of removing non-native, invasive plants from the Watershed. The Motion was seconded by Jack Griffiths, and approved by the San Luis Rey Watershed Council members present on 2/26/07.