

San Luis Rey Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2003

Fallbrook Public Utility District Conference Room
990 East Mission Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and the organization they represent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the April 28, 2003 meeting minutes were available at the meeting. It was recommended that a change be made to the paragraph referencing the Tierra Miguel Foundation. The second half of the last sentence was changed to read "...that the Fallbrook Land Conservancy would hold and monitor the conservation easement." A motion was made by Paul Campo and seconded by Paul Christensen to approve the meeting minutes with the text change. The motion passed unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dan Diehr, Senior Water Resource Specialist with the San Diego County Water authority gave a presentation providing an update about the *Lower San Luis Rey River Valley Groundwater Storage and Recovery Feasibility Study*. Phase 1 of this study was completed in April 2000 and identified project concepts for storing imported water in the Mission Basin of the lower San Luis Rey Valley. There is an executive summary on the San Diego County Water Authority website at www.sdcwa.org/waterresources. Phase 1 of the study showed that the project could be feasible. If the storage project is eventually permitted it would serve like a surface reservoir.

Phase 2 of the project consists of field investigations by exploring the subsurface of the Bonsall and Mission basins. The City of Oceanside is a partner in this phase as well as some of the local water districts. The Mission Basin lies almost entirely in the Oceanside jurisdiction. Soil and rock cores are being extracted to better evaluate the hydrology of the basins. Some of the cores have found material contrary to historical data and what was anticipated. More investigations are needed to drill deeper cores and to select the cores that would be suitable as test wells and recharge cores. Historical data suggests that the storage capacity is 92,000 acre-feet in the Mission Basin and 60,000 acre feet in the Bonsall Basin.

Metropolitan Water District will provide \$7.2 million to construct the project and take ownership of 1.7 million gallons per day of water when needed. Aqueducts will be used to transfer water into the basin during the winter months when there is less stress on the aqueduct system relative to summer months of higher water use.

During drought times, recharge water may not be available and pumping may occur, without recharge, over one or more seasons. This is a concern because lower water aquifer levels could negatively impact riparian habitats. Vegetation mapping and sensitive species evaluations have been conducted.

Saltwater intrusion was a problem prior to the importation of water but has receded at this time. Salt-water intrusion is only a concern for the Mission Basin. Construction of a seawater intrusion barrier is being considered.

An Environmental Impact Report was started in summer 2002 and needs to be completed by February 2004. More field investigations are needed to complete the EIR. Currently it is still believed that this could be a feasible storage project.

The Phase 2 schedule is as follows:

- Complete exploratory borings and test well construction by Sept. 2003
- Conduct aquifer testing and groundwater modeling: Aug – Nov. 2003
- Complete Data Analysis: Dec. 2003
- Authority completes draft feasibility study report: January 2003
- Oceanside releases draft EIR for Mission Basin Project: February 2004

UPDATES, REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gregory Canyon landfill – The benefits use analysis is in the process of being reviewed.

General Plan 2020 – Public hearings on General Plan 2020 will continue on June 25, 2003 at 9:00 am at County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego.

Voting Item

Watershed Poster – The North County Storm Water Agencies are interested in developing a watershed poster that shows both the San Luis Rey Watershed and the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit and are looking for support from the San Luis Rey Watershed Council. This poster would be given to school teachers and to agencies who could hang it in their offices for the public to view.

The North County Storm water Agencies have requested a simple description of the San Luis Rey Watershed. Cynthia Mallett requested support from the Watershed Council to assist the North County Storm Water Agencies in developing this poster.

It was moved by Wallace Tucker and seconded by Sandra Stoneburner that Cynthia Mallett provide the information requested for the development of the watershed poster. The motion passed unanimously.

GRANTS

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

California Integrated Waste Management Board, Farm and Ranch Cleanup and Trash Abatement Program – Project narrative, budgets and support letters are being gathered for this funding opportunity which will be submitted by the Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District for the removal of trash along Lialc Rd. near Valley Center.

Rainbow Municipal Water District was awarded approximately \$7,000 from the Metropolitan Water District to install a water conservation garden at their office. They have also submitted a \$195,000 grant proposal to conduct a study on the Rainbow aquifer basin.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday July 28 from 1:00 – 3:00 at the Fallbrook Public Utility District Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

John BeresfordLa Jolla Band of Mission Indians

Christine BrochardCounty of San Diego, Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan Irrigation District

Paul Christensen.....Rainbow Municipal Water District
Susan CollinsYuima Water District
Dan Diehr.....San Diego County Water Authority
Ruth Harber.....North county Coalition
Jesse Hutchings.....Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District
Sam KolbRincon Indian Reservation
Elizabeth KolbRincon Indian Reservation
Mike McGrath.....City of Oceanside
Vic PankeySan Luis Rey Municipal Water District
Sam PowvallLa Jolla Band of Mission Indians
Don Smith.....Vista Irrigation District
Sandra Stoneburner.....Los Coyotes Band of Indians
Robert Truesdale.....Pala Band of Mission Indians
Karen TuckerFallbrook Land Conservancy
Wallace TuckerFallbrook Land Conservancy
Joyce Ward.....RiverWatch
Oggie Watson.....Pauma Valley Community Services District