

San Luis Rey Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2003

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and the organization they represent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the August 25, 2003 meeting minutes were distributed via email, post mail and available in hard copy at the meeting. A motion was made by Scott Murray and seconded by Paul Campo to approve the August 25 meeting minutes with the addition that Oggie Watson was present for the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

GUESTS SPEAKERS

Scott Crider and J. C. Thomas, Public Affairs Managers with San Diego Gas and Electric gave a presentation about the *Energy Outlook for San Diego Count*. After the energy restructuring (deregulation) in 1997 there was little or no impact for a couple of years. But, in 2000-01 prices skyrocketed and rolling blackouts occurred. Since then over 4,000 megawatts of new capacity were established in California alone. During deregulation SDG&E was not allowed to produce energy and simply served as a conduit of energy. As of January 1, 2003 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) returned utilities, like SDG&E, to the role of planning and procuring electricity supplies for January 1, 2003.

It is estimated that there will be an additional 100 million people in San Diego County in the next 20-30 years. Thus, SDG&E has developed a long-term resource plan to provide energy for San Diego County. This 20 year plan provides a balanced strategy to ensure a safe and reliable supply and includes four major components:

- Reduce demand through conservation, energy efficiency, and demand reduction programs;
- Increase supplies from renewable resources;
- Build more transmission lines (infrastructure) to bring in new power;
- Obtain new generation in San Diego for reliability starting in 2005.

SDG&E is meeting with municipalities and the County of San Diego to discuss strategies to implement this plan.

Currently there are only two avenues of how San Diego receives its energy: one along the coast traveling through Camp Pendleton and past San Onofre and another in the south coming from El Centro in Imperial County. If one of these outside lines is "shut off" in any way there will be a need for an additional line to meet the demands of the County. A third line is eventually needed to meet upcoming demands. Until a new line is in service, additional power imports are not an option.

Thus, the Rainbow Valley Interconnect was proposed in 1999 to directly connect San Diego to Riverside County. This line is proposed to travel through rural areas of Riverside County, through the Pechanga Indian Reservation, over the mountains and through the community of Rainbow. It is proposed to be 500,000 volt transmission line with a 60 foot wide corridor. The CPUC denied the project late last year and earlier this spring. Planning of this project is delayed until 2008. In the short term, there is a need to find more local sources. Washington has an energy bill that may allow for transmission line corridors to travel through Federal lands. This may be an opportunity to add the third line needed for San Diego County.

San Diego County imports 60% of its energy with 40% being generated in house. There is a proposed power plant to be located in Otay Mesa that could generate 510 megawatts of power. Another proposed plant is in Escondido that will generate 500 megawatts of power. Also, air emission offsets need to be addressed when

adding additional power plants. Financing for these projects is difficult because there is a need to show to the investors that there is a demand for this additional energy. At this time there is enough energy supply for the County but in the future there will be shortfalls with increasing population. It is anticipated that within the next two years there will be a shortfall of 60-70 megawatts.

For more information about SDG&E's Long-Term Resource plan, point your internet browser to www.sdge.com. You can also provide input by email to resplan@semprautilities.com or mail comments to SDG&E Long-Term Resource Plan, 8330 Century Park Ct., CP33B, San Diego, CA 92123.

UPDATES, REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weed Management Area Meeting

The Santa Margarita San Luis Rey Weed Management Area hosted a luncheon meeting on September 8, 2003 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm to provide an update on past and future weed eradication projects.

Approximately 30 people attended this meeting. Following is an update on upcoming eradication efforts.

Spraying of *Arundo donax* along Ostrich Creek (Mission Road) will begin after September 15, 2003. This will be the second year of treatment on the southern section of the creek. Treatment along Live Oak Creek will continue and is in its third year. The Weed Management Area also received funding to begin treating the tributary of Keys Creek which travels northwest from Valley Center and enters the San Luis Rey River on the southeast corner of Highway 76 and I-15.

It was reported that there is approximately 490 acres of *Arundo donax* in the watershed. Currently there is funding to eradicate 160 acres. Mission Resource Conservation District and the Weed Management Area currently have funding for weed eradication from National Fish and Wildlife Federation, California Transportation Commission Environmental Enhancement Grant and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Santa Margarita Watershed Cleanup Event – September 20, 2003

The San Luis Rey Watershed Council sponsored a cleanup site on Old River Road located on the south side of the San Luis Rey River in Bonsall for the Santa Margarita Watershed Cleanup Event and Coastal Cleanup Day held on September 20, 2003. Ten volunteers helped remove trash along Old River Road in Bonsall. It was assumed that there was a low volunteer turnout because this cleanup event was scheduled on the same day as Bonsall's "Day Meets the Zip" event. There were about 350 people at the Bonsall Post Office celebrating the day where there was a free pancake breakfast. Two Oceanside sites had over 900 volunteers: 500 at the beach and 400 on Buena Vista Creek.

The City of Oceanside has announced their plans to coordinate a San Luis Rey Watershed Cleanup event on December 6, 2003. They have asked the San Luis Rey Watershed Council to consider sponsoring some sites along the river outside of the Oceanside City limits. Members of the Watershed Council present at the meeting expressed interest in participating in the event. Cynthia Mallett wills peak with Linda Isakson (City of Oceanside) to get more logistics about the event.

Tierra Miguel Foundation, Conservation Easement Grant awarded

The Tierra Miguel Foundation has been awarded funding to purchase the development rights for an 80-acre parcel of land that they currently use as an agricultural farm. This means that this property will be able to be used for agricultural operations and no development can ever occur on the property. They will need to raise money to actually purchase the property from the current property owner. Fallbrook Land Conservancy will hold the conservation easement.

Gregory Canyon Landfill

Pala Indian Tribe representatives went to Sacramento to give a presentation to staff from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to discuss issues regarding the proposed Gregory Canyon landfill.

Some of the issues expressed to the CIWMB were siting criteria, community participation, and environmental justice issues. One CIWMB staff person had toured the site previously with proponents so the landfill. Another CIWMB board member expressed interest in touring the site. Pala Indian Tribe staff will contact that member to schedule the tour and invite other members.

City of Oceanside staff had a meeting at the request of the Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss potential impacts of the landfill for the city. Oceanside's main goal is to protect the Mission Basin aquifer of the San Luis Rey River where they have invested millions of dollars in infrastructure that could be possibly compromised.

Mission Basin Groundwater Storage Feasibility Study

The San Diego County Water Authority and its contractors are currently drilling for soil samples, presence of water and to determine the aquifer's capacity to hold water. Some of the wells were dry and they are looking for new areas for drilling.

WATERSHED FIELD TRIP TOUR

The San Luis Rey "State of the Watershed Tour" is scheduled for October 30, 2003. Cynthia is confirming tour sites and preparing the invitation for the event. It was suggested \$10 be charged to participants to cover some of the costs of the tour. Some potential stops on the tour include:

Agricultural operation

Arundo removal and restoration sites

Tour of the Oceanside desalination plant

Stop to view the Gregory Canyon Landfill and Rosemary Mountain Quarry sites

Demonstration of the La Jolla Band of Mission Indians GIS mapping project

Tour of Lake Henshaw Dam

GRANTS

Grants Submitted

Patagonia Environmental Action Grant – Cynthia Mallett submitted a proposal to Patagonia to request funds to develop and implement a Horse Management Education and Outreach program. The goal of this proposal is to change horse stable management practices to reduce and eliminate impacts to local natural resources, including waterways. A total of \$7,825 was requested. Award notification will be in January 2004.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Department of Conservation, Watershed Coordinator Grant Program – Cynthia attended a meeting on September 5 to get an idea about the grant submittal process. The Request for Proposals (RFP) had not been released and this meeting was held to gather information from potential grantees their thoughts about the format of the RFP. Cynthia will meet with the Technical Advisory Committee to discuss projects for the proposal.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation – Grants are available through this agency to enhance local parks. Cynthia will contact the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department to discuss potential projects for either Wilderness Gardens Preserve or Guajome Lake. This grant is due September 30, which is a very short timeline to get a proposal submitted.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2003 from 1:00 – 3:00 at the Fallbrook Public Utility District Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

- Julie Ammel Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Christine Brochard..... County of San Diego, Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan
- Paul Campo Vista Irrigation District
- Paul Christensen Rainbow Municipal Water District
- Jose Espino Pala resident
- Ruth Harber North County Coalition
- Jesse Hutchings Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District
- Mo Lahaisie..... City of Oceanside
- Cynthia Mallett..... Mission Resource Conservation District, San Luis Rey Watershed Coordinator
- Ken Peterson Bonsall Sponsor Group
- Rob Roy La Jolla Indian Reservation
- Don Smith Vista Irrigation District
- Karen Tucker..... Fallbrook Land Conservancy
- Wallace Tucker..... Fallbrook Land Conservancy
- Joyce Ward..... RiverWatch