

**SAN LUIS REY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 27, 2004**

**The meeting was called to order by acting facilitator Scott Murray at 1:15 p.m.**

**Minutes:** Because of the computer glitch which caused minutes and agendas to not be distributed last month, the minutes of the August meeting were held over for approval until the October meeting.

**New Business:**

1. Jason Giessow gave a presentation of the plan for this years weed management projects. The presentation poster showed the map of the old Arundo donax removal projects as well as the treatments proposed for this year. The current work on the San Luis Rey is funded by a grant from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Giessow also discussed the potential sources for new funding for the project. The Army Corps of Engineers maintenance mowing project below College Avenue may generate the funds to cover areas on the main stem of the river that are not now covered by funding. The SR76 project may also generate funding to supplement the existing grants and the In Lieu Fee Program. The permits are in place for the main stem and work will begin approximately at I-15 and 76 working down toward College. The Weed Management Program is also assisting other watersheds with mapping and is producing a brochure on “Don’t Plant a Pest” which will outline invasive plants to avoid and alternatives to consider. The brochure will be available in January and Council members can contact Judy Mitchell at Mission RCD to order copies.
2. Jeremy Bruegge with the County of San Diego MSCP project talked about the MSCP biological goals for the San Luis Rey River in relation to the SR76 future expansion. Currently, Cal Trans does not have plans on a map for the expansion of SR76 from Mission Road to the I-15 but it is hope to have a sub area working draft PAMA. The question will be if the guideline of the plan is followed will the regulatory agencies issue take permits. The County wants to create biological goals to achieve if the road goes through and a plan for how these goals can be achieved. Three items that must be included in these goals are:
  - The number of acres necessary for Least Bells Vireo and Arroyo Toad habitat
  - Specifically allow for Arroyo Toad habitat
  - Incorporate the San Luis Rey River Park closely in this MSCP planning

The County’s goal is to allow for conservation and allow for other uses. They looking at a University of Utah project that worked on the issue of where to permit recreation resources in a sensitive habitat area. A challenge of the

San Luis Rey River is that it is not static and a flood occurrence can make riparian habitat by creating sandy banks. Bruegge pointed out that the Gregory Canyon project has dealt with their own permit mitigation.

3. Suzanne Michel, Watershed Coordinator for the Wetland Recovery Project (WRP), described the organization as a network of local municipal and non-profit groups who are dedicated to increasing wetland in the County wherever possible. The County task force meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in San Diego. The WRP was created because wetlands are not in priority in Southern California. The WRP has been ask to cooperate with the San Luis Rey Watershed Council in developing a pilot work- shop on the impact of increased impervious surfaces in a watershed. An impervious surface is any surface like roads, driveways, sidewalks etc that doesn't allow water to percolate. Wildfires and development in a watershed increases the amount of impervious surface. The more impervious surface created the more water quality degrades and the risk for mosquitoes increases. The general rule is that once your watershed has above 10% impervious surface the aquatic surface is open for degradation. The goal of the workshop is to discuss the effects of increasing impervious surface and assessment tools for better-planned development. The Council will be especially inviting Planning and Sponsor group members to attend. This workshop will then be used in other watersheds and hopefully protocols can be established for Southern California. The Chair asked for a motion from the Council regarding sponsoring this workshop.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Ruth Harber, seconded by Joe Chisholm the Council Unanimously voted to support this workshop.

#### **UPDATES, REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The **Pala Environmental Protection Agency** staff introduced the council to the many programs they have going on the reservation. Jesse Castro is the Pesticide Technician and he explained the IPM grants and programs. Pala has a pesticide work plan that includes monitoring and observation of any applications. They have an integrated pest management program at the Vivian Banks School and the Pala Child Care facility. Melvin Bitsui has been working for two years on the air pollution program, specifically PM 10 and ozone monitoring. With regards to ozone, in California anything over 150 is unclean. Pala has is currently at 80 but the ozone can be increased by heat and traffic. The Rosemary Mountain project has been sued by River Watch over the PM 10 issue. John McPhee reported on the projects regarding safe drinking water. They are doing a source water assessment plan grant which would look at well capture zones and how ground water flows. The Pala EPA team would like to keep the Council up to date on their many projects.
2. **General announcements:**

- Leslie Cleveland of the **Bureau of Reclamation** announced the Bureau has new offices in Temecula and invited the Council to have a meeting there in the future.
  
- The funding request letter has been sent to Supervisor Horn – there will be a committee formed to visit with the Supervisor
- The Gregory Canyon Landfill was reported back on the ballot and there is an extensive television campaign coming in October.
- The letter from Pardee Homes regarding an agreement with Rainbow Municipal Water District to build a wastewater treatment plant was noted and the question of proposed mitigation for the plant will be explored with Pardee and Rainbow.
- Ruth Harber announced that a representative from the Escondido Development Council would be presenting a forum on the pros and Cons of the Gregory Canyon Landfill. The Riverwatch annual fundraising event will be held at the Pala Administration building.

The Pala EPA staff was thanked for arranging for the Council to meet in the Pala Administration building.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.