

San Luis Rey Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2004

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and the organization they represent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the November 24, 2003 meeting minutes were distributed via email and available in hard copy at the meeting. A motion was made by Vic Pankey and seconded by Margarete Morgan to approve the meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

Suzanne Michel of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project was not able to attend because of another scheduled meeting.

Tierra Miguel Foundation

Charlene Orszag, Tierra Miguel Foundation (TMF), gave a short presentation about the organization. The TMF is an educational institution educating children and adults about how organic food crops are grown. The agency has a community supported agriculture program where, for a monthly fee, a box of fresh organic crops will be supplied on a weekly basis. They also coordinate with the local schools to bring children to the farm so they can learn about how food is grown. Charlene stated that 98% of the food brought into San Diego County is imported.

The TMF has been leasing an 80-acre property for its operations in Pauma Valley. With the possibility that the property would be sold for development, TMF applied for conservation easement funding to preserve the property in agriculture in perpetuity. The San Luis Rey Watershed Council provided a support letter to include with their application. Funding was awarded by the Department of Conservation and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to purchase the agricultural easement cost of the property. The development cost of the land still needs to be raised by TMF in order to purchase the land and preserve it in agriculture. \$600,000 needs to be raised by April 30, 2004. For more information contact the TMF at (760) 742-1151 or their website at <http://www.tierramiguel.org>.

Gregory Canyon Landfill

Ted Griswold, an environmental attorney and biologist is working with the Pala Band of Mission Indians to address the Gregory Canyon Landfill, which is proposed to be sited adjacent to the San Luis Rey River and religious tribal sites. Gregory Mountain, called Chok'la in native Indian language, is a religious site that is located just east of the landfill site. Medicine Rock, another religious site, is located at the bottom of the mountain and landfill site and includes rock paintings.

There are two pair of nesting golden eagles in the area and endangered species including the gnatcatcher, Least Bells Vireo, Southwest Flycatcher and the Arroyo toad. The area is covered by riparian shrub.

This landfill site was rejected in several initial studies and sometimes in the first round of cuts. In April 1988 private developers purchased the property. In 1994 Proposition C, a county-wide initiative, was passed by county voters which designated this specific site for a landfill, if the permits could be obtained. If approved, the landfill will be privately constructed. Excavation is proposed to be done down to 60 feet below the ground water level. The bottom of the landfill will be lined with a plastic liner and the company will have to dewater around the landfill liner to create a five-foot separation between the ground water and the liner. The Regional Water Quality Control Board did not approve of the initial design and the landfill proponents have now proposed double and triple liners. After closure of the landfill, the company proposes to monitor the site for thirty years. But, after that thirty-year period there is no monitoring requirement. There may be a loss of groundwater because of the de-watering process and a small tributary of the San Luis Rey River will also be lost. With the recent wildfires, there is a concern that a fire could burn through the liners.

The County of San Diego has certified the Environmental Impact Report. The County reviewed the Benefits Analysis and the staff has posted their comments. It is estimate that the landfill will generate 1400 truck trips per day. Currently there are not air quality monitoring devices in the San Luis Rey Watershed to provide baseline data. This information would determine any detrimental effects of the trucks traveling the area if the landfill is approved.

In the initial EIR there was proposed to be a borrow pit to use soil as daily cover for the trash. In more recent documents it appears that the borrow pit has been enlarged and that an additional borrow pit may be needed. This data is not included in the EIR but must be addressed because of the potential impacts these borrow pits may have.

Mr. Griswold is requesting of the San Luis Rey Watershed Council to consider voting to support, disapprove or act neutral regarding the landfill with the additional information that is available. The Technical Advisory Committee could address the technical issues and bring that information back to the Watershed Council to assist them in voting if a group decision is agreed upon.

The following agenda items were tabled until the February 23, 2004 meeting:

- Updates reports and announcements
- Grants Updates
- Hold watershed council meetings at other location in watershed
- Other news to report

Christine Brochard did announce that a North County meeting of the Multiple Species Conservation Program would be held on Thursday January 29, 2004 from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Fallbrook Public Utility District conference room.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2004 from 1:00 – 3:00 at the Fallbrook Public Utility District Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Steve Abbott.....North County Fire Protection District
Tony ArandEnvirepel
Gary BenderUC Cooperative Extension
John BeresfordLa Jolla Band of Mission Indians
Christine BrochardCounty of San Diego, Multiple Species Conservation Program

Leslie Cleveland.....US Bureau of Reclamation
Sue CollinsYuima Water District
Mary Louise Coykendall.....Watershed resident
Ted GriswoldProcopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch
Rick Gundry.....Bureau of Indian Affairs
Ruth Harber.....North County Coalition
Jesse Hutchings.....Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District
Mo Lahasaie.....City of Oceanside
Carolyn Major.....Fallbrook Planning Group
Cynthia MallettMission Resource Conservation District, San Luis Rey Watershed
Coordinator
Margarette MorganBonsall Conservancy
Scott MurrayMission Resource Conservation District
Charlene Orszag.....Tierra Miguel Foundation
Chuck PattersonLa Jolla Band of Mission Indians
Rob RoyLa Jolla Band of Mission Indians
George Stockton.....Watershed resident
Susan Stockton.....Watershed resident
Sandra Stoneburner.....Los Coyotes Band of Indians
Joyce Ward.....RiverWatch
Erica WarrenNorth County Times
Oggie Watson.....Pauma Community Services District
George WilkinsPacific REMS