

San Luis Rey Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2001

Fallbrook Public Utilities District Building
990 East Mission Road, Fallbrook, CA

Introductions and Announcements

The San Luis Rey Watershed Council meeting was called to order at 1:37 P.M. Our newest member was introduced to the Council. Judy Good is a Park Ranger for the San Diego County Parks Department. She is the Ranger for the Wilderness Gardens Preserve, located between the Pala and Pauma portions of the watershed. It is a beautiful, historic park and the location of a Watershed Council grant proposal for a wetlands restoration project. Ms. Good and S.D. County Parks are partners in the proposal.

Meeting Time Change: A request was made to change the Watershed Council meeting time, to better accommodate members. After a brief discussion, the Council voted to agree. A motion was made, seconded and passed to change the meeting time to 1:00-3:00 pm., on the Fourth Monday of the month. Because of the Watershed Event in November and the Christmas holidays, the next meeting will be on January 28, 2002.

Charles Kemp announced that Rainbow MWD has applied for a \$209,000 grant from the California Department of Water Resources. The money will be used to pump and treat groundwater, for use as drinking water supply. Mr. Kemp said the Rainbow community supports the project.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 24, 2001 San Luis Rey Watershed Council meeting were moved, seconded and approved by unanimous consent.

Business and Reports to Council

1. Wilderness Gardens Preserve Grant Proposal

The Watershed Council, Mission Resource Conservation District and S.D. County Parks Department have applied for grant funding to restore an isolated, constructed wetland in Wilderness Gardens. This valuable five-acre pond and wetland has become an important location for several bird species. We are seeking funds to rebuild its leaking clay liner and to improve its health by providing a seasonal source of water, using a nearby ephemeral stream. The funding agency for this grant is the USEPA.

2. Grant Proposal for a Dual-Purpose, Water Resources Quantity & Quality Monitoring System

The Watershed Coordinator outlined a proposal for constructing a network of automatic water quantity measuring sensors (rainfall, stream flow, groundwater) and water quality measuring sensors (dissolved oxygen, Ph, conductivity, temperature, turbidity, total dissolved solids) for the San Luis Rey watershed. This project would be an implementation of the Watershed Council's goal for developing a much better database of the water resources of this watershed. This is one of the highest priorities of the Council, according to the "San Luis Rey River Watershed Guidelines 2000".

The Monitoring System would also provide crucial early-warning hydrology data to the National Weather Service and County of San Diego Flood Control District for their cooperative ALERT Flood Warning Program. The National Weather Service plans to begin flood forecasting for our watershed, but they need more rainfall and stream flow data in order to be accurate in their predictions. This project would help fill this need. Discussion of the proposal focused on the need for the project and the necessity for it to be done accurately, scientifically and as a long-term program.

3. Watershed Community Event Update

Scott Murray and Margerette Morgan reported that the Watershed Event will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2001. The location will be the Pala Indian Casino, beginning at 5:00 pm. The Pala Tribal Council will not charge us for the use of their meeting facilities. The Event planning committee has sent out information packages to the offices of our elected officials for this region. We have been told that most plan to attend, or will send staff to speak on their behalf if they cannot make it. This Event will be a public presentation of the San Luis Rey Watershed Council's newly printed, "*San Luis Rey River Watershed Guidelines 2000*".

We plan to invite 300 people, including Watershed Council members, elected officials and the media. As earlier suggested, an effort will be made to reach out beyond our current membership and to invite community leaders and additional stakeholders in this watershed. Included in this will be agricultural representatives, planning and sponsor groups, water districts and the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition office in Valley Center. Suggestions on other groups to invite are encouraged. The Watershed Event will cost approximately \$3000, partially paid for by Mission RCD grant funding. The rest of the funding will come from a \$500 donation from EDCO Waste and Recycling Services and a \$1500 donation from San Diego County Board of Supervisor's Chairman Bill Horn, for which we are thankful.

Updates and Discussion

Discussion on "*San Luis Rey River Watershed Guidelines 2000*"

The Council discussed the "*Guidelines 2000*" and why it is named this way. It is called a 'watershed guideline' because the Council did not think there was enough information on certain issues to properly call this document a plan. Some crucial issues need to be developed more fully, so that when the Council votes on them it is clear what we are agreeing to. The document is named "Guidelines 2000" because that is the year that it was voted on and agreed to (Fall of 2000). As written in the introduction, the Council plans to revise and update the "Watershed Guidelines" on a regular basis, perhaps every two years or as desired.

It is intended to be a 'living document' that is flexible enough to be adapted to the changing needs and conditions of the San Luis Rey River watershed. For the first printing, 400 copies are being produced. They will be given to all members of the Council and also distributed to our partners, community leaders, elected officials and the media.

Multiple Species Conservation Program Update

There have been no public meetings so far this year. The County is working with a consultant to develop a Habitat Evaluation Model. Public workshops will be held when the model is finished, perhaps as early as December of this year. The Watershed Coordinator has asked the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use to make a presentation of the updated MSCP to the Council, when it is ready. DPLU has agreed, with a tentative presentation date set for January, 2002.

Presentation by National Weather Service

A presentation was given by Ed Clark, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) San Diego Forecast Office. This "Winter Weather Outlook" presentation was the official NWS forecast for the upcoming rainy season. It was very informative and of great interest to the Council. The forecast calls for continued drier-than-normal conditions for the fall and early winter months. The forecast models are indicating that a mild to moderate El Nino will begin to develop in late winter or spring of 2002. Depending upon the strength and how quickly an El Nino develops, this could influence our weather by increasing the potential for rainfall in the second half of our rainy season.

Mr. Clark also presented a National Weather Service / Community Partnership program called, "Storm Ready". This cooperative program is intended to help local communities prepare for a weather emergency, such as flooding, before it occurs. The NWS desires to partner with local municipal and emergency services officials by providing information on storm preparedness, and will certify cooperating cities as "Storm Ready". It is essential that effective lines of communication and emergency procedures be set up and tested before a storm, in order for them to work well in warning the public. The NWS will assist communities in implementing these procedures in order to minimize the risk for loss of life and property.

Service Hydrologist Brent Bower, from the NWS Forecast Office in Oxnard, California, also spoke to the Council. He is responsible for guiding the NWS efforts to design an effective flood forecast model for the San Luis Rey River watershed. There is the potential for very large floods in this watershed. The floods of 1993 were very destructive, with loss of life and 7 bridges/crossings destroyed. This was calculated to be about a 20-25 year flood. The Great Flood of 1916 was estimated to be a 100-year flood. It was extremely destructive for all of San Diego County, including the San Luis Rey watershed.

Mr. Bower requested that Council members provide him any information we might have that can help the NWS provide accurate flood forecasts. This includes information on specific roads, bridges, homes, businesses or other locations that might be at risk of flooding. Also very valuable to the NWS will be any information on how well these specific locations survived the floods of 1980 and 1993.

It was noted that there is a great lack of stream gauging stations in the San Luis Rey watershed, compared to similar watersheds in Southern California. There is only one U.S. Geological Survey stream gage on the river, near the small airport in Oceanside. There are no other USGS or County Flood Control stream gauges anywhere else in the watershed. The Santa Margarita River watershed, right next door, has 18 USGS stream gauges (many paid for by Camp Pendleton). This lack of gauging information for the San Luis Rey watershed is a serious problem and will make it difficult for the NWS to provide accurate flood forecasts and warnings here. This issue will need to be resolved in the near future, perhaps as part of the Watershed Council's proposal to implement assessing the quantity and quality of the water resources of the San Luis Rey River watershed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Present at Meeting

Paul Campo, Vista Irrigation District
Victor Pankey, San Luis Rey Municipal Water District
Joyce Ward, River Watch
Ken Peterson, Bonsall Community Sponsor Group
Scott A. Murray, Mission Resource Conservation District
Chris Means, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Charles Kemp, Rainbow Municipal Water District
Judy Good, San Diego County Parks Department
Jesse Hutchings, Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District
Oggie Watson, Pauma Valley Community Services District
Mike McGrath, City of Oceanside
Margaret Morgan, Bonsall Conservancy
Robert Brown, Professor, California State University San Marcos
William Daugherty, Audubon Society
Sue Collins, Yuima Water District
Ruth Harber, North County Coalition
Craig Anderson, San Diego County Farm Bureau