

## **SAN LUIS REY WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: 10/23/2006**

- **Call to Order:** 1:05 pm by Cynthia Mallett.

- **List of Attendees present on 10/23/06:**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Heidi Brow         | Pala Band of Mission Indians, EPA          |
| Anne Burdick       | Mission Resource Conservation District     |
| Paul Campo         | Vista Irrigation District                  |
| Jack Griffiths     | Rainbow Municipal Water District           |
| Ruth Harber        | RiverWatch                                 |
| Cynthia Mallett    | Bonsall Community Sponsor Group [Planning] |
| Bill Pankey        | San Luis Rey Municipal Water District      |
| Mo Lahsaie         | City of Oceanside                          |
| Vic Smothers       | Natural Resources Conservation Service     |
| Sandra Stoneburner | Los Coyotes Band of Indians                |
| George Wilkins     | Pacific REMS                               |

- **Approval of Minutes:**

--The minutes of September, 2006 were approved; the motion was put forward by Paul Campo, and seconded by Jack Griffiths.

- **Attendee's News:**

Jack Griffith:

-- Rainbow Municipal Water District had 2 petitioners for the new appointment to the RMWD Board, with a 2:2 vote; therefore, the next step will be to hold a formal election to decide on the candidate.

Paul Campo:

-- Two eagles are back in 1-2 nests along the Lake Henshaw area; they have been seen circling in that area.

Anne Burdick:

--Mission Resource Conservation District is working on Arundo Removal on the main stem of the San Luis Rey River from I-15 west to Bonsall; in previous years Arundo was cleared in the tributaries of the SLR Watershed.

--Anne has been working with the group Keep Fallbrook Clean and Green, to build a permanent household hazardous waste transfer station in Fallbrook. They are exploring funding sources from the CA Integrated Waste Management Board.

--There is more dumping along Via Porta Del Sol; if this area is zoned agriculture, you can request grant money from the CA Integrated Waste Management Board to remove debris and install barriers to deter future dumping.

--Keep Fallbrook Clean and Green is partnering with MRCD, on a 'pilot program' to clean up the dumpsites; please let Anne know of any spontaneous dump sites that they might be able to clean up.

George Wilkins:

--San Diego Stream Team hosted a training on the new Bioassessment Techniques developed by CA Dept. of Fish & Game to standardize bioassessment methods. This monitoring technique checks the biological health of macroinvertebrates that live in the stream. This will be integrated into the future NPDES permit program as an indicator of stream health. SDRWCQB will probably be the first to implement this new protocol. Oceanside has 5 years of bio-assessment data for some of their streams. The San Diego Stream Team is conducting bioassessment sampling in the SLR Watershed in November; contact Cynthia Mallett if you want to volunteer.

--The Clean Water Act has specified that to determine water quality you must look at the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the water. However, the EPA has only been funding physical & chemical studies in the past.

They are now starting to put money/funding towards gathering biological water quality data—therefore this would be good to integrate into projects and look for future funding.

Mo Lahsaie:

--The Federal Govt. handed down an Executive Order to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB), which mandates that certain cities (ie: Oceanside) with lagoons or estuaries must commit to a 2-year round of monitoring and write a TMDL for bacteria, nutrients, and sediment. Cities/Stakeholders with lagoons and/or estuaries must collect data from 2007-2009 (which is going to cost Oceanside alone 350K), and then hand it over to SDRWQCB who will assemble a TMDL model by 2010.

--The SDRWQCB is forming a committee to write Agricultural Waivers, and are asking for input from cities/stakeholders. Ag is usually exempt from NPDES permits; these Ag. Waivers will be able to tell Ag. to monitor for certain pollutants or follow BMP's (the Central Valley has already done this).

--Metropolitan Water District developed a website to help people to conserve water: [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

Ruth Harber:

--There are 2-4 Golden Eagles that live in Gregory Canyon (these are a protected species)

--*SB 1835*—on 9/30/06, the Governor vetoed this bill (which was probably lobbied by the waste industry as the bill was statewide)

--*RiverWatch* is involved with several lawsuits re: Gregory Canyon Landfill, which are on hold; the next step is to wait for the Department of Environmental Health to send Gregory Canyon's RPDEIR responses to the court. The group has also appealed to the courts about Gregory Canyon, against the Olivenhain Water District who want to bring 250 water trucks (filled with recycled water) to Gregory Canyon, daily.

--Gregory Canyon has asked for re-instatement to use more water from local sources.

--(tentative) Pardee is not building along SLR river, because of the recent slump in the housing market. Hewlett Packard property is still moving forward with development plans.

Cynthia Mallett:

--The Bonsall Community Sponsor Group had a presentation by CalTrans on Highway 76 Widening project. Cal Trans is still discussing various proposals for widening the highway, and have made no clear decisions yet. The tentative proposal includes widening Highway 76 to 4 lanes (with a 6 lane footprint) from Melrose east to Mission Rd. (road to Fallbrook), and to a 4-lane footprint from Mission Rd. east to I-15. In the last public scoping meeting they discussed widening the stretch between Melrose Ave. (Oceanside) and Mission Ave. (Fallbrook) along the current road (instead of paving a new road on the south side of the river).

--There will be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) available for public review in spring 2007, for the section between Melrose and Mission; construction could begin 1 year from that point.

- **Grant Opportunities**

Targeted Watershed Grants—EPA [capacity building]: due October 15<sup>th</sup>

--It was decided that we our grant proposal would not be competitive enough for that particular grant, and therefore did not apply.

California Department of Fish & Game -- Grant: Restoration Grant: due April

--California DFG is interested in having the SLR Watershed Council apply for a grant that would help restore the watershed enough to allow Steelhead Trout to swim upriver into some of the colder tributaries, where they can stay to spawn before heading back out to the ocean.

--It was suggested that Steelhead Trout would have to spawn in colder areas, in tributaries west of I-15

--CA DFG tried to do a similar project on the San Mateo Creek; they have decided not to do the project on the Santa Margarita Creek because of military base issues.

--Bill Pankey commented that we should make sure none of our waters' Beneficial Uses are impacted with this project, if it comes to pass.

--Jack Griffiths thought the idea was ok, as long as it doesn't limit the current uses of the SLR River. He discussed this last month with the San Luis Rey Municipal Water District.

--Holly Sheridan & other CA DFG representatives have requested a river tour on 11/15.

--Vic Smothers & George Wilkins will develop agenda and site stops and report back at the next SLR Watershed Meeting

*Pala Band Dispute Papers:*

--The Pala Band of Mission Indians' released a press release (10/16), and there was an article in North County Times following the press release (10/17), about a dispute between the Tribe and the Federal Government, which was settled. The Tribe has agreed to pay a fine for activities perpetuated, without the Tribes' knowledge, by a former mining operations company who leased property from the Tribe in 1991. The Tribe has decided to pay the fine and avoid any litigation, despite their firm stand of no wrong-doing on their part. The fine will be paid directly to the Nature Conservancy, in order to buy and preserve land along the SLR Watershed in perpetuity for mitigation purposes.

--the SLR Watershed Council discussed the possibility of asking for a share of that money, however, one of the stipulations in the consent decree is that the whole of the fine be used to make a land purchase.

- **Meetings/Events—update/ New Watershed Facilitator in 2007**

--New facilitator in 2007: The Council discussed the possibility of having multiple individuals share this responsibility, by rotating or changing the facilitator periodically.

--Possible Volunteer Facilitators: Cecilia Padres, Rob Roy, Jack Griffiths, Oggie Watson, Jesse Hutchings

--There was also the suggestion to form a steering committee to discuss monthly agendas

--Possible Guest Speakers: Eric Larson or another Regional Water Quality Board rep. (to discuss Ag. Waivers); Dave Gibson (to discuss Bio-Assessment); Cynthia Gorham-Test (to discuss the 2 year Lagoon Monitoring/TMDL)

- **NEXT MEETING---November 27, 2006 at 1pm**