

**SAN LUIS REY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 25, 2004**

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

**Minutes:** On a motion by Paul Campo, seconded by Ruth Harber, the minutes of the August 24th and September 27th meetings were approved. Ruth Harber requested that the spelling of names be checked.

**New Business:**

1. Dennis Dickerson of McGuire Consulting outlined the Prop 50 grant proposal his firm is preparing for the Avocado Commission. This proposal would address TDS and Chlorides in the San Luis Rey River through a pilot program on Moosa Canyon. This project would include installing a reverse osmosis system in a grove. The requested amount on this grant is one million dollars. Mr. Dickerson requested a letter of support from the Watershed Council. Paul Campo motioned to include this request on the next agenda.
  
2. Lowell Grimaud of Firesafe San Diego County gave a brief background of the history of Firesafe Councils in rural areas. They were established in the late 90s in a grassroots effort to get people in rural areas involved in wildfire prevention and preparedness. The councils were regulated by a national safety task force. It has been shown that firesafe councils save life and property and he suggested that every area in the watershed could benefit from having a local council.

Tracy Ragsdale of the Fallbrook Firesafe Council talked about the collaborative effort between the North County Fire Protection District and the Firesafe Council. The Council started after the Gavilan Mountain fire in 2002 when it was found in the aftermath of the fire that the system was broken. The Council tried sponsoring community education programs but found that a neighborhood-to-neighborhood outreach is more effective. Fallbrook has instituted a red flag program – red flags are flown on high fire risk days in prominent places. The Council also has been successful in getting 4 signs placed in Fallbrook, Rainbow and DeLuz. These signs register the fire risk. A neighborhood fire watch program is starting slowly and the Council is partnering on a sensor program grant that will provide the community with an early alert sensor as well as community education. The Council is working on an evacuation plan that would establish escape routes in the event of fire. There are horse evacuation plans for DeLuz and one for Rainbow is still needed. Currently, the Council is looking for grants for vegetation firebreaks and would like to coordinate with the Indian Reservations.

Margaret Morgan reported on the Greater Vista Firesafe Council which includes Bonsall and the City of Vista. This council is planning on having one council with several chapters. This approach also hopes to strengthen neighborhood awareness of fire prevention. This Council has found that the Fire Department Sheriff have evacuation road maps but they don't tell citizens where they should go in the case of fire. Part of the evacuation plan will establish safe areas for people to go. Members of the Council are also taking CERT training. This program trains citizen leaders how to respond in emergency situations in order to help their community. It is similar to the use of air raid wardens utilized during World War II.

As long as people continue to move into high fire danger areas, the Firesafe Council approach will continue to grow.

Council member next reviewed the San Luis Rey River Guideline chapter on Fire Management. Council members made the following recommendations for updating this chapter.

- Council members were asked to review the specific issues related to fire management to see if the issues are the same or if there are new issues to be added.
- It was suggested that the chapter incorporate the guidelines from the City of San Diego plan for environmentally sensitive brush management. This would define fuel load reduction as reducing instead of clearing.
- Prescribed burn should be defined by fire professionals and used where appropriate
- Education on wildfire should include partnering and support for firesafe councils in the watershed.
- The guideline should include specific recommendations i.e. water source identification programs
- Hazardous response teams should be changed to response teams.

### **Reports:**

Ruth Harber reported that Riverwatch lost the case to block Rosemary's Mountain in the Court of Appeal. The quarry will be developed. Joyce Ward has sold her home and will be moving to Ohio.

Rank of priority issues was postponed to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.