

SAN LUIS REY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2004

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

Introductions: Scott Murray introduced Pam Elias, San Diego Code Enforcement, Michelle Stress, Department of Public Works Watershed Compliance, Jackie Cruz, San Diego County Sheriffs Department, Vickie Denslow, Department of Public Works and Tom Royden, private property owner in the San Luis Rey River Watershed.

Minutes: Ruth Harber requested that the wording regarding Rosemary's Mountain quarry be changed to say that the quarry may be developed once the project receives all necessary permits to move Highway 76. With this change, on a motion by Paul Campo, seconded by Ruth Harber, the minutes were approved.

New Business:

1). The San Luis Rey Watershed Council will co-sponsor a watershed cleanup with the City of Oceanside, the County of San Diego Department of Public Works on December 4th. The Watershed Council will meet at Holly Lane and Highway 76 at 9:00 a.m.

Tom Royden, a private property owner on Lilac Road, presented the Council with some background on the property he owns that benefited from the clean up funds generated by a grant written by the Watershed Coordinator. This property has been the recipient of continuous illegal dumping and Mr. Royden suspects those dumping include local people as well as perhaps small appliance stores. He had collected packing materials from appliance store deliveries. There was 82 tons of illegally dumped material removed from the property and fencing put up to deter future dumping. Unfortunately, the dumping began before fencing could be put up and the new fencing has already been breached. The alignment of the road, with hairpin bends, makes it hard to defend against fence damage and dumping. Lenore Volturno of the Pala Reservation staff said that they have begun lobbying against large truck traffic on that road and suggested that perhaps the Council needs to lobby on a wider scale. Ruth Harber expressed concern that if chain link fencing has to be widely used along these roads to prevent dumping, there will be no way for wildlife to cross or move about. There was general acknowledgement that the Watershed Council should address wildlife corridors in any solutions sought.

The guests from the county were invited to participate in a discussion of how the Council and average citizens can respond to illegal dumping. It was suggested that ideally one would call the Sheriff's Department but unfortunately, the trespassers are usually long gone by the time the Sheriff is able to respond. It was also suggested that surveillance cameras might be useful but it was pointed out that the cameras used must be of a quality to be able to provide face recognition.

Margaret Morgan asked for specific steps from the County representatives and it was pointed out that the County departments hold property owners accountable and respond to complaints only. Pam Elias suggested that the Council needs to contact the District Attorneys office and the Sheriffs office. John Beresford indicated that it needs to become easier to prosecute dumpers. Michelle Stress discussed the Los Angeles County local enforcement agency that has some success in combating illegal dumping. She will contact the Erase the Waste program to find out more about the programs that have been effective. She suggested that the Council should consider having a Community Campaign against dumping and an increase in posting signage against dumping.

Some issues that the Council would like to prioritize seeking action on:

1. The ability to have more amnesty days for various materials like tire, household hazardous waste and appliances or large items
2. Exploration of tougher prosecution laws – higher priority
3. Petitioning the State to create refundable appliance deposits
4. Sponsor community action like cleanups, Amnesty Days – get communities in the watershed more involved.
5. Consider a North County Rural Trash plan

Margaret Morgan motioned that the Watershed Council should invite a representative from the District Attorneys office and the Sheriffs office to the January Council meeting to discuss existing law and the potential for increasing enforcement. Paul Campo seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2). At the last Council meeting, a consultant representing the Avocado Commission requested a letter of support for a Proposition 50 grant. The Council was invited to discuss this request and concern was expressed about groups like this applying for funds to work in the watershed. Since the grant had already been submitted and the Council generally supports programs that could benefit agriculture, on a motion by Jesse Hutchings, seconded by John Beresford, the Council will send a letter of support. A call for the vote of voting members showed 6 in support and 1 opposed. Motion carried.

3). Margaret Morgan volunteered to call Council members to finish the priority issue survey. She will report the results of the survey at the January meeting.

It was requested that because of many scheduling conflicts for members that the Council meet in January on the 3rd Tuesday, January 18th. It was hoped that this would enable as many members as possible to attend to further the illegal dumping discussion.

Updates, Reports and Announcements:

Mark Wahl brought the Council the outline of a directory project and requested groups to fill out a survey questionnaire.

Ruth Harber reported on a call from John Odamat of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Riverwatch has asked for a workshop before RWQCB reviews the Gregory Canyon permit.

Margarette Morgan was congratulated on her election to the Vista Fire Protection Board.

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

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