

**SAN LUIS REY WATERSHED COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES: 11/23/2009**

- **(Item 1) Call to Order:** 1:05
- **(Item 2) List of Attendees present on 11/23/2009:**

Bob Hillestad	resident
David Allen	Fallbrook Land Conservancy
George Wilkins	Pacific REMS
Greg Markowski	resident
Heidi Brow	Pala Band of Mission Indians
Henry Contreras	San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians
John Beresford	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Paul Dorey	Vista Irrigation District (VID)
Rob Roy	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Ruth Harber	Riverwatch
Scott Norris	County of San Diego, Department of Public Works
Vic Pankey	San Luis Rey Municipal Water District

- **(Item 3) Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Scott Norris, seconded by Paul Dorey, and a vote to approve the October 26th Meeting Minutes, with a few minor changes, was carried unanimously by the SLR Watershed Council present.

- **(Item 4) Finalize Nominations & Hold Board of Directors Elections:**

At October's Annual Meeting, we had 3 nominations, and elected 3 out of the 7 Board of Director seats. To date, we have had 2 additional nominations provided to the SLRWC for consideration: Fallbrook Land Conservancy (David Allen)(environmental organization), and Pacific REMS (George Wilkins)(at large position).

VOTING ITEM

(Accepting Nomination Slate): There was a motion to accept the nomination slate of 2 individuals as it currently stands, and to go ahead and vote on 2 more of the Board of Directors' seats at this meeting.

- David Allen (Fallbrook Land Conservancy) **MOTIONED** to accept the nomination slate as is.
- Scott Norris (County of San Diego) **SECONDED** the motion
- **CALL FOR DISCUSSION:** no views were voiced/discussed
- **CALL TO VOTE:** Motion to accept was passed unanimously.

Board of Directors Elections:

A voting form with the 2 individuals nominated for Board of Directors’ seats was presented to each of the 9 members present at today’s meeting. The individuals on the voting form included:

- David Allen (Fallbrook Land Conservancy)
- George Wilkins (Pacific REMS)


An anonymous vote was held, & votes were tallied by the SLRWC Secretary afterward. All 9 members present voted ‘aye’ for each of the 2 candidates listed on the voting form; there were no ‘nays’; there were no abstentions.

VOTING ITEM
(Election of Board of Directors): A voting form with 2 individuals nominated for Board of Directors was presented to members present for an election.

- David Allen (Fallbrook Land Conservancy) accepted as a Board of Director
- George Wilkins (Pacific REMS) accepted as a Board of Director
- VOTE: The 2 candidates were accepted unanimously by members present; there were zero ‘nays’; there were zero abstentions.

The SLRWC Secretary certified that these 2 individuals were nominated & then elected to the SLRWC Board of Directors, and that the SLRWC followed proper voting protocol.

I Certify the above to be true and valid,



Heidi Brow
Secretary, San Luis Rey Watershed Council

• **(Item 5) Guest Speaker: George Wilkins, Pacific REMS**

The Poomacha Early Warning System:

Real-Time Debris Flow Monitoring for Tribal Lands in the San Luis Rey Watershed

After the 2007 Poomacha Fires that burned the upper San Luis Rey Watershed area, an inner-agency co-operative effort, called the BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) Team, was put together to plan for the possibility of debris flows and flooding in our area over the next few years. The BAER Team is tasked with looking into how to restore the burned areas as quickly as possible (ie: re-seeding, re-planting trees), and how to prevent or plan for flooding and debris flows (ie: installing the Poomacha Early Warning System, installing detention basins to stop mud flows and K-rails to protect slopes). The fires burned most of the SW facing slopes of Palomar, which have very steep slopes and are prone to debris flows. Palomar Mountain is a laterally moving, thrust-blocked mountain system, which results in overly-steep slopes that are highly fractured and pulverized from the movement.

The BAER Team specified the installation of an early warning system, with real-time rain and stream gages, as the best way to protect the area from loss of property and life. The Poomacha Early Warning System is integrated into San Diego County's flood warning system, as well as the local National Weather Service office. There are a number of rain (tipping buckets) and stream (measuring height of water, *not* flow speeds) gages that have been installed on tribal lands in the upper SLR Watershed, which provide real-time data to the County's flood warning system. Real-time data obtained from these gages is used internally by the NWS and the County's flood program, as well as for the Reverse 911 system. All gages have certain alarm levels set that, if exceeded, will trigger alarms to the appropriate emergency management agencies.

The 2009-2010 storm year has officially been classified as a weak to moderate El Nino Year, but it is strengthening, according to the National Weather Service office in San Diego. Most forecast models show a moderate to moderate-strong El Nino, which should peak somewhere between mid-December and mid-February. El Nino's storm patterns typically have warm water that sinks in the ocean, and then gradually moves eastward and to the surface. As the warmer water starts to surface, it causes more water to evaporate, putting more moisture into the atmosphere, where storms then pick up. The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) is a pattern that traditionally produces high intense rain events over short periods of time, which is what happened in the 2004/2005 storm year.

The Feds have classified our area as a 2nd year burn area (even though we are technically in our 3rd year post-fire) because of the steepness of the mountain slopes and movement from the Elsinore Fault zone. We will see mud/debris flows on a local scale, and general flooding elsewhere along the SLR River. This is due to the fact that Palomar Mountain has the highest rainfall in the County (b/c of SW facing slopes, which catch & drop the rain), and unfortunately, almost no vegetation to hold the water onsite.

- **(Item 6) Financial Update:**

There is no change in the SLRWC's financial status; as of 10/30/2009, we have \$458.00 in the bank.

- **(Item 7) News & Reports From Attendee's:**

Ruth Harber ~ Riverwatch:

General Update on Gregory Canyon Landfill: There was a recent meeting at the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB), where they discussed the permitting of the bridge that is to cross the San Luis Rey River, over to the Gregory Canyon Landfill project area. The SDRWQCB voted 4:2 not to approve it at this time; this issue will be postponed for another 60 days. Hopefully the Army Corps will have completed their jurisdictional determination for the site by that time, therefore providing the SDRWQCB with more information. The Army Corps recently re-defined their definitions of waters of the US, which may change their past jurisdictional determination.

Ruth helped Pam Slater-Price and NRDC by supplying photos from 1993 of the area in and around Gregory Canyon; these photos showed evidence of flooding and the remnants of the bridges washing away. This evidence will be presented to the Army Corps, as part of their review of the proposed landfill project.

Bob Hillestad ~ individual stakeholder:

San Diego Stream Team has been re-organizing their structure, and therefore postponed their fall training until spring (maybe late March). Stream Team is looking into new methods that assess algae in the water as a means of determining water quality. This new method will be incorporated into their spring training, and will include a visual assessment of algae. They are currently looking for volunteers to visit reference sites to check if surface water is present or not.

Vic Pankey ~ San Luis Rey Municipal Water District:

The San Luis Rey Municipal Water District (SLRMWD) submitted comments to the proposed Meadowood EIR; their comments noted that Meadowood did not address the impacts to surrounding water districts who might supply them with potable water. They recommended that Meadowood re-do their EIR, addressing this issue.

The SLRMWD also responded to a query from Sacramento regarding a planned project in the SE corner of the I-15 and highway 76 intersection. This project is a tribal cultural center for the Pala Band of Mission Indians. The district had concerns that the project fell within the floodplain, which they will continue to look into.

George Wilkins ~ Pacific REMS:

San Diego County is close to finishing an extensive flood forecasting model for the San Luis Rey Watershed. Rand Allen is working on this project, and is expected to have a completed model (& would be available to give a presentation on it to the SLRWC) in early spring 2010. This model includes the San Luis Rey River, and all major tributaries of the river.

Announcement: upcoming conference in Palm Springs Hilton, May 4th – 7th, 2010

2010 Flood Warning Systems Preparedness Training Symposium & Workshop

(23rd Conference & Exposition of the ALERT Users Group, an organization focused on real-time flood warning systems)

This conference has trainings on real-time equipment (ie: rain/stream gages, etc), and manufacturer's information, as well as technical expertise, new equipment/software information, etc.

FEMA held a meeting November 5th-6th to discuss the National Flood Insurance Policy on a local level. FEMA has been working on modernizing their flood maps, in order to incorporate new developments and other changes. Once they have updated their flood maps, there may be additional stakeholders who need to obtain flood insurance, or their current flood insurance may increase in dollars. The SLR Watershed will most likely be affected by this.

David Allen ~ Fallbrook Land Conservancy:

The Fallbrook Land Conservancy (FLC) is looking in the Meadowood Project, with the overall question of 'where will this development obtain their water?' Meadowood's attorney has stated that this project will have a 'net zero impact;' they are planning on doing by helping other areas in San Diego conserve water, which will give them credits by the County Water Authority against their own water use. They will be using wells and reclaimed water for irrigation of landscape

• **(Item 8) Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

2010 Meetings:

January 25, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Approved for Distribution,

X

Heidi Brow
Secretary, San Luis Rey Watershed Council

X

Chairperson
San Luis Rey Watershed Council