## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC)

SLO City Council Chambers 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:30 pm

#### **AGENDA**

1.	Determination of a Quorum and Introductions	1:30 pm
2.	Approval of December 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes	1:35 pm
3.	Ongoing Updates:  a. Rain & Reservoir Report  b. Groundwater Basin Management Efforts  c. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)  d. Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP)  e. Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances  f. Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information	1:45 pm
4.	Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Additional Water Conservation Measures that can be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Their Consideration and Consider Actions	2:00 pm
5.	Consider Scheduling Updates of Water Resources Issues from Each Group or Agency	2:30 pm
6.	Discuss Future Agenda Items	2:40 pm
7.	Public Comment	2:50 pm

--- Adjourn by 3:30 pm ---

Next Regular Meeting: March 6, 2019

**SLO City Council Chambers** 

990 Palm St

San Luis Obispo CA

http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/Advisory%20Committee

#### Purpose of the Committee:

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board of Supervisors specific water resource and water conservation programs with recognition of the economic and environmental values of the programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

Excerpts from WRAC By-Laws dated August 15, 2017

#### MINUTES (DRAFT)

Chairperson: Andy Pease
Vice Chairperson: Linda Seifert
Secretary: Ray Dienzo

The following action minutes are listed as they were acted upon by the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and as listed on the Regular Meeting agenda for **December 5**, **2018** together with staff reports and related documents attached thereto and incorporated therein by reference.

The audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted to the WRAC are available online: <a href="http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/Advisory%20Committee">http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/Advisory%20Committee</a>

Call to order at 1:30PM.

1. <u>Determination of a Quorum and Introductions (0:13)</u>

A quorum of 18 is established (12 is required).

2. Approval of November 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes (0:44)

A motion by Member L. Seifert and a second by Member C. Mulholland moves to approve the November meeting minutes with no changes. Minutes approved (16-0-2).

- 3. Ongoing Updates:
  - a. Rain & Reservoir Report

There are no comments.

b. Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

There are no comments.

c. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

There are no comments.

d. Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP)

There are no comments.

e. Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

There are no comments.

f. Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information (5:37)

Member E. Greening mentions that the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be meeting in San Luis Obispo at their headquarters, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Member G. Grewal mentions the buying offset fee for water to develop a new home in the Paso and Nipomo Mesa basin. WRAC members express interest in hearing an update on the program. Water Offset Program will be agendized in a future WRAC meeting.

Member L. Chipping mentions the basin boundary returned results for modifications to Los Osos and Heritage Ranch.

#### g. Schedule for 2019

There are no comments.

## 4. Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee of their Review of the 2016-2018 Water Section of the Resource Summary Report and Consider Actions (17:49)

County Staff Brian Pedrotti and County Staff Ben Schuster speak about work on the Resource Summary Report. County Staff Brian Pedrotti states that comments regarding the final draft Resource Summary Report should be made by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Member G. Grewal states that the Resource Summary Report does not attempt to evaluate the water supply and therefore there is no reason to make a recommendation. He states that the Resource Summary Report does not mention the unincorporated population and safe yield. He also states concern with the CASGEM information. In addition, he mentions the lack of listed amounts of water by source such as Nacimiento, Salina's River, and State Water.

Member E. Greening states that the Resource Management System does not mention the fractured rock areas. He also states that the view of the county's water picture should not be on the Resource Management System alone due to the lack of comprehensiveness.

Member Alternate C. Mulholland in speaking for Member S. Luft states a concern on item 6 page 1, regarding the language on the level of severity 3.

Member J. Garing states representation for the Northern Cities Management Area. He also states that comments made by WRAC during the previous RSR was not reflected in the latest Resource Summary Report. Member J. Garing also states that their consultant's groundwater model confirms level of severity 3 in the Nipomo Mesa Management Area. And finally, he recommends a method to help the Nipomo Community Service District fund supplemental water projects.

Member T. Walters states that it would be helpful to the Board to have implementation goals for each water area by having the status of available water.

Member D. Peterson expresses support for funding supplemental water projects.

Member L. Chipping mentions that 25 of 27 water purveyors increased deliveries. She also suggests a recommendation to look at the whole picture for all county water

purveyor deliveries. Member L. Chipping makes a recommendation to start to look at implementing mandatory water conservation measure at level of severity 2.

Member C. Replogle states that SGMA does not apply to the portion of Santa Maria Basin that is under the issue of litigation, the statement is a legal determination that maybe incorrect.

Member L. Seifert asks on the uses of the Resource Summary Reports.

Member G. Grewal states the importance of the safe yield number. He also mentions concern that the City of Paso Robles is not using all its share of Nacimiento water but continuing to use groundwater.

Member C. Mulholland and a second by E. Greening moves to forward the committee and subcommittee comments onto the County Planning and Building Department Motion carries by voice vote. To reflect the range of expertise in specific geographic areas and specialties, comments will be submitted on behalf of individual WRAC members rather than on behalf of the committee as a whole.

5. <u>Presentation on Water Conservation Practices on Winery Operations by Jason Yeager,</u> from Niner Winery and Member Representative of Agricultural-At Large (53:50)

Member J. Yeager speaks on several strategies. One strategy is drop control, which is a system that monitors: weather, soil moisture, evapotranspiration. The system controls irrigation and detects leaks in the system. Another monitoring system is a pressure chamber, which takes putting a leaf in the pressure chamber, measured in bars. Plants start seeing stress at 9 bars and during a typical summer day the upper limit is 14 - 15bars. Reservoir collects recycled water, collects rain, and is covered to prevent evaporation. All hoses in the production area have shut offs. A variable fluid drive is also used as a well pump or pond pump, allowing it to pump at a certain level without overpumping a well. Pressure compensating emitters are also used. Root stocks are used to tolerate lime and nematodes, some of which are drought resistant while others are not. The vineyard uses 0.2 acre-feet/year while most vineyards typically uses 1-2 acrefeet/year. Frost protection overhead sprinklers can protect down to 23°F, which uses up 90 gallons-per-minute/per acre. Micro-sprinklers for frost protection can protect down to 26°F, with 16 gallons-per-minute/per acre. With a strong inversion layer, wind machines can protect down to 28°F. Keyways can be used to collect runoff to recharge into aquifers. Creating incentives for wind machines can save a lot of water. Consider removing a sunset clause on irrigated acreage, requiring the land to be planted to retain irrigated water rights.

6. Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Additional Water Conservation Measures that can be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Their Consideration and Consider Actions

No Report.

## 7. <u>Discuss Future Agenda Items and Agendize Status Updates from Member Stakeholders</u> (1:36:50)

Member E. Greening mentions the live stream agreement, dam safety improvements, overall costs, and upstream riparian zone regarding the Salinas Reservoir expansion.

#### 8. Public Comment (1:40:20)

Member B. Gresens will be retiring and no longer be a voting member.

Meeting adjourns at 3:15PM.

#### Water Resources Advisory Committee - Roll Call Vote Form Meeting Date: 12/05/18

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### WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC) GUEST LIST 2018

Signing-in is voluntary. You may attend the meeting regardless of whether you sign-in.

NAME	AFFILITATION (if any)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC
Lynette Tomatzky	Resident Los Osos		х										
Steve McMasters	County Planning												
Patricia Wilmore	Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance		х	х	х	х	х			х		х	х
Jean-Pierre Wolff	RWQCB							/	$\angle$		/	х	
Willy Cunha	Shandon-San Juan Water District		х					/	$\angle$		$\angle$	х	
Linda Jeiferz			х					/	/,		/		
Joha Suyder			х					/	/		/		
Natalie Risner			х					/	/		/		
Dan Hechel	wsc		х					/	/		/		
Christine Halley	Sentinel Peak Resources					х		/	/		/		
Cheryl Cunuay	Cayucos Advisory Council						х	/	/		/		
Colt Esenwein	SLO Public Works						х	/	/		/		
Don Chartram	Central Coast Salmon Enhancement						х	/	/,		/		
Mary Margaret McGuine	SSCSD					х	х	/	/,		/	х	
Cortney Murguia	San Simeon CSD							/	/	х	/		
Devin Best	USLTRCD						х	/	/	х	/		
Kendall Stahl	Water Systems Consulting	-/ $/$					х	/	/		/		
Brian Pedroth	County of SLO	-/ $/$						/	/	х	/		
Maria Kelly	Justin							/	/	х	/		
Jerry Reaugh	EPC Water District							/	/,	х	/		
Charlie Cote	S+T Mutual Water Co Los Osos	$-V_{ m c}$						/	/		/	х	
Wes Thomson	SLO Public Works	$-V_{ m c}$						/	/		/	х	
Ayelet Zamek	County PW								/		/	х	
Hilary Graves	EPCWD							/				х	
Arne Anselm	VCWPD								/		/	х	
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FROM: Ray Dienzo, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: February 6, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 3: Ongoing Updates

#### Recommendation

Receive updates on various ongoing efforts.

#### Discussion

a) Rain & Reservoir Report: See attached report.

### b) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS AND BASIN UPDATES:**

Basin	Update:
	On November 29, 2018, DWR published the Draft Recommendations for the Basin Boundary Modifications Request (BBMR). A summary of DWR's Draft Recommendations for the Los Osos Basin BBMR are listed below:
Los Osos Basin	<ul> <li>DWR approved the creation of two jurisdictional subbasins: Los Osos Subbasin and Warden Creek Subbasin</li> <li>DWR approved the removal of the southern fringe area</li> <li>DWR denied the removal of the minor northern fringe area</li> </ul>
Fringe Area	<ul> <li><u>DWR's Steps to Finalize Basin Boundaries &amp; Priorities:</u></li> <li>February 2019 - DWR Final Basin Boundary Modifications released</li> <li>April/May 2019 - DWR reprioritizes basins/subbasins (using modified boundaries)</li> </ul>
	More information on DWR's basin boundary modification process and prioritization process, please visit: <a href="https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization">https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Boundary-Modifications</a>
Atascadero Basin	<ul> <li>DWR's recently released Prioritization of Groundwater Basins designated the Atascadero Basin as "very low priority" and, therefore, no longer subject to SGMA.</li> <li>The Atascadero Basin GSA has decided to continue with development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Atascadero Basin.</li> <li>In addition to the County's Atascadero SGMA Page, further updates on the Atascadero Basin GSA can be found by visiting: www.atascaderobasin.com/</li> </ul>
Santa Maria	On November 29, 2018, the California Department of Water Resources     (DWR) published the 2018 Bulletin 118 Basin Boundary Modifications –

Basin	Draft Decisions. The BBMR draft decisions including the Santa Maria
Fringe	
Area	Basin may be found at DWR's Basin Boundary Modifications website:
	https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-
	Boundary-Modifications.
	Release of Final Modifications by DWR will be in February 2019.
	On January 29, 2019, County Board approved the submittal of a
	Notification of Intent to DWR to initiate development of a groundwater
	sustainability plan (GSP) for the "fringe areas" of the Santa Maria Basin.
	The Paso Basin Cooperative Committee is receiving and recommending that
	the GSAs in the Paso Basin receive and file Draft GSP Chapters as they are
	developed for the Paso Basin. To date, the Draft GSP Outline and Draft
Paso	Chapters 1-5 and a part of Chapter 11 (the Communication and Engagement
Robles	Plan) have been received and filed by the County Board of Supervisors.
Basin	In addition to the County's Paso SGMA page, Draft Chapters and Comment
	Forms can be found by visiting: <a href="https://www.pasogcp.com">www.pasogcp.com</a>
	The next regular meeting of the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee is April 24,
	2019 at Paso Robles City Council Chambers.
	The Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors meet on the first Wednesday of
	every month starting at 4 pm in Cuyama, CA. The next scheduled meeting is
Cuyama	February 6, 2019. Meeting topics will include sections of the groundwater
Basin	sustainability plan, basin model, management actions, and water budget, as
	well as public outreach and budget. For additional basin information, please
	visit: http://cuyamabasin.org/cuyama-gsa-board
	On October 16, the Board approved and submitted a Notification of Intent
	to initiate development of a GSP for the San Luis Obispo Valley
	Groundwater Basin.
_	• Interested parties are encouraged to participate in the basin specific efforts
San Luis	by attending the meetings of the Groundwater Sustainability Commission
Obispo Basin	of the San Luis Obispo Basin (Commission).
Dasiii	The Commission Consultant Selection Committee had selected a consultant
	to develop a GSP. The procurement process is anticipated to be completed
	by Winter 2019.
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**County SGMA website** - An interactive mapping tool is available for each medium and high priority basin in the county. Residents can verify whether a specific parcel is within a priority basin boundary, and, therefore, whether the parcel is subject to SGMA requirements. The website also includes other informative materials, such as SGMA fact sheets and recent presentation materials. Visit the website to sign up for the County's SGMA email list, and to visit basin-specific pages at: www.slocountywater.org/sgma

WRAC members and interested stakeholders are encouraged to join the various mailing lists for groundwater basin management efforts:

#### San Luis Obispo County's SGMA Mailing List

http://www.slocountywater.org/sgma

#### California Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGMA Mailing List

http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/subscribe.cfm

#### c) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

The Department of Water Resources is expected to release the final Prop 1 Project Solicitation Package soon.

In preparation of this opportunity, the RWMG will meet February 6th at 10am to discuss the grant opportunity. The meeting is held at the SLO City/County Library Community Room.

DWR Grant website: <a href="https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Proposition-1/Implementation-Grants">https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Proposition-1/Implementation-Grants</a>

The 2019 IRWM is being finalized this quarter. County staff expects to have a public draft presentation in April. More information regarding this public draft presentation will available once the plan is close to completion.

To stay up-to-date on all things IRWM, sign up for the email list, located at: <a href="https://slocountywater.org/site/Frequent%20Downloads/Integrated%20Regional%20Water%20Management%20Plan/">https://slocountywater.org/site/Frequent%20Downloads/Integrated%20Regional%20Water%20Management%20Plan/</a>

#### d) Stormwater Resource Plan

California Senate Bill No. 985 requires the development of a stormwater resource plan for public agencies to receive grant funds for stormwater and dry weather runoff capture projects.

Currently, the City of Arroyo Grande and the County of San Luis Obispo are collaborating to develop a region-wide SWRP. The SWRP must be compliant with the State Water Board's SWRP Guidelines adopted December 15, 2015 and the California Water Code Section 10561-10573. The work completed by the City of Arroyo Grande with Grant Agreement D1612607 is being combined with Task 12 of the County's Department of Water Resources IRWM Planning Grant (Agreement No. 4600011892).

The goals of the County of San Luis Obispo SWRP are to identify and prioritize stormwater and dry weather runoff capture projects in the county through detailed analyses of watershed conditions and processes, surface and groundwater resources, and the multiple benefits that can be achieved through stormwater-related capital projects and other programmatic actions.

The PMT has compiled a Project List through the solicitation of projects from stakeholders, TAC Leads, and other interested organizations and agencies. Stakeholder and public outreach meetings have been

used to disseminate information and to solicit both proposed projects as well as suggested approaches to project prioritization.

#### **Project Updates**

- The SWRP deadline for submittal of the Final draft to the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources is now February 28, 2019 due to an extended review and comment period by the SWRCB.
- As part of the match funding for the Prop 1 grant, the City of Arroyo Grande has contracted with WSC to develop a Santa Maria Groundwater Basin model to evaluate the benefits of a few of the projects submitted to the SWRP. Dan Heimel from WSC is the project manager for the groundwater model development.

For more information see the County of San Luis Obispo's SWRP <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees/Stormwater-Resource-Plan.aspx">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees/Stormwater-Resource-Plan.aspx</a>

For questions, contact: Larissa Clarke, SWRP Project Manager Email: lclarke@coastalrcd.org Phone: (805) 772-4391

#### e) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

#### **Countywide Water Conservation Program**

http://www.slocountywwcp.org

**Paso Robles Groundwater Basin** – The County is continuing to process building permits that are subject to the fees of the PRGWB. The Cash for Grass program offers \$1 per square foot up to a maximum rebate amount of \$6,000 per household. The Washer Rebate Program offers \$250 per household when replacing an old washer with a new water efficient washer (replacement must save at least 15 gallons). The Plumbing Retrofit Program offers homeowners the opportunity to replace old fixtures with new water efficient fixtures in their homes (limited to 2 toilets, 2 showerheads, and 2 faucet aerators) at no cost from the homeowner.

**Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area** – The County is continuing to process building permits subject to the fees of the NMWCA. The Cash for Grass program offers \$1 per square foot up to a maximum rebate amount of \$6,000 per household. The Washer Rebate Program offers \$250 per household when replacing an old washer with a new water efficient washer (replacement must save at least 15 gallons). The Plumbing Retrofit Program offers homeowners the opportunity to replace old fixtures with new water efficient fixtures in their homes (limited to 2 toilets, 2 showerheads, and 2 faucet aerators) at no cost from the homeowner.

**Los Osos** – The retrofit to build and retrofit on sale program within the community of Los Osos is allowing property owners to retrofit washers within and outside the prohibition zone to acquire retrofit credits. At this time, to earn enough credits to build one single family residence (300 credits), a property owner would need to replace 6-8 washers; a total cost ranging between \$4,000-\$6,000.

For questions, contact: Kylie Hensley, Planner Email: khensley@co.slo.ca.us

Phone: (805) 781-4979

#### f) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

WRAC members or members of the public may openly report on any topic related to water conservation including opportunities to be a part of a water conservation focus group, reporting back on water conservation groups that they are a part of, or providing information on water conservation items.

#### Rainfall and Reservoir Update

		Avarage	2017-18							2018-	19 Wate	r Year					
Sub-Region	Area / Rain Station	Average Annual Rainfall	Water Year Total Rainfall	July 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Cumulative Total	% of Total Average
North Coast	Cambria (ALERT #717)	22.0	14.8 (67%)	0	0	0	0.20	3.11	1.62	6.64 <sup>A</sup>						11.57	53%
North Coast	Whale Rock Reservoir (County Site #166.1)	16.0	11.6 (72%)	0	0	0	0.43	2.66	1.57	3.79 A						8.45	53%
	Paso Robles (County Site #10.0)	14.1	10.8 (76%)	0	0	0	0.28	3.23	1.12	4.56 <sup>A</sup>						9.19	65%
	NE Atascadero (ALERT #711)	17.0	9.1 (54%)	0	0	0	0.16	2.68	0.83	4.16 <sup>A</sup>						7.83	46%
Inland	Atascadero MWC (County Site #34.0)	17.5	12.2 (70%)	0	0	0	0.16	3.58	1.24	5.18 <sup>A</sup>						10.16	58%
	Santa Margarita (ALERT #723)	24.0	13.8 (57%)	0	0	0	0.31	3.70	0.99	7.52 <sup>A</sup>						12.52	52%
	Salinas Dam (County Site #94)	20.9	13.8 (66%)	0	0	0	0.91	4.63	0.98	7.56 <sup>A</sup>						14.08	67%
	SLO Reservoir (ALERT #749)	24.0	13.1 (55%)	0	0	0	0.52	4.41	1.07	5.60 A						11.60	48%
South Coast	Lopez Dam (ALERT #737)	21.0	11.7 (56%)	0	0	0	0.63	2.66	1.14	5.78 <sup>A</sup>						10.21	49%
Journ Coast	Nipomo South (ALERT #730)	16.0	8.8 (55%)	0	0	0	0.28	1.65	0.79	3.03 A						5.75	36%
	Nipomo East (ALERT #728)	18.0	9.6 (53%)	0	0	0	0.31	2.28	1.06	3.66 <sup>A</sup>						7.31	41%

This table contains provisional data from automated gauges and has not been verified. All units reported in inches.

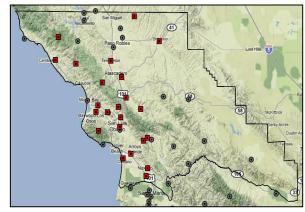
#### **Reservoir Update**

Reservoir	Date	Water Elevation (ft)	Spillway Elevation (ft)	Storage (acre-feet)	Capacity (%)
Nacimiento	<b>January 28, 2019</b>	696.4	787.75 - 800.0	58,043	15%
Reservoir	January 28, 2018	751.5	(w/gates fully inflated)	156,125	41%
Lopez	<b>January 28, 2019</b>	480.8	522.7	20,062	41%
Reservoir	January 28, 2018	490.4		25,220	51%
Salinas Reservoir	<b>January 28, 2019</b>	1,296.0	1300.7	20,527	86%
(Santa Margarita Lake)	January 28, 2018	1,294.3		19,425	81%
Whale Rock	<b>January 23, 2019</b>	198.0	218.3	29,310	75%
Reservoir	January 23, 2019	196.7		28,677	74%
Twitchell	<b>January 28, 2019</b>	N/A	651.5	0	0%
Reservoir	January 25, 2018	550.7		8,105	4%

Note 1: Historically, Twitchell Reservoir elevation gauge does not report values below 539 ft. Twitchell Reservoir was designed for protection from flood and drought. Excess rain runoff is stored in the reservoir protecting the valley from flood, then water is released as quickly as possible while still allowing it to recharge the groundwater basin.

Note 2: In May 2014, the Whale Rock Commission adopted a new Bathymetric Study and Volumetric Analysis with new lake capacity and spillway elevation values. Those new values are reflected in this report.

#### Select Real-Time Rain Gauges in SLO County



Sites maintained by County staff are identified with red squares. Sites maintained by other agencies are identified with black circles. For more information, please contact Joe Betancourt, (805)781-2767.

A - Report generated at 10:15 A.M. on 01/29/2019

B - Due to an equipment malfunction, not all rain was recorded at this site.

FROM: Ray Dienzo, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: February 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 4: Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on

Additional Water Conservation Measures that can be

submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Their

**Consideration and Consider Actions** 

#### Recommendation

Receive report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Additional Water Conservation Measures that can be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Their Consideration and Consider Actions

#### Discussion

During the WRAC meeting March 7, 2018, a Water Conservation Subcommittee was formed to develop recommendations on additional water conservation measures that can be recommended to the Board of Supervisors. Andy Pease, David Chipping, Linda Chipping, Linda Seifert, and Steph Wald volunteered to participate in the sub-committee. The subcommittee initially met on May 9, 2018. George Kendall joined the subcommittee on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

The group met on August 6<sup>th</sup>, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, October 31<sup>th</sup>, and Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

In the most recent meeting on January 10, 2019, the group finalized their recommendations. The updates are summarized in the attached draft letter and the chart of recommendations.

#### Attachments:

- Draft Letter Findings of the WRAC Water Conservation Ad Hoc Committee
- WRAC Ad Hoc Committee Water Conservation Measures Chart

Honorable Debbie Arnold Chair, Board of Supervisors County of San Luis Obispo 1050 Monterey Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: Findings of the WRAC Water Conservation Ad Hoc Committee

Honorable Supervisor Arnold:

As you know, the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) was formed to advise the Board of Supervisors [BOS] on policy issues that relate to water resources and to propose recommendations on water resource and water conservation programs (WRAC Bylaws). In furtherance of that mandate, in 2018 WRAC established a Water Conservation Ad Hoc Committee [AHC] specifically charged with investigating water conservation measures for our county that would enhance available resources and provide value to residents.

Over several months, the subcommittee evaluated possible measures in the following areas; (1) urban use, {2) agricultural use, and (3) groundwater recharge. The AHC met multiple times, reporting back to the WRAC membership as it progressed. It reviewed the county's current valuable water conservation efforts and researched other water conservation measures throughout the state. The meetings included representatives from the county Planning Department and City of San Luis Obispo water resources staff. The recommendations were presented to the full WRAC Board, which refined the water conservation measures.

The following recommendations are presented as measures that would further the efforts of water resilience for the county. Some of the measures would broadly benefit our entire county while others are more focused on non-SGMA basins, with the intention of avoiding future SGMA requirement mandates:

- 1) Convene a joint ALAB (Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board) and WRAC subcommittee to identify strategies to optimize water use and groundwater recharge in agriculture appropriate for our county.
  - ALAB has established a water conservation subcommittee to work with a WRAC subcommittee.
  - A substantial amount of agricultural water use in this county comes from groundwater.
  - The shared interest and expertise of ALAB and WRAC could result in the identification and implementation of significantly beneficial strategies that will enhance the economic viability of the local agricultural community as well as conserve water resources on behalf of the all residents.

# 2) Recommend that WRAC work with the existing county Partners in Water Conservation to identify and implement additional urban landscape strategies and Best Management Practices

- New landscape technologies and practices have been identified and should be introduced to a wider audience.
- The importance of landscape training is an effective tool, and if made available to the public, would have a positive impact on water conservation efforts.
- Through this methodology, best practices for compliance with current California regulations can be shared between jurisdictions.

## 3) Extend the implementation of water conservation measures to areas when designated as a Level of Severity II by the biennial RMS (Resource Management System)

- It is easier and less costly to prevent excessive resource use before sustainability becomes untenable.
- The LOS II water supply criteria states: "Water demand projected over 15-20 years (or other lead time determined by a resource capacity study) equals or exceeds the estimated dependable supply."
- LOS III Water supply criteria states: "Demand projected over 15 years (or other lead time determined by a resource capacity study) equals or exceeds the estimated dependable supply; OR, the time required to correct the problem is longer than the time available before the dependable supply is reached."
- Recognition that demand will soon exceed supply suggests that local policymakers should address strategies that will address supply/demand issues.

## 4) Direct staff to plan, budget and prepare hydrological studies for non-SGMA basins and fractured rock sources where needed, to identify water resource at-risk areas.

- Such studies would be a useful tool for agricultural and population land use planning for current and future generations.
- WRAC would recommend that the BOS identify ways thereafter to implement resource management proactively.

# 5) Recommend that WRAC work with staff to formalize, maintain and make available to all county water users a Resource Library of Best Management Practices on water conservation supply and demand practices.

- A readily available library would be an up-to-date, one-stop easily accessed educational center, linking to other developed websites and programs. During its work, the AHC identified a host of valuable resources that could form the basis for this recommendation's implementation.
- Increases motivation to incorporate additional water saving techniques and skills.

### 6) Direct staff to analyze and expand groundwater recharge opportunities in both rural and urban environments.

- As the BOS is aware, water demand conservation practices alone will not be sufficient to meet the challenge of sustainability going forward.
- Opportunities for groundwater recharge during wet periods should be identified and necessary resources budgeted for implementation to increase water supply resources.

## 7) Continue to support WRAC's inclusion of informational presentations on water conservation, recharge and new water sources as a part of the regular meetings.

- WRAC is an excellent forum to keep a large, diverse membership informed and provides for an exchange of diverse views and ideas.
- Members have the opportunity to address questions to speakers and share their own thoughts on matters of interest and concern.
- Exposes members to ideas, techniques that may be adaptable to their needs. Among the future topics expected to be addressed are:
  - Watershed wise landscape systems
  - Evolving technologies for desalination
  - o Impacts of climate change on water resources
  - Healthy Soil Initiative

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to continuing our work for water resilience and regional cooperation throughout our county. We also look forward to working with the BOS in furtherance of the aforementioned recommendations and to addressing any questions or thoughts you may have.

On February 6, 2019, the WRAC membership approved this report for consideration by your Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Pease Chairperson Water Resources Advisory Committee

cc: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, All Districts

Attachment: Water Conservation Measures Chart

	6-Feb-19			
		Decrease	Demand	Increase Supply
	Water Conservation Measures	Urban	Agriculture	Groundwater Recharge
I.	Irrigation Systems			
	New technologies/improvements for additional			
	irrigation efficiencies	X	X	
	Irrigation efficiency consultant program	X	X	
	Develop a library of Best Management Practices	X	X	
	Continue the county Mobile Irrigation Lab			
	program, expand capabilities for additional on-			
	farm water efficiency measures		X	
	Expand the number of CIMIS (CA Irrigation			
	Management Information System) weather			
	stations in county, w/on-farm and online access		X	
	satisfied in country, wy on furth und offine decess			
II.	Rebates and Incentivizing Opportunities			
11.	Irrigation Upgrade Rebates, including weather			
	based irrigation controllers	X	X	
	Tiered water meter pricing structures	X	A	
	Fund public water conserving landscape classes,			
	offer rebates to attendees	X		
	Rebates or program incentives for water well	Λ		
	meters - grants?		X	
	Incentive for CIMIS program installation on farms		X	
	Expand current county rebate programs to include		^	
	additional conservation measures and to serve			
	other areas	v		
		X X		
	Incentive for gray water systems retrofits	Λ		
III.	Educational Opportunities Developed / Expanded			
	Engage/utilize RCDs, UCCE, Cal Poly Irrigation			
	Training & Research Center for workshops,			
	courses, continuing education courses	X	X	
	Water-conserving landscape design classes for			
	home owners	X		
	Initiate a program to showcase water conservation			
	built projects	X	X	
	Develop county rebate program for specific		A	
	agricultural water conservation measures		X	
	Develop and initiate agricultural water		A	
	management plan courses, paired with incentives		X	
	Develop/maintain a Best Management Practices		Λ	
	Library for water resources conservation	X	X	X
	Identify and arrange for future speakers at WRAC	Λ	Λ	Λ
	meetings or other venue	X	X	X
	Showcase projects that demonstrate effective	Λ	Λ	Λ
	and/or unique conservation practices	X	X	
	and or unique conservation practices	Λ	Λ	

### WRAC Ad Hoc Committee Water Conservation Measures Chart

IV.	<u>Groundwater Recharge</u>			
	Promote programs for stormwater capture on			
	private and public properties	X	X	X
	Promote water infiltration rather than runoff to			
	sidewalks, streets and gutters	X		X
	Identify legal/regulatory constraints for			
	stormwater capture, off-creek recharge	X	X	X
	Conduct hydrologic studies for important non-			
	SGMA basins or fractured rock areas of county			X
	Land use planning should protect potential			
	recharge areas	X	X	X
	Other Measures			
	Promote/encourage on site soil moisture and			
	evapotranspiration monitoring		X	
	Where appropriate/feasible, use wind machines			
	for frost control		X	
	Reduce pond evaporation loss		Х	X
	Conduct WRAC and ALAB subcommittees meetings			
	to identifyimproved ag water efficiency measures		X	X
	Identify and arrange for future speakers at WRAC			
	meetings or other venue	X	X	X
	Increase opportunities for recycled water use	X	X	X
	Require on-site gray water recycling in new			
	development	X		
	Create/utilize a system of triggers to identify			
	negative water resource impacts	X	X	

FROM: Ray Dienzo, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: February 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 5: Consider Scheduling Updates of Water

**Resources Issues from Each Group or Agency** 

#### Recommendation

Schedule updates of water resources issues from each WRAC group or agency that can be added to the agenda for each month of the 2019 WRAC meetings.

#### Discussion

As stated in the WRAC By-laws, the purposes of the WRAC are to "advise the Board concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources"; to recommend "specific water resource and water conservation programs with recognition of the economic and environmental values of the programs"; and to recommend "methods of financing water resources programs."

Using ideas from all the groups and agencies represented by the WRAC would supply a source of considerations that could lead to valuable and relevant County-wide policy recommendations.

Article II.8 of the WRAC By-laws state, "Members are encouraged to provide an update on water resource issues relevant to their group or agency at least once per year."

These updates should bring issues that are important to each group or agency and would foster a flow of ideas that may develop into County-wide significance.

FROM: Ray Dienzo, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: February 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6: Discuss Future Agenda Items

The WRAC Secretary, in cooperation with the Chairperson, prepares the agenda for each WRAC meeting. Inclusion of suggested future agenda items on the agenda will be limited to include review for consistency with District and Board of Supervisors priorities, the mandate of the WRAC, and available time.

#### **Areas of Interest**

- In-stream requirements for ecosystem species
- Projects/Programs that integrate flood management, water quality and groundwater recharge
- On-site water/energy efficiency practices (e.g. energy generating greywater systems, septic system conversions)
- Well permitting regulation as a tool for groundwater management
- Desalination opportunities
- Updates from Member Stakeholders
- Consider recommending to the Board that groundwater pumpers within groundwater basins that have Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) have direct representation within their GSA's.
- Impact of climate change on water resources speaker from Central Coast Water Board
- Mark Battany soil moisture, evapotranspiration
- Urban water loss audits, how to recover water loss, costs
- Partners in Water Conservation update
- Urban Water and Carbon Sequestration
- Healthy Soils Initiative
- Pajaro recharge basins speaker
- County legislative platform for water resources issues

<u>Ongoing Updates/Regular Items –</u> other items not shown here can be seen in the previous month's agenda

- Groundwater basin management Updates
- Various County-led water programs, policies and ordinances
- Open reporting on water conservation opportunities and information

#### Excerpt from WRAC By-laws dated August 15, 2017

Administration: The Secretary, in cooperation with the Chairperson, shall prepare the agenda for each regular and special meeting of the WRAC. Any WRAC member may contact the Secretary and Chairperson and request that an item be placed on the regular meeting agenda no later than 4:30 p.m. twelve calendar days prior to the applicable meeting date. Such a request must be also submitted in writing either at the time of communication with the Secretary or delivered to the County Public Works Department within the next working day. Consideration of the request by the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chairperson, for inclusion on the agenda will be limited to include review for consistency with District and Board of Supervisors priorities, the mandate of the WRAC, and available time.