

SLO City/County Library Community Room  
995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA

Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
1:30PM

## **MINUTES (Final)**

Chairperson: Thomas Burhenn  
Vice Chairperson: Vacant  
Secretary: Brendan Clark

The following action minutes are listed as they were acted upon by the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) as listed on the Regular Meeting agenda for **February 5, 2025** together with staff reports and related documents attached thereto and incorporated therein by reference.

The video recording of the meeting and materials submitted to the WRAC are available online: [https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-\(WRAC\).aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-(WRAC).aspx)

Call to order at 1:30 PM

### **1) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions**

The number of voting Members present is 19. Quorum met.

### **2) Approval of November 6, 2024, WRAC Meeting Minutes**

*Item start time ~ 00:05:00*

T. Burhenn introduces the item and asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

T. Walters moves to approve the November 6, 2024 meeting minutes, as presented.

C. Mulholland seconds the motion.

Motion carries 19-0-0-1.

### **3) Receive Update from County Staff on the DESAL Plan**

*Item start time ~ 00:05:27*

T. Burhenn introduces the item and C. Howard provides a presentation with updates on the DESAL Plan.

D. Chipping asks if the project is being funded by Federal or State funds.

C. Howard Responds.

Z. Landrum asks for clarification on the consultant selection process and if local references were used. C. Howard Responds.

T. Walters asks if there will be future grant opportunities once Phase 2B is reached in the project. C. Howard responds.

P. Brown asks if other alternatives for new water sources have been identified or will be considered. C. Howard responds.

C. Mulholland asks if data gaps for the environmental sector will be addressed through the planning process. C. Howard responds.

E. Greening asks if entities inland of the Santa Lucia Mountains could participate financially in exchange for keeping Salinas River water now exported coastwards.  
C. Howard responds.

J. Marx asks why the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary has not been included as part of the plan and what environmental and regulatory criteria is being considered for the project.  
C. Howard responds.

M. Van Ryn asks if PG&E will have a role in the desalination planning process.  
C. Howard responds.

D. Chipping asks if this project will consider advanced treated recycled water (toilet-to-tap) as a viable alternative to ocean desalination, given its lower salinity. C. Howard responds.

G. Grewal comments on Salinas River recharge and other water planning alternatives that could benefit the region. C. Howard responds.

An unidentified attendee asks how the participants will be determined and how water will be distributed to them. C. Howard responds.

An unidentified attendee asks if local requirements, like Morro Bay's A-24, may be factored into the plan. C. Howard responds.

D. Chipping asks if a cost analysis has been or will be conducted and what alternatives are being considered for cost savings. C. Howard responds.

M. van Ryn asks if the cost analysis will break down domestic and agricultural use as well as identify opportunities for farming to improve their irrigation practices. C. Howard responds.

T. Burhenn asks if there is a formal State regulation requiring the use of recycled water as a condition for permitting ocean desalination. C. Howard responds.

An unidentified attendee asks if regulatory requirements will be adjusted based the urgency of need, with potential exemptions for situations of high criticality. Also, is there a current number, or rule of thumb for anticipating the cost desalinated water? C. Howard responds.

**4) Receive Presentation from County Staff on Participating in the next phase of the State Water Project's Delta Conveyance Project Planning**

*Item start time ~ 00:38:12*

T. Burhenn introduces the item and W. Thompson provides a presentation on the next phase of the State Water Project's Delta Conveyance Project planning.

D. Chipping comments on the issue of available Federal and State water releases and questions the advantages of taking water from the top versus the bottom of the Delta.

E. Greening asks how the project would be more earthquake resilient compared to the status quo and what would it cost. W. Thompson and Peter B. respond.

D. Roques asks for clarification on the meaning of "Keep Door Open" referenced during the DCP Planning & Pre-Construction phase. W. Thompson responds.

D. Crater asks for clarification on the funding allocation for local and County costs during the DCP Planning & Pre-Construction phase. W. Thompson responds.

G. Grewal comments on the disparity between State Water tax contributions and the benefits received. W. Thompson responds.

E. Greening asks if a recommendation from the WRAC is being requested for the Delta Conveyance Project. W. Thompson responds.

**5) Ongoing Updates**

*Item start time ~ 00:56:52*

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

B. Clark comments that this month's report includes a Statewide drought and precipitation variation chart. The Committee discusses rainfall variances throughout the County and State.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

No comments.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

P. Brown comments on the NCMA planning and reporting efforts.

d) Flood Control Zones

C. Mulholland comments that the Zone 9 Mid-Higuera Bypass project will be starting this winter to increase flood control and capacity in San Luis Creek.

e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

No comments.

f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

No comments.

g) State Water Project (SWP)

T. Burhenn reminds WRAC Members to submit written comments for the March SWP agenda item. W. Thompson requests written comments to be submitted by February 21<sup>st</sup>.

h) Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan (DESAL Plan)

No comments.

i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

E. Greening comments on the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comments.

**6) Future Agenda Items**

*Item start time ~ 01:03:09*

E. Greening asks if the Committee would be interested in a presentation from the County's Office of Emergency Services on the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

B. Clark responds.

D. Chipping requests input from Los Osos regarding the relationship between water quality, supply, and growth rate. B. Clark and E. Greening respond.

S. Carter asks about receiving a presentation from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. B. Clark responds.

M. van Ryn asks if Western Growers have ever presented to the WRAC.

**7) Public Comment for Items not on Agenda**

G. Grewal comments on the Governor's Executive Order for stormwater capture projects.