

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

Wednesday, March 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 **March 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 22. Quorum met.

### **2) Approval of February 5, 2025, WRAC Meeting Minutes**

*Item start time ~ 00:05:25*

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

E. Greening provides clarifying language regarding his comment on Agenda Item 3: DESAL Plan updates.

C. Mulholland requests a correction to the misspelling of her last name under Agenda Item 5.d.

An unknown attendee requests a correction to the listing of Vice-Chair Guthrie, as he was not present.

C. Mulholland moves to approve the February 5, 2025, meeting minutes, as amended.

E. Greening seconds the motion.

Motion carries 19-0-3-0.

### **3) Receive Presentation from WSP on the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

*Item start time ~ 00:08:12*

T. Burhenn introduces the item and J. Brislawn from WSP provides a presentation on the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

E. Greening asks about the use of geological markers or other tools to assess tsunami risks. J. Brislawn responds.

G. Grewal comments on the legal definition of 'overdraft' and discusses groundwater management programs, stormwater capture, greywater reuse, fire and flood risk mitigation, and well monitoring networks.

D. Chipping comments on the inclusion of building code changes and associated cost evaluations for urban flood mitigation, and also comments on the term 'well-deepening' and the issue of declining groundwater levels.

M. van Ryn asks about the funding mechanism for domestic well monitoring and the planned size of the monitoring network. M. Baum responds.

D. Crater comments that increased aquifer recharge would reduce or eliminate the need for a well assistance program. M. Baum responds.

G. Grewal comments on the potential of stormwater capture to recharge the Paso Basin, using average rainfall data, and noted the size difference between the GSA-managed area and the DWR-defined boundary.

J. Marx asks which Water Planning Area includes the San Luis Obispo Aquifer and if injection well fields have been considered as a method for artificial aquifer recharge. M. Baum responds.

M. Blankenship comments on the damage and impacts in Paso Robles following the 2003 San Simeon earthquake, and asks if there is any recorded history or data regarding the earthquake's effect on Paso Robles water sources/supply. J. Brislawn responds.

#### **4) Receive Update from County Staff regarding State Water Policies**

*Item start time ~ 00:47:00*

T. Burhenn introduces the item and W. Thompson provides an update on State Water Policies.

E. Greening asks if State Water's chloramination process makes it unsuitable for groundwater injection/percolation and inquires about the existence and cost of portable de-chloramination. W. Thompson responds.

J. Marx comments on the City of San Luis Obispo's past decisions to turn down State Water due to issues of cost and reliability.

G. Grewal comments on the allocation of county tax dollars for State Water funding, fair compensation, and distribution of priority rights.

C. Mulholland comments that increased focus should be placed on water use reduction as a strategy for basin recharge.

D. Chipping asks if the District could inquire with the State about using their chlorinated water for basin injection purposes. W. Thompson responds.

Unidentified asks if the SWP allocation of 35% would also apply to Los Osos, for example, if they had a contract with the District. W. Thompson responds.

P. Brown comments on the purpose of the presentation and reminds WRAC members to provide additional feedback directly to W. Thompson.

#### **5) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

*Item start time ~ 01:19:22*

T. Burhenn introduces the item and asks for Chair and Vice-Chair nominations from the Committee.

C. Mulholland moves to nominate T. Burhenn for WRAC Chairperson.

T. Burhenn states his willingness to continue serving as WRAC Chairperson.

R. Munds seconds the motion.

Motion carries 20-0-0-2

Nominations for Vice-Chair will be considered at a future meeting.

#### **6) Consider Submitting the 2024 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors**

*Item start time ~ 01:21:17*

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

T. Walters moves to submit the 2024 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors.

C. Mulholland seconds the motion.

Motion carries 20-0-0-2

#### **7) Ongoing Updates**

*Item start time ~ 01:22:13*

##### **a) Rain & Reservoir Report**

No comments.

##### **b) California Drought Monitor Summary**

No comments.

- c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts  
G. Grewal comments on the efforts of the Paso Basin GSAs to execute a JPA.
- d) Flood Control Zones  
No comments.
- e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)  
B. Clark comments on Proposition 4 (passed November 2024).
- f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update  
No comments.
- g) State Water Project (SWP)  
No comments.
- h) Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan (DESAL Plan)  
No comments.
- i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances  
No comments.
- j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information  
No comments.

## **8) Future Agenda Items**

*Item start time ~ 01:25:45*

T. Burhenn notes a follow up to the Western Growers item which was previously suggested.

E. Greening comments on federal agency staff reductions, including those at the National Weather Service and Bureau of Reclamation, which affect their essential functions and asks if the WRAC would be interested in agendizing a letter to the Board of Supervisors, utilizing the County's legislative platform, to advocate for preserving agency staffing. B. Clark responds.

B. Clark comments that the Central Coast Water Board has been invited to present at a future meeting.

## **9) Public Comment for Items not on Agenda**

G. Grewal comments on arranging tours of the Central Coast Water Authority facilities in North County.