

March 31, 2014

Honorable Bruce Gibson  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Luis Obispo  
1050 Monterey Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: Water Resources Advisory Committee 2013 Annual Report

Honorable Sirs and Madams,

This brief report is submitted to your Board to summarize the highlights of the activities of your Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) for the calendar year 2013.

The WRAC serves as an advisory committee for your Board. It is composed of 34 Members and their Alternates: 5 representing the Supervisorial Districts, 7 for the incorporated Cities, 8 independent Community Services Districts, 2 large water companies (Golden State and Atascadero Mutual), 2 Resource Conservation Districts, 3 Environmental at-Large, 2 Agriculture at-large and 1 Farm Bureau, 1 Development at-large, and 3 other institutions (Camp SLO, California Men's Colony and Cuesta College). On average, 30 Members and Alternates are in attendance at any meeting. Many interested members of the public, as well as staff of various agencies, were also in attendance at the meetings. We saw various members join the WRAC and others leave during the year.

Every meeting involves the sharing of water resource information and news among Members and guests. In addition, there is discussion about rainfall and reservoir status in various parts of the county. Changes in State and Federal law and regulations are noted as well, with informal discussion about their implications. The year 2013 was a busy one for the WRAC with full agendas at each meeting. Good attendance by Members and/or Alternates was the norm.

The WRAC continues to be a respected advisory council to the District Board of Supervisors concerning our water resources.

A brief summary of the meetings during 2013 follows, along with the actions taken by the Board of Supervisors, if any, with respect to the WRAC's recommendations. Following the brief summary are month-by-month highlights of our meetings.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the WRAC unanimously approved this report for submittal to your Board.

Respectfully submitted,



A. Sue Luft  
WRAC Chairperson

Attachments: WRAC 2013 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors  
WRAC 2013 Member and Guest Attendance Records

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

**Water Resources Advisory Committee  
2013 Annual Report to the  
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors**

**TOP ISSUES ADDRESSED BY WRAC IN 2013:**

As has been done historically, the WRAC weighed in on the water and wastewater components of the Biennial Summary report for the County Resource Management System. Our comments were submitted to and were taken into consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

The WRAC received regular presentations regarding the IRWM process, grant status and updates to the IRWM Plan. A subcommittee report regarding the Draft IRWM Project Solicitation and comment letter to DWR regarding matters related to the IRWM Plan were approved by the WRAC.

A subcommittee was formed to review the water resource components of the recirculated DEIR for the Laetitia Agricultural Cluster Development. The WRAC reviewed, amended and submitted the subcommittee report to the Board of Supervisors.

The WRAC received regular updates and weighed in on several occasions regarding the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. Support was given for staff's recommendations regarding the Groundwater Basin Management Plan priorities. The WRAC supported securing technical and legal advice to formulate the most feasible structure and public process to enable the formation of a management district for the Basin. The Board of Supervisors adopted the WRAC's recommendations.

An annual task of the WRAC is the review of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District's annual budget. The fiscal year 2013/14 budget was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

The subcommittee report regarding the Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry DEIR was approved by the WRAC and transmitted to the Board of Supervisors.

The WRAC heard reports on the Land Use and Circulation Element update, the UC Cooperative Extension vineyard irrigation study, the Oceano CSD water related activities, the Nipomo Supplemental Water Alternatives, Recycled Water Strategic Planning, the RCD's Watershed Management Planning effort, and the IRWM grant funded Instream Flow Study Stage I results.

It is important to note that meetings involve in-depth discussion of critical agenda items, allowing consideration of various perspectives before decisions are made.

**Water Resources Advisory Committee  
2013 Annual Report to the  
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors**

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH:**

*\*\*Please note that monthly updates are provided on ongoing programs such as the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), rain and reservoir report, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin management, etc.*

**January, 2013**

The Subcommittee Report on the Review of the Water and Wastewater Components of the Biennial Summary Report (Report) for the County Resource Management System was reviewed.

**February, 2013**

The need to fill the vacancy left by Della Barrett on the Oster/Pilitas Quarry Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) Subcommittee was addressed. Member John Hollenback volunteered to serve on and chair the subcommittee.

Ad hoc subcommittee was formed to review the water resource components of a recirculated DEIR for the proposed Laetitia Agricultural Cluster Development.

The WRAC approved sending a draft of a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the water and wastewater components of the RMS Biennial Summary Report. The letter was approved to be sent as written by a vote of 16-1-0.

The Cambria CSD board recommended that Cambria's level of severity for water supply be reduced from LOS III to LOS I in the Biennial Report based on the implementation of an aggressive conservation plan. The WRAC agreed that this issue would be discussed in the future in the context of the RMS update.

The County Planning and Building Department presented on the Phase I revision to the Land Use and Circulation Element. No ad hoc subcommittee was formed to review the revisions.

**March, 2013**

Member Luft is unanimously elected the 2013 WRAC Chairperson and Member Ashbaugh is unanimously elected the 2013 WRAC Vice Chairperson.

The 2012 Annual Report was submitted for consideration. The report, with small amendments, was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors by a vote of 19-1-2.

Ad hoc subcommittee was formed to review applications for the vacant Agricultural at-Large Member position and develop a recommendation for the WRAC.

**April, 2013**

UC Cooperative Extension presented a study on vineyard irrigation and water use in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. The study showed a wide range of irrigation practices in the area.

Oceano Community Services District (CSD) provided an update of its water related activities.

### **May, 2013**

After review and discussion, the WRAC recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed fiscal year 2013/14 Flood Control General Budget by a vote of 18-1-2.

The WRAC supported Staff's recommendations in relation to the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan implementation priorities by a vote of 12-2-0. The WRAC recommended that the Board support securing technical and legal advice to formulate the most feasible structure and public process to enable the formation of a Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Management District by a vote of 16-1-0.

WRAC unanimously approved transmitting the Subcommittee Report as comments on the Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry DEIR to both the Board of Supervisors and Planning Department for consideration by a vote of 10-0-0. Subsequent consideration by the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors has not yet been scheduled.

### **June, 2013**

Two members of the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWM) ad hoc Subcommittee were no longer serving on the subcommittee. Member John Ashbaugh volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

After reviewing the Subcommittee's recommendation, discussion, and a unanimous vote of 22-0-0, the WRAC appointed Kurt Bollinger as the Agriculture At-Large Member to the Board of Supervisors.

A Nipomo CSD advisory committee presented their evaluation of the Nipomo Supplemental Water Alternatives.

The WRAC approved a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 1:30 PM.

Public Works Staff announced the execution of the \$10.4-million Implementation Grant Agreement with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR).

### **July, 2013**

No meeting.

### **August, 2013 (Special Meeting)**

The Laetitia Agriculture Cluster Development subcommittee report was presented. After discussions and approved amendments, the WRAC approved transmitting the Subcommittee Report as comments to both the Board of Supervisors and Planning Department for consideration by a vote of 17-0-2. Subsequent consideration by the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors has yet not been scheduled.

Public Works Department Staff provided an update on the various State IRWM grant funded efforts underway, as well as updated the WRAC on extensive IRWM Plan outreach being conducted.

### **September, 2013**

Public Works Director Paavo Ogren summarized the August 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Efforts. The Board of Supervisors scheduled a meeting in October to consider extending the Urgency Ordinance for up to two years.

The WRAC adopted the Subcommittee Report (with a few changes) on the Draft IRWM Project Solicitation and forwarded it to the IRWM Regional Water Management Group by a vote of 19-1-1.

The WRAC discussed its role in reviewing individual project environmental documents, while reflecting on historical participation in such review processes.

### **October, 2013**

County Environmental Health Staff provides an update on recent Board of Supervisors' action taken to approve a GIS specialist position intended to help convert historic and future well and water data into a usable format that can be used for modeling and decision making purposes.

In a status update on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management efforts, WRAC learned that the Board of Supervisors directed staff to continue coordinating with the Blue Ribbon Steering Committee and Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on efforts associated with developing a governance structure for the Basin.

WRAC agrees to add an item on an early 2014 agenda to consider developing individual project review language for a potential WRAC Bylaws amendment.

After discussion and a minor revision, the WRAC approved support for letters from County Public Works and the RWMG to DWR on matters related to the State's IRWM Plan Review Process, as well as approves a motion to send its own comment letter.

### **November, 2013**

Three informational presentations were provided to the WRAC on the topic of Recycled Water strategic planning and implementation. One provided an overview of the grant-funded SLO County Regional Recycled Water Strategic Plan (RRWSP), a second on the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency's recycled water program, and a third on the City of San Luis Obispo's recycled water infrastructure and areas of application.

### **December, 2013**

Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District Staff presented on the nearly-complete, grant-funded Watershed Management Planning effort. This planning effort's goals were presented including establishing an outline for how to proceed with a future Regional Watershed Management Plan. Stillwater Sciences presented on the IRWM grant funded Instream Flow Study Stage I draft results. Both are integral components in updating the regional IRWM Plan.

INSERT 2013 ATTENDANCE RECORDS – Member and Guest