

MINUTES (Approved)

Chairperson: Andy Pease
Vice Chairperson: Ray Dienzo
Secretary: Brendan Clark

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 **October 6th, 2021** 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: [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

A quorum of 17 is established.

2) Consider Adopting Resolution Regarding Virtual Meetings (AB 361)

B. Clark introduces the item and provides a summary of Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), which allows legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue meeting by teleconference, provided they make certain findings, including that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Staff recommends that the Committee adopt the resolution attached to the agenda packet, invoking the provisions of AB 361 and authorizing the WRAC to continue meeting by teleconference for a period of thirty days

C. Mulholland moves to adopt the resolution and S. Sinton seconds the motion. Motion carries (17-0-0).

3) Approval of September 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A. Pease introduces the item and asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

C. Mulholland and D. Chipping comment on the format of the meeting minutes and ask that both questions and responses be included in future meeting minutes. A. Pease responds.

C. Mulholland moves to approve the September 1st, 2021 meeting minutes and S. Sinton seconds the motion. Motion carries (17-0-0).

4) Drought & Agriculture in San Luis Obispo County, Panel Discussion: Jerry Rutiz, Rutiz Farms; Seth Scribner, President, SLO County Cattlemen; Bob Schiebelhut, Edna Valley Vintner and Grower; Steve Carter, Member, SLO County Farm Bureau

A. Pease introduces the item and B. Clark facilitates the panel discussion about the effects of drought on production agriculture, vineyards, and ranching.

A recording of the panel discussion is available at <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/wrac>.

The following topics were discussed:

- Roles in agriculture and history with water.
- The 2013-2017 drought and how it affected each business and sector of agriculture at large.
- Drought monitoring and concerns, how industries and operations adjust to drought, and the types of drought contingency plans that are in place for each sector.
- Water conservation practices being used or planned for.
- Reliance on water and forecast information.
- How the public can participate and learn more about agriculture in SLO County.

A. Pease asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

D. Chipping comments on the water demand for different types of crops and asks S. Carter about future versatility and obligations related to crop type. S. Carter responds.

A. Pease comments on regenerative agriculture practices and asks the panel about the use and local benefits of these practices. B. Schiebelhut, S. Carter, and Jerry Rutiz respond.

L. Chipping asks if panelist contact information can be shared with WRAC Members.
B. Clark responds.

5) Receive Update from Staff regarding San Simeon Community Services District Proposition 1 IRWM Grant and Consider Actions

A. Pease introduces the item and B. Clark provides an update on the status of San Simeon CSD's Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant project. The following topics were presented:

- Project background, timeline, awarded grant amount, inquiries from the Department of Water Resources, and assigned placeholder project status.

- Project application, agreement, and program constraints.
- Staff recommendation for the Committee to advise the Board to seek removal of San Simeon CDS's project from the proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Agreement.

A. Pease asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

C. Grace comments on the status of San Simeon CSD securing an easement with the Hearst Corporation and the additional funding needed to meet the requirements of the Grant Agreement deadline.

E. Greening asks if the project addresses current needs as opposed to projected future needs and if the project will move forward if grant funds are not available. G. Kellas responds.

D. Chipping asks about the status of the land easement and level of engagement from the Hearst Corporation. G Kellas and S. Sinton respond.

H. Krzcuik comments on the efforts and recommendation of County staff related to the investigation the San Simeon CSD's grant project, the importance and integrity of grant projects, and the status of the Hearst Corporation land easement and permitting process.

E. Greening asks if there are other projects that could use the grants funds if the project was removed, if there are other funding options available for moving San Simeon's CSD's project forward, and if this decision will impact future grant opportunities for the District. B. Clark responds.

S. Gibson moves to support staff's recommendation to advise the Board of Supervisors to seek removal of San Simeon CSD's project from the Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Agreement and C. Mulholland seconds the motion. Motion carries (15-1-1).

6) Consider Endorsing Application by Tom Burhenn for Alternate Member, Environmental At-Large

(A. Pease exits the meeting)

R. Dienzo introduces the item and T. Burhenn introduces himself to the Committee.

R. Dienzo ask for questions or comments from the Committee.

C. Mulholland asks about the applicant's qualifications for serving as an Environmental At-large Alternate for the WRAC. T. Burhenn responds.

E. Greening asks how the applicant interprets the Samuel Lawrence Foundation lawsuit regarding storage of nuclear waste at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and what considerations were given to environmental impacts while working at Cal Edison. T. Burhenn responds.

D. Chipping comments on the role of the Environmental At-large position and asks the applicant for perspective on environmental issues related to economics/industry versus nature. T. Burhenn responds.

E. Greening speaks to the role the Environmental At-large position and asks what the applicant considers to be most important to the position. T. Burhenn responds.

S. Gibson moves to endorse Tom Burhenn's application for the vacant Environmental At-large Alternate Member position and D. Chipping seconds the motion. Motion carries (17-0-0).

7) Ongoing Updates:

a) Rain & Reservoir Report
No comment

b) California Drought Monitor Summary
No comment

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts
B. Clark comments on the October 6, 2021 Groundwater Sustainability Commission meeting to consider recommending that the SLO Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan be adopted by the SLO Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

C. Mulholland comments on concerns related to the SLO Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

d) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
B. Clark comments on draft guidelines released by DWR for a drought related funding program specific to projects for small and large water systems.

e) Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP)
No comment

f) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances
No comment

g) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information
No Comment

8) Future Agenda Items

B. Clark comments on the WRAC survey for future agenda topics, adding that the November 3rd WRAC meeting will likely be canceled.

NAME (who is this?? 144:28) and E. Greening comment on agendaizing future panel discussions to include different industry sectors. B. Clark responds.

9) Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

No comment