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

Wednesday March 3rd, 2021

WRAC Informational Packet

1.	Ongo	oing Updates:	Pgs. 3-11				
	a.	Rain & Reservoir Report					
	b.	California Drought Monitor Summary					
	c.	Groundwater Basin Management Efforts					
	d.	Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)					
	e.	Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP)					
	f. Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances						
2.	Futui	re Agenda Items	Pg. 13				

This agenda packet and attachments are available online at www.slocounty.ca.gov/wrac

Next Regular Meeting: April 7, 2021, 1:30 pm

Teleconference

Please contact WRAC Secretary, Brendan Clark, with any questions. bclark@co.slo.ca.us

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 September 1, 2020



TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: March 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Item 1: Ongoing Updates

Recommendation

Receive updates on various ongoing efforts.

Discussion

a) Rain & Reservoir Report: See attached report.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary. See attached summaries. This analysis is released each Thursday.

c) Groundwater Management Efforts

On December 18, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Final Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) 2019 Prioritization¹ that designates each groundwater basin and subbasin (collectively, basins) as high, medium, low or very low priority. Groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) are required to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for each high or medium priority basin.

BASIN UPDATES:

Basin	Update:
Los Osos Basin	Los Osos Area Subbasin (adjudicated area) is designated as a very low priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. SGMA does not apply to the portions of Los Osos Basin that are adjudicated provided that certain requirements are met (Water Code §10720.8). The fringe areas of the Los Osos Area Subbasin are not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization. The Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC) oversees implementation of the Los Osos Basin Plan for the area. • The February 17, 2021 regular Los Osos BMC meeting was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled on March 17, 2021.
	Warden Creek Subbasin is designated as a very low priority and is not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization.
	For more information, please visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/losososbasin
	Atascadero Basin is designated as a very low priority basin and is not subject to the
Atascadero	requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization; however, the Atascadero Basin
Basin	Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) has committed to developing a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) by 2022.

¹ https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization

The next regular GSA Executive Committee meeting is April 7, 2021. For more information, please visit: www.atascaderobasin.com Santa Maria Area Subbasin (adjudicated area) is designated as a very low priority basin. The adjudicated areas of the Santa Maria Basin are managed by the Northern Cities Management Area, Nipomo Mesa Management Area, and Santa Maria Valley Management Area. The Santa Maria Basin Fringe Areas - County of San Luis Obispo GSA is the GSA for the non-adjudicated fringe areas of the basin within the County. This subbasin consists of an adjudicated area and other non-adjudicated fringe areas. However, only the priority of the non-adjudicated fringe areas was assessed, which include the Ziegler Canyon Fringe Area in San Luis Obispo County and other fringe areas in Santa Barbara County. Arroyo Grande Subbasin is designated as a very low priority basin and is not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization; however, the County and City Santa Maria of Arroyo Grande as GSAs in the basin are committed to developing a GSP by 2022. Basin A public workshop meeting for the GSP is scheduled for Fall 2021. Topics will be as follow: Establish a preliminary set of basin sustainability goals. Define the undesirable results and the sustainable management criteria. Present an overview on preliminary basin groundwater conditions and water budget to support discussions on the sustainable management criteria. Draft GSP Chapter 1 – Introduction and Chapter 2 – Agency Information will be released for public comments at the BOS on March 16, 2021. For more information, please visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/santamariabasin **Paso Basin** is designated as a high priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. The Paso Basin - County of San Luis Obispo GSA and three other GSAs within the basin entered into an agreement to develop a single GSP for the basin and coordinate via the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC). The Public Draft Paso Robles Subbasin Water Year 2020 Annual Report was posted Paso Basin for an optional public comment period spanning February 17 through March 3, 2021. It is anticipated that the Report will be brought to the PBCC for approval on March 17, 2021 so it can be submitted to DWR by the April 1, 2021 SGMA deadline. The next PBCC meeting is scheduled on **March 17, 2021**. For more information, please visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/pasobasin Cuyama Basin is designated as a high priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. The Cuyama Basin GSA was formed through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and is an independent agency governed by a Board of Directors for Cuyama Basin. Cuyama Basin The next Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors meeting is March 3, 2021. For more information, please visit: www.cuyamabasin.org

San Luis Obispo Basin is designated as a high priority basin. The County and City of San Luis Obispo as GSAs in the basin are developing a GSP for the SLO Basin and coordinating as the Groundwater Sustainability Commission (GSC) with other basin partners.

A regular virtual GSC meeting was held on **February 17, 2021**. The topics presented and discussed were as follow:

- Discussed the preliminary integrated model calibration and baseline results as related to the proposed sustainable management criteria.
- Presented potential projects and management actions for further vetting and prioritization.
- Approved an updated 2021 GSC meeting schedule with additional meeting times for approval.
- The topic on projects and management actions noted above did not get completed and will continue their discussions in the next GSC meeting on March 1, 2021 as a continuation of the February 17, 2021 GSC agenda.

Interested parties are encouraged to participate in the basin specific efforts by attending workshops and meetings of the GSC for the San Luis Obispo Basin. Please visit: www.slowaterbasin.com

The Adelaida Area is not a DWR designated groundwater basin; however, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is coordinating with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resources Conservation District (RCD) to conduct a hydrogeologic study within the Adelaida area. The goal of the study is to provide a better understanding of the of the groundwater conditions in the Adelaida area so that informed decisions can be made about managing local water resources.

- Efforts for Task 1 have been underway since March of 2020. These efforts consist of compiling and analyzing existing hydrogeologic data from publicly available sources and private landowners residing within the study area.
- On August 6, 2020, RCD hosted a community meeting where USGS provided the scope of work for Task 1 and requested participation from landowners for groundwater well data.
- Data of interest includes well construction information, groundwater level data, water use information, groundwater chemistry data, and geological data.
- Through January 2021, USGS and RCD conducted landowner outreach and site visits with interested parties to collect data and supplemental information for the study.
- USGS' evaluation of existing data will conclude in March 2021. A follow-up community meeting is anticipated to be scheduled at the end of March to provide a summary of Task 1 work efforts.
- Public Works Staff will return to the County Board of Supervisors in summer 2021 to provide USGS' findings from Task 1 and additional recommendations.

For more information, please visit:

- https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/adelaidastudy
- https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ca-water/science/evaluation-groundwater-resources-adelaida-area-san-luis-obispo-county?qt-science center objects=0#qt-science center objects

Obispo Basin

San Luis

Adelaida Area

County SGMA website – The County has a SGMA website with an interactive mapping tool 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 following websites include other informative materials, such as SGMA fact sheets and recent presentation materials. Visit the websites and basin-specific page links to learn more and to sign up for the County's SGMA email list.

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

San Luis Obispo County's SGMA Website and Mailing List Sign-up

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/sgma

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGMA Website and Mailing List

https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management

d) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

The 2019 IRWM Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, for both the County and the Flood Control & Water Conservation District on September 1st, 2020. Members of the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) are encouraged to adopt the latest plan. For additional information, please visit www.slocounty.ca.gov/irwm.

A summary of open and pending IRWM grants is below:

Prop 1E Stormwater Flood Mgmt Grant (2011)	\$2,797,000	In Progress	
Flood Control Zone 1/1A – Modified 3a Project	\$2,797,000	In Progress	Flood Control District
Prop 84 Implementation Grant (2011)	\$10,401,00 0	In Progress	
Los Osos Wastewater Project	\$5,945,444	Complete	County of San Luis Obispo
Flood Control Zone 1/1A - Modified 3c Project	\$2,200,000	In Progress	Flood Control District
Nipomo Supplemental Water Project	\$2,200,000	Complete	Nipomo CSD
Grant Administration	\$55,556	In Progress	Flood Control District
Prop 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement (2017)	\$877,563	In Progress	
FCD Funding Administration	\$20,700	In Progress	Flood Control District
Disadvantaged Community Needs Assessment	\$67,738	In Progress	Flood Control District
Water Resource Reliability Program, Phase 2	\$177,750	In Progress	Oceano CSD
Turnout Pump Station Design & Water Master Plan Update	\$177,750	In Progress	City of Grover Beach
Water Res. Recovery Facility, SLO Value Engineering at 60% Design	\$78,125	Complete	City of SLO
Reservoir Expansion Project & Water Master Plan Update	\$177,750	In Progress	San Simeon CSD
Wastewater Plant Upgrade Study and	\$177,750	Complete	San Miguel CSD

Recharge Basin Study			
Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 1	\$3,282,130		
(final award received 7/3/2020)			
Grant Administration	\$155,000	Final Award	Flood Control District
One Water SLO, MBR/UV Component	\$1,314,530	Final Award	City of SLO
8th Street Well Construction	\$238,100	Final Award	Los Osos CSD
Supplemental Water Project, Final Phase	\$800,000	Final Award	Nipomo CSD
Water Resource Reliability Program, Projects #1-1, #1-9	\$274,500	Final Award	Oceano CSD
Reservoir Expansion Project, Phase 1 Distribution System	\$500,000	Final Award	San Simeon CSD
Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 2 (est. 2021)	\$3,282,129		
TBD	TBD	TBD	Project Sponsors

To stay up-to-date on all things IRWM, sign up for the email list, located at: www.slocounty.ca.gov/irwm.

For questions, contact: Brendan Clark, IRWM Program Manager

Email: bclark@co.slo.ca.us Phone: (805) 788-2316

e) Stormwater Resource Plan

On February 12, The Stater Water resources Control Board announced the Funding Lis for the Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program's (SWGP's) Round 2 Implementation Grant solicitation. Grants were awarded to 24 projects totally \$98 million. Oceano Community Services District was preliminarily awarded approximately \$2.45 million for their Stormwater Capture and Groundwater Recharge Project that was included in the County's Stormwater Resource Plan.

The list of Prop 1 SWGP Preliminary Award Projects is found here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans//propositions/prop1_prelim_proj.ht ml

On February 22, 2021, DWR closed the 60-day public comment period for the Draft Proposition 68 Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Grant Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation and Package (PSP) for projects that reduce flood risk associated with stormwater flooding, mudslides, and flash flooding. Approximately \$25 million will become available statewide for both planning or implementation projects. Having a Stormwater Resource Plan is a requirement. The Draft Guidelines and PSP can be found at: https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Flood-Management-Protection-Risk-Awareness-Program.

To submit a project to the County's Stormwater Resource Plan visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/pw/swrp

For questions, contact: Sarah Crable, County Public Works Email: scrable@co.slo.ca.us

Phone: (805) 788-2760

f) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

Nipomo Mesa

Offset Programs. The County is continuing to process building permits subject to the County's water offset fees at a 1:1 ratio to fund the Cash for Grass, Washer Rebate, and Plumbing Retrofit Programs, available for both residential and commercial uses. Applicants in the Nipomo CSD service area may pay the CSD's supplemental water fee to meet the County's offset requirement. For more information, visit: www.slocountywwcp.org

Paso Basin

Offset Programs. The County is continuing to process building permits subject to water offset fees at a 2:1 ratio for non-agricultural discretionary projects in rural areas and a 1:1 ratio for non-discretionary projects. These fees continue to fund the Cash for Grass, Washer Rebate, and Plumbing Retrofit Programs, available for both residential and commercial uses. The County also continues to manage the Agricultural Offset Program in the Paso Basin that requires property owners to verify that new and expanded irrigated commercial crops are not increasing their existing water use on-site, based on a 5 year look back period, with a 5 AFY exemption for sites that do not have existing irrigation and are outside of the area of severe decline. For more information, visit: www.slocountywwcp.org.

New Land Use Policy Requiring Planting Permits until 2045. On **Tuesday**, **January 26**, **2021**, the County Board of Supervisors directed staff to return with a detailed budget impact analysis to develop a new land use policy to require planting permits for irrigated crops using water from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin *until 2045* with a 3-tiered framework:

- Tier 1: Exemption Clearance Permit for plantings using up to 25 AFY/site of irrigation
- Tier 2: Ministerial Permit for plantings maintaining neutral water use with a 6-year lookback
- Tier 3: Discretionary Permit with CEQA review for plantings that do not fall under Tier 1 or 2

<u>Click here to see the staff report and supporting documents</u>, and <u>click here to see the video from the January 26</u>, 2021 Board meeting.

Planning staff will return to the Board with a budget augmentation request and updated project timeline on **Tuesday**, **April 6**, **2021**. The staff report will be available the Wednesday before.

Los Osos

<u>Offset Requirement.</u> The retrofit-to-build program within the community of Los Osos is allowing property owners to retrofit washers within and outside the prohibition zone to acquire retrofit credits to offset water use for new development at a 2:1 ratio. Program information is available at: www.slocountywwcp.org/plumbing-retrofit-to-build.

<u>Los Osos Community Plan.</u> On December 15, 2020, the County Board of Supervisors adopted the Los Osos Community Plan ("LOCP") update and Final Environmental Impact Report and tentatively adopted amendments to the Growth Management Ordinance that would establish a residential growth rate for the Los Osos urban area. The LOCP policies are still subject to change based on

California Coastal Commission review. A Coastal Commission hearing date has not been scheduled yet. The LOCP and Growth Management Ordinance policies considered by the Board on December 15 are available at: https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/12683. Video of the hearing and staff report are available at: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Home/Meetings-Calendar.aspx

The Board authorized preparation of this update on December 11, 2012. A series of community outreach meetings to unveil the Community Plan were conducted in the Spring of 2015. The plan was prepared to be consistent and coordinated with the draft groundwater basin management plan and the draft Habitat Conservation Plan ("HCP"). The draft Environmental Impact Report was released on September 12, 2019; comments were due December 11, 2019. A Community Meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the LOCP, HCP, and associated Environmental Documents was held on October 28, 2019. The Final Environmental Impact Report and Public Hearing Draft were released on June 8, 2020. The Planning Commission held hearings on July 9, 2020, August 13, 2020, and October 8, 2020. At the October 8, 2020 hearing, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Plan to the Board of Supervisors.

Please contact Kylie Hensley at khensley@co.slo.ca.us for more information.

Rainfall and Reservoir Updates

		Avorago	100	2010.20							2020-2	2020-21 Water Year	Year					
Sub-Region	Area / Rain Station	Annual Rainfall	Wate Total F	Water Year Total Rainfall	July 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Cumulative Total	% of Total Average
North Coset	Cambria Area (ALERT #717)	22.0	15.60	(71%)	0	0.12	0	0	0.59	1.30	12.13	0.28 A					14.42	%99
	Whale Rock Reservoir (County Site #166.1)	16.0	14.45	(%06)	0	0.23	0	0	0.22	1.23	6.17 A	0					7.85	49%
	Paso Robles (County Site #10.0)	14.1	12.42	(88%)	0	0.11	0	0	0.29	0.89	6.07	0.01 A					7.37	52%
	NE Atascadero (ALERT #711)	17.0	11.07	(%59)	0	0.04	0	0	0.28	0.86	4.93	v 0					6.11	36%
<u> </u>	Atascadero MWC (County Site #34.0)	17.5	13.45	(%22)	0.05	0	0	0	0.36	1.10	6.10	0.04 A					7.65	44%
2	Santa Margarita (ALERT #723)	24.0	14.34	(%09)	0	0	0	0	0.44	1.85	7.37	0.12 A					9.78	41%
	Salinas Dam (ALERT #719)	20.9	16.13	(%22)	0	0	0	0	0.28	1.18	8.08	0.08 A					9.62	46%
	Rocky Butte (ALERT #703)	40.0	28.13	(%02)	0	0	0.08	0	1.02	1.66	15.20	0.16 A					18.12	45%
	SLO Reservoir (ALERT #749)	24.0	15.60	(%59)	0	0	0	0.12	0.75	1.38	7.67	0.40 A					10.32	43%
tago things	Lopez Dam (ALERT #737)	21.0	16.67	(%62)	0	0:30	0	0.02	0.70	1.52	00.9	0:30 A					8.84	42%
	Nipomo South (ALERT #730)	16.0	11.66	(73%)	0	90:0	90:08	0	0.39	0.91	3.78	0.27 A					5.51	34%
	Nipomo East (ALERT #728)	18.0	13.91	(%22)	0	0	0.04	0	0.43	1.18	4.30	0.27 A					6.22	35%
A - Report generated at 10:00 AM, on 2-19-202 B - Due to an equipment malfunction, not all rain C - Information not available at time of update D - Missing Data	A. Report generated at 10:00 AM. on 2-19-2021 B. Due to an equipment malfunction, not all rain was recorded at this site. C. Information not available at time of update D. Missing Data	orded at this sit	øi										Notes: This table and has n All units re	lotes: This table contains provisic and has not been verified. All units reported in inches.	orovisional priffed. inches.	data from	otes: This table contains provisional data from automated gauges and has not been verified. All units reported in inches.	ges

Reservoir Update

Capacity (%)

Spillway Elevation (ft)

Water Elevation (ft)

Date

Reservoir

41% 52%

155,435 197,368

787.75 - 800.0 (w/gates fully inflated)

751.3 762.7

February 19, 2021 February 21, 2020

Nacimiento Reservoir

20%

66,605 127,123

780.0

701.7 728.9

February 19, 2021 February 21, 2020

San Antonio

Reservoir Lopez

40% 51%

19,764 25,302

522.7

490.6

February 19, 2021 February 23, 2020

Reservoir

73% 82%

17,516 19,638

1300.7

1,291.2

February 19, 2021 February 21, 2020

Salinas Reservoir (Santa Margarita Lake)

79% 84%

30,652 32,693

218.3

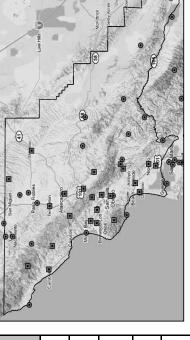
200.7

February 18, 2021 February 19, 2020

Whale Rock

Reservoir

Select Real-Time Rain Gauges in SLO County



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

2%

3,188

651.5

541.2 N/A

February 19, 2021 February 24, 2020

Twitchell Reservoir

Note 1: Historically. Twishell Reservoir develoin gauge does not report values below 590 ft. Twishell Reservoir was designed for protection for house and controlled the season as a protection from house the cases and equity as possible with a fall allowing 1 it is ordinary that the transmission of the two seasons as a many from the controlled the twister of the capacity. Were 2 in the 2014 it is not controlled to the capacity and Volumetric Analysis with new lake capacity.

U.S. Drought Monitor

California

February 23, 2021

(Released Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021) Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

			-		-		
		None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
	Current	0.70	99.30	84.88	56.98	29.54	3.75
	Last Week 02-16-2021	0.70	99.30	84.88	57.58	30.99	3.75
;	3 Month's Ago 11-24-2020	3.50	96.50	75.03	48.19	19.36	0.00
	Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	95.17	74.34	33.75	1.19
	Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	15.35	84.65	67.65	35.62	12.74	0.00
	One Year Ago 02-25-2020	30.26	69.74	23.34	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

D2 Severe Drought D3 Extreme Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

David Miskus NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

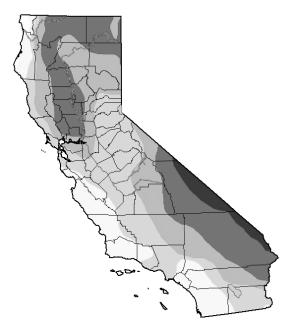




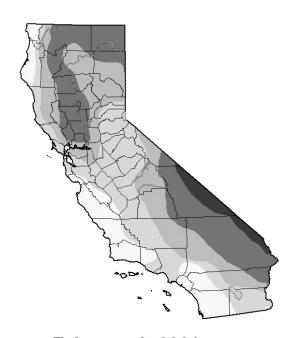




droughtmonitor.unl.edu



February 16, 2021



February 9, 2021



TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: March 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Item 2: 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.

April 7, 2021 - Expected Topics

- State Water Project Updates County Staff
- Update on Water Supply Efforts County Staff
- Proposed District FY2021-2022 Budget County Staff

May 5, 2021 – Expected Topic

• Sustainable Groundwater Projects – Creek Lands Conservation

<u>June 2, 2021 – Expected Topic</u>

Adelaida Area Hydrogeologic Study Update – County Staff

Areas of Interest - Future

- Consider Recreational use of water resources to be under purview of WRAC
- Update on policies and studies related to groundwater in fractured rock
- Update on Salinas Reservoir Dam Project
- Well permitting regulation as a tool for groundwater management
- Desalination opportunities
- Nacimiento and San Antonio Lake Tunnel Project
- Regional Water Quality Control Board Ag Order 4.0
- Regional Water Quality Control Board Stormwater Capture
- Biosolids Updates (i.e. barriers, regulations, etc.)

Excerpt from WRAC By-laws dated September 1, 2020

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.