

## **MINUTES (Approved)**

Chairperson: Andy Pease  
Vice Chairperson: Thomas Burhenn  
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 **November 1, 2023** 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 16; quorum met.

### **2) Approval of September 6, 2023 WRAC Meeting Minutes**

*Item start time ~ [00:04:37](#)*

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

S. Sinton moves to approve the September 6, 2023 meeting minutes and D. Chipping seconds the motion. Motion carries 16-0-0-1.

### **3) Presentation from SLOCOG on Regional Housing and Infrastructure Plan (HIP)**

*Item start time ~ [00:05:15](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and S. Sanders from SLOCOG presents on the Regional Housing and Infrastructure Plan (HIP).

D. Chipping comments on housing demand and asks if the framework of the Plan looks at the issue of suitability. S. Sanders and A. Pease respond.

E. Greening asks if there are suggestions from SLOCOG on useful formatting/methodologies relative to the Master Water Report and other water elements; and comments on the issues of supply, affordability, and how the definition of Disadvantaged Communities vary between different agencies. S. Sanders and C. Howard respond.

G. Grewal comments on new housing affordability and asks how it can be expected for people to afford the current prices when jobs are not there or are inadequate. S. Sanders and A. Pease respond.

C. Mulholland comments on the last 10-year census, noting that the population within the County of SLO is going down, or at least maintaining stability, and asks where the demand for more housing is coming from and who the county intends to serve by building new apartments and houses. A. Pease and S. Sanders respond.

**4) Presentation from County of SLO on Overview of Satellite Based Evapotranspiration Technology and Potential Groundwater management Uses in SLO County**

*Item start time ~ [00:30:43](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and B. Reely from the County Groundwater Sustainability Department presents an overview of satellite based evapotranspiration technology and the potential groundwater management uses in SLO County.

D. Chipping asks about the calculation methods used and how this compares to the gross well extraction data. B. Reely responds.

E. Greening asks if there is any information that compares evapotranspiration between agricultural areas and urban turf areas within the city limits. B. Reely responds.

J. Guthrie asks if a graph from the presentation shows what the average use would have been if using the crop estimation technique, and how it compares to the ET estimate. B. Reely responds.

L. Chipping asks about the purpose of the groundwater fee assessment and what those funds will be used for. B. Reely responds.

M. Zimmer asks if the fees will only be applied to the managed SGMA basins and if the adjudicated basins will be excluded. B. Reely responds.

**5) Consider Recommending Revisions to the Bylaws**

*Item start time ~ [01:06:32](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and provides a summary of staff's recommendation to:

1. Omit removing the California Men's Colony (CMC), Cuesta College, and the California Army National Guard from the Committee; and
2. Keep all other proposed revisions from the September 6, 2023 meeting (summarized below):
  - Remove antiquated language related to At-Large members from Article II.2
  - Broaden the definition of Article II.5 from "production agriculture" to "agriculture industry"
  - Insert a new Article III.9 requiring SLO County residency of At-Large Members and Alternates

- Add Article II.14 requiring Members with anticipated absences to contact Alternates to maximize meeting attendance.
- Clean-up of Article IV.

C. Mulholland moves to recommend that the updated WRAC bylaw revisions be sent to the County Board of Supervisors for approval. J. Guthrie seconds the motion. Motion carries 17-0-0-0.

**6) Discuss Ad Hoc Subcommittee’s Report on Water Sections of the Dana Reserve Project EIR and Consider Actions**

*Item start time ~ [01:08:34](#)*

A. Pease introduces the item and discusses comments provided by the Ad Hoc Committee, the response letter received by the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA), and potential next steps.

L. Chipping comments on the Ad Hoc Committee’s report and the NCMA comment letter and recommends that the WRAC let the report stand and to not forward it to the Board of Supervisors at this time.

E. Greening requests clarification of Ad Hoc Committee requirements under the Brown Act. A. Pease responds.

D. Chipping comments on the public EIR process and asks for clarification (recording inaudible) on the letter provided by the NCMA. M. Zimmer responds.

A. Pease comments that if there is no motion for action, the Ad Hoc Committee’s report and NCMA’s response letter will be received and filed, adding that there may be an opportunity to reschedule the item for discussion at a later date.

J. Guthrie asks when the EIR is to be presented to the Board of Supervisors. A. Pease and T. Burhenn responds.

E. Eby asks where the Committee keeps documents that are “received and filed”, if they are accessible to the public, and if they are available for future use. A. Pease and B. Clark respond.

**7) Ongoing Updates**

*Item start time ~ [01:21:12](#)*

a) Rain & Reservoir Report  
No comments.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary  
No comments.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

G. Grewal asks about evapotranspiration rates for the landfill and several agriculture ponds and golf courses in the city of Paso Robles, and comments on water rights, use, and how local agencies are not putting supplemental water to beneficial use.

E. Greening comments on solar panel coverings for agriculture ponds being used by the Turlock Irrigation District and how they may be a beneficial option.

D. Chipping comments on efforts to separate the northern portion of the Cuyama Basin from the southern portion.

S. Sinton comments on Stanford University approaching Shandon-San Juan Water District about studying the Paso Basin from varying viewpoints, including the basin's current management structure and demand management.

d) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

No comments.

e) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

L. Chipping asks when the next MWR item will be agendaized and presented to the WRAC. A. Pease and B. Clark respond.

f) State Water Project (SWP)

No comments.

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

No comments.

h) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

No comments.

i) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comments.

**8) Future Agenda Items**

*Item start time ~ [01:29:02](#)*

- Receive presentation from and provide feedback to County staff on the Master Water Report update
- Receive presentation from John Lindsey regarding our SLO County Climate
- Reminder: No WRAC meeting in January 2024

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

*Item start time ~ [01:29:43](#)*

G. Grewal comments on the water demand of the Paso Basin (recording inaudible).

B. Clark announces the Community Flood Readiness Event hosted by Flood Control Zone 9 at the City of San Luis Obispo Farmers Market and invites WRAC members to come participate.