

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 **March 6, 2024**, 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 19; quorum met.

2) Approval of December 6, 2023, WRAC Meeting Minutes

Item start time ~ [00:06:35](#)

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

C. Mulholland moves to approve the December 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

D. Chipping seconds the motion.

Motion carries 19-0-0.

3) Election for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Item start time ~ [00:07:12](#)

A. Pease introduces the item and asks for Chair and Vice-Chair nominations from the Committee.

L. Chipping moves to nominate T. Burhenn for Committee Chairperson.

C. Mulholland seconds the motion.

Motion carries 19-0-0.

A. Pease moves to nominate J. Guthrie for Committee Vice-Chairperson.

E. Eby seconds the motion.

Motion carries 19-0-0.

4) Consider Submitting the 2023 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors

Item start time ~ [00:10:50](#)

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

C. Mulholland comments how well written the report is and appreciates the work put into generating it for submittal.

C. Mulholland moves to approve and submit the 2023 Annual Report to the District BOS.

C. Weirick seconds the motion.

Motion carries 19-0-0.

5) Receive a Presentation from City of San Luis Obispo Staff on the Mid Higuera Bypass Project

Item start time ~ [00:12:23](#)

T. Burhenn introduces the item and B. Nelson from the City of San Luis Obispo presents on the Mid Higuera Bypass Project.

D. Chipping asks if the extra capacity in the channel equals the spill out in the 100 YR flood plain. B. Nelson responds.

E. Eby asks what happens if the city has not completed the work by October 31st. B. Nelson responds.

M. van Ryn asks how big the bypass channels are, how they will be maintained from year to year, and if there are any gates that help regulate flow. B. Nelson responds.

C. Mulholland asks if work near the Northbound 101 onramp at Madonna Road was completed due to previous storms, or if that was done to stabilize the bank before any big rain events. Was this a coordinated project between County/City and Caltrans? B. Nelson responds.

J. Guthrie asks if there are any special permits needed for equipment access. B. Nelson responds.

A. Pease asks if there are other more large-scale flood management projects planned, or if this was a one-off priority due to past flooding issues. B. Nelson responds.

D. Chipping asks if there may be increased creek level impacts further downstream due to the project. B. Nelson responds.

P. Wilmore asks if funding has already been committed and secured for the project. B. Nelson responds.

P. Wilmore asks if the project will cause additional traffic impacts near San Luis Drive when work is being performed. B. Nelson responds.

C. Mulholland comments on the history and frequency of flooding within the project area.

Unidentified attendee asks if the project will help alleviate flood risk for storms greater than a 25-year storm. B. Nelson responds.

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

Item start time ~ [00:50:30](#)

T. Burhenn introduces the item and L. Chipping provides an update on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee's report on the water sections of the Dana Reserve Project EIR.

C. Mulholland asks if anything has come to light since the report was written that would be of concern. L. Chipping responds.

E. Eby comments that it would be beneficial to submit the report to the County Board of Supervisors.

M. Zimmer comments that Golden State Water Company submitted an 8-page letter to the Planning Commission which includes specific comments/concerns related to the water sections of the EIR and suggests reevaluating the Ad Hoc Subcommittee's report to include additional details prior to submitting.

D. Chipping recommends that the WRAC should submit the report to the Board of Supervisors as is, noting the importance of having the report on record as other agencies may also be submitting comments with differing views.

T. Walters comments that the Board expects the WRAC to review water resource issues throughout the county regardless of whether or not there is opposition to those issues, adding that he is not opposed to submitting the report.

J. Guthrie comments on the scope of the report, which was specific to the water sections of the EIR. L. Chipping responds.

L. Chipping comments on the letter submitted by the NCMA which appeared to include interpretations of past stipulations and adjudications, which were not included in the Ad Hoc Committee's scope.

Committee Members discuss the format and content of the submittal and cover letter.

C. Mulholland moves to submit the Ad Hoc Subcommittee's report on the water sections of the Dana Reserve Project EIR to the County Board of Supervisors and to include a cover letter signed by the WRAC Chair.

E. Eby seconds the motion.

Motion carries 15-2-2.

7) **Ongoing Updates**

Item start time ~ [01:12:34](#)

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

No comments.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

No comments.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

N.Teague comments that the SLO Basin GSP Annual Report has been posted and is available for public comment, and the City of San Luis Obispo has received funding from the State Water Board to fund a \$6.6 million project to clean contaminated groundwater.

P. Wilmore comments that Paso Basin GSP Annual Report has been posted and is available for public comment.

J. Steil provides an update and timeline for next steps related to the Adelaida Study.

d) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

No comments.

e) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

No comments.

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

None

9) Public Comment for Items not on Agenda

D. Chipping asks when an update will be available regarding the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) surveys that were conducted with helicopters over local groundwater basins.

T. Burhenn and B. Clark respond.