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Chairperson **Vice Chairperson** **Secretary**

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Members

- Steve Sinton
District 1
- Bill Garfinkel
District 2
- Sherri Danoff
District 3
- James Toomey
District 4
- Erin Faulkner
District 5
- Barbara Harmon
Arroyo Grande
- Russ Thompson
Atascadero
- Barbara Nicolls
Grover Beach
- Noah Smukler
Morro Bay
- Christopher Alakel
Paso Robles
- Erik Howell
Pismo Beach
- John Ashbaugh
San Luis Obispo
- Bob Gresens
Cambria CSD
- John D'Orellas
Heritage Ranch CSD
- Louis Tornatzky
Los Osos CSD
- Dan Gaddis
Nipomo CSD
- Mary Lucey
Oceano CSD
- Anthony Kalvans
San Miguel CSD
- Charles Grace
San Simeon CSD
- Tina Mayer
Templeton CSD
- Linda Chipping
Coastal San Luis RCD
- Michael Broadhurst
Upper Salinas RCD
- George Kendall
County Farm Bureau
- Kurt Bollinger
Agriculture At-Large
- Lowell Zelinski
Agriculture At-Large
- Eric Greening
Environmental At-Large
- Sue Luft
Environmental At-Large
- Annie Gillespie
Environmental At-Large
- Greg Nester
Development At-Large
- John Neil
Atascadero MWC
- Tisdal Thomas
California Men's Colony
- John Reid
Camp SLO
- Edralin Maduli
Cuesta College
- Mark Zimmer
Golden State Water

March 4, 2015

Honorable Debbie Arnold
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors
County of San Luis Obispo
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: Water Resources Advisory Committee 2014 Annual Report

Honorable Madams and Sirs,

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 2014.

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, over 30 Members and Alternates were 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.

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 2014 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 4th, the WRAC unanimously approved this report for submittal to your Board.

I have greatly enjoyed my time as Chair of the WRAC. I have been a member of the WRAC since 2007 and plan to remain active. The WRAC is an important venue for considering and providing input into water resource issues which affect our county.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Sue Luft
WRAC Chairperson

Attachments: WRAC 2014 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors
WRAC 2014 Member and Guest Attendance Records

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

Purpose of the Committee:

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board specific water resource programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

**Water Resources Advisory Committee
2014 Annual Report to the
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors**

TOP ISSUES ADDRESSED BY WRAC IN 2014:

The WRAC received several reports regarding county water issues and provided verbal input regarding these reports and work efforts. Specific recommendations were provided by the WRAC during 2014 in three areas.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program

The WRAC recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve submittal of the Regional Water Management Group's (RWMG's) Recommended List of Projects for inclusion in the IRWM Expedited Drought Grant Funding Application. The WRAC received a presentation on the IRWM Plan adoption and unanimously approved sending a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors. The IRWM Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in August 2014 and the RWMG's, with support of the WRAC, recommended list of projects included in the drought grant funding application.

Resource Management System

The WRAC submitted the Subcommittee Report on the Review of the Water Resources Related Sections of the County Draft RMS Update to Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and the Planning Department. This submittal reflected the WRAC's discussion and comments on the updates to the RMS, including the statement that certain aspects of the subcommittee's report were unresolved with the WRAC. The Board of Supervisors considered and adopted many of the WRAC's recommendations.

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

The WRAC approved a motion recommending inclusion in the legislative platform of the PRAAGS/PWE legislative proposal to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors approved inclusion of the legislative proposal regarding the Paso Basin Water District.

**Water Resources Advisory Committee
2014 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, 2014

The WRAC received IRWM plan update on the Administrative Draft and Groundwater Basins requiring Salt and Nutrient Management Plans.

February, 2014

The WRAC approved a motion recommending inclusion in the legislative platform of the PRAAGS/PWE legislative proposal to the Board of Supervisors by a vote of 14-0-7.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee was formed to Review the Water Resources Related Sections of the County of San Luis Obispo's Draft Resource Management System Update (General Plan Amendment) by a unanimous vote.

March, 2014

Member Luft is unanimously elected the 2014 WRAC Chairperson and Member L.Chipping is unanimously elected the 2014 WRAC Vice Chairperson.

The 2013 Annual Report was submitted for consideration. The report, with small amendments, was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors with unanimous approval.

John Diodati, Public Works Administrator, presents on local and regional drought response efforts. Mr. Diodati describes the need to show impacts to local health and safety based on the reduced State Water allocation, especially for the most at-risk communities, such as the CMC/ Chorro Valley and Morro Bay. Discussion ensues about existing water resources and possible emergency response projects such as temporary desalination in Cambria, and Heritage Ranch CSD's Nacimiento intertie. He explains the regional and State Offices of Emergency Services are surveying the severity of drought in this county. Consideration of declaration of local emergency will include six key tasks: tracking and evaluating legislation and funding, coordination with the County drought task force, interagency coordination, emergency projects and programs, and establishing countywide water conservation. Discussion ensues on Executive Order B2113, Nacimiento reserve water, State Water and associated reservoirs, how realistic the 20% water use reduction is given county residents already have among the lowest per capita use in the State, and debt service relief for agencies paying for State Water and additionally the high cost temporary water supply.

April, 2014

After review and discussion, the WRAC recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed fiscal year 2014/15 Flood Control District Budget by a vote of 17-1-2.

Discussed Subcommittee Report on the Review of the Water Resources Related Sections of the

County of San Luis Obispo's Draft RMS Update (General Plan Amendment) – Member Hollenbeck presented the subcommittee's initial review and comments on the RMS update. The subcommittee provided edits aimed at increasing readability of the document, and understanding of how the RMS process establishes Levels of Severity (LOS) I, II, or III.

May, 2014

The WRAC recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve submittal of the Regional Water Management Group's Recommended List of Projects for Inclusion in the IRWM Expedited Drought Grant Funding Application by a vote of 18-1-1.

The WRAC performed biennial review and consideration of updating the WRAC Bylaws; no changes to the bylaws were recommended by a vote of 19-0-0.

June, 2014

Submitted Subcommittee Report on the Review of the Water Resources Related Sections of the County Draft RMS Update (General Plan Amendment) to Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and the Planning Department. This submittal reflected the WRAC's discussion and comments on the updates to the RMS, including the statement that certain aspects of the subcommittee's report were unresolved with the WRAC; hence the motion was passed by a vote 8-7-0.

July, 2014

No meeting.

August, 2014

The WRAC received a presentation on the IRWM Plan adoption and unanimously approves sending a letter of support recommending to the Board of Supervisors by a vote of 17-0-1.

September, 2014

County Environmental Health Department presented on the digitization of well data and its availability via an online, searchable map. The platform integrates Environmental Health's data with other County enterprise mapped information. This data is accessible to County staff, of which a smaller subset will eventually be available for public viewing. Staff has started the effort focusing on a pilot area within the Paso Robles Basin using data from recent well completion logs. Discussion ensues about uses of mapped data, issues with confidentiality of well data, and how this might be used in emergency planning and response.

John Diodati of County Public Works gave a status update on Water Resources Legislative Activities. There are three major legislative actions being considered at the State level: Assembly Bill 2453 - Paso Robles Basin Water District, Pavley-Dickinson Groundwater Sustainability Bills, and Proposition 1 Water Bond.

Laura Edwards Upper Salinas- Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, and Jeff Barry, GSI Water presented on Resource Conservation District's Draft Agricultural Offset Program. Discussion ensues about what constitutes credit water (e.g. fallowing land), location of credit water versus new demand, effects on land deeds if/when basin levels stabilize, relationship to urgency ordinance and Board direction, and relationship to new legislation.

October, 2014

The WRAC received a presentation on the Draft Ordinance Regulating the Exportation of Groundwater. Discussion ensues on why mining was not included, enforcement, basin, export and groundwater definitions, District and County exemption, effects on interties, various scenarios under which the ordinance applies, and public comment process. Even though forming a subcommittee to review the ordinance was considered, no motion was made.

James Caruso, County Planning and Building presents review of Upcoming County Planning Water Programs. He overviews five water programs being considered by the Board during the first half of 2015. Mr. Caruso suggests prioritizing review of programs, to bring more critical programs to the WRAC sooner.

The WRAC formed an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to Review the Wastewater and Water Components of the Biennial Summary Report for the County Resource Management System (RMS) by a unanimous vote in favor 18-0-0.

Mark Hutchinson, County Public Works Deputy Director, presents an update & discussion of County Water System Drought Responses. Mr. Hutchinson noted that on October 14th the Board of Supervisors will host a County Water Summit and will consider giving direction relative to petitioning Local Agency Formation Commission on Paso Basin Water District formation. He overviews the County-operated water systems, and describes the three subregions' water systems, main issues and concerns, and drought plans. Mr. Hutchinson briefly overviews recent actions related to the Lopez system's low reservoir response planning. Discussion ensues regarding desalination, reservoir levels, limitations of management and growth, conservation, and potential exchanges in a continued drought.

November, 2014

The WRAC receive a presentation on U.S. Geologic Survey's Cuyama Valley, California Hydrologic Study: An Assessment of Water Availability. Dennis Gibbs, Santa Barbara County Water Agency Senior Hydrologist, presents on the recently completed Cuyama Basin studies. He overviews Cuyama's watershed, geology, basin land uses, water balance, land subsidence, water quality, groundwater age dating, long term effects of supply and demand scenarios, impacts of introduction of electrical pumping equipment (post-World War II), and inter-county coordination and monitoring. Discussion ensues regarding land use and water balance implications, and future monitoring. He encourages members to visit the website to read related studies (<http://ca.water.usgs.gov/projects/cuyama/>).

December, 2014

The WRAC formed an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review the County Water Neutral New Development Policies and Ordinances; and to review Agricultural Water Waste Prevention Ordinance. The subcommittees will consider both ordinances from an agricultural perspective and a residential perspective. These subcommittees were formed with a vote of 16-0-3.

The WRAC received a presentation on California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM). Jill Ogren, County Staff, provides a presentation on CASGEM, including the program's goal of understanding seasonal and long term trends of groundwater basin levels state-wide, the need to reconcile groundwater basin boundaries in DWR Bulletin 118 with groundwater basin boundaries as defined by local studies, program well information requirements, as well as CASGEM benefits and impacts on future groundwater management and outreach efforts.

INSERT 2014 ATTENDANCE RECORDS – Member and Guest