



Michael Winn  
Chairperson

Sue Luft  
Vice Chairperson

Courtney Howard  
Secretary

Room 207, County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo CA 93401

PH (805) 781-1016  
FAX (805) 788-2182

#### Members

Steve Sinton  
District 1

Bill Garfinkel  
District 2

Marilee Hyman  
District 3

Michael Winn  
District 4

Dan O'Grady  
District 5

Chuck Fellows  
Arroyo Grande

Russ Thompson  
Atascadero

Robert Mires  
Grover Beach

Betty Winholtz  
Morro Bay

Christopher Alakel  
Paso Robles

Ted Ehring  
Pismo Beach

Allen Settle  
San Luis Obispo

Jim Adams  
Cambria CSD

John D'Ornellas  
Heritage Ranch CSD

Maria Kelly  
Los Osos CSD

Bruce Buel  
Nipomo CSD

Barbara Mann  
Oceano CSD

John Russell  
San Simeon CSD

Mike Ellison  
San Miguel CSD

Jeff Hodge  
Templeton CSD

Linda Chipping  
Coastal San Luis RCD

Tom Mora  
Upper Salinas RCD

Ray Allen  
Agriculture At-Large

Joy Fitzhugh  
County Farm Bureau

Sue Luft  
Environmental At-Large

Eric Greening  
Environmental At-Large

John Neil  
Atascadero MWC

John Kellerman  
California Men's Colony

John Reid  
Camp SLO

Edralin Maduli  
Cuesta College

Mark Zimmer  
Golden State Water

September 10, 2009

Honorable Bruce Gibson  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Luis Obispo  
976 Osos Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Subject: Water Resources Advisory Committee Comments on Water  
Sections of Final Environmental Impact Report for San Miguel  
Ranch Project

Dear Chairman Gibson:

The San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) formed an ad hoc subcommittee to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the San Miguel Ranch project. At its February 4, 2009 meeting, the WRAC voted to submit a letter with detailed comments.

After issuance of the Final EIR (FEIR) for the San Miguel Ranch project, the subcommittee again met and prepared comments. At its September 2, 2009 meeting, the WRAC voted to submit this letter containing our comments.

The San Miguel Ranch FEIR indicates that the project will result in a decrease in aquifer storage of between 5,393 and 5,554 acre-ft based on the groundwater simulations; however, the potential impacts to groundwater are listed as less than significant. The subcommittee continues to disagree with this conclusion and various statements in the FEIR. Rather than re-iterate all of the points from our previous letter, we are restating our primary concerns. Further discussion is attached.

- Potential impacts to groundwater are in fact significant.
- The proposed project will adversely affect agriculture and is inconsistent with Ag Policy 11.
- The proposed project is inconsistent with the current Conservation Element.
- Mitigation measures for water supply impacts must be required, most importantly the acquisition of imported water supplies.

#### 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.

Excerpts from WRAC By-Laws dated 3/6/07

- The EIR must provide a project-level analysis for the wastewater treatment plant expansion.
- The WRAC would like to point out that San Miguel was at an RMS Level of Severity II in three categories in 2007 - for water supply, water system, and sewer system - but no LOS for any of the three in 2008; yet we see no changes in San Miguel during the year to justify the changes in LOS for those three issues.

The WRAC hopes its comments will prove helpful to all parties involved in the environmental review process for this project.

Respectfully,



MICHAEL WINN

Chairperson, Water Resources Advisory Committee

cc: SLO County Board of Supervisors w/attachments  
SLO County Planning Commissioners w/attachments  
Steve McMasters, SLO County Planning Department w/attachments  
Paavo Ogren, SLO County Director of Public Works

Attachment: San Miguel Ranch Project Final EIR Detailed Discussion of Primary Concerns