ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION

June 15, 2016, 1:00 p.m.

Public Health Conference Room, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California AGENDA

Roll Call

Approve Minutes for the Meeting of May 18, 2016

SCHEDULED ITEMS

I. Discussion Items

- A. Presentation and Discussion on Woodbridge Irrigation District Groundwater Recharge Opportunities Doug Heberle
- B. Status of Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility and Inclusion of RD 17 John Maguire/Roger Churchwell
- C. Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Levees Investment Strategy John Maguire/Roger Churchwell
- D. Presentation and Discussion on the Spring 2016 Groundwater Monitoring Report Gerardo Dominguez

II. Communications (See Attached):

- A. June 7, 2016, Recordnet.com, "Appeals Court Puts Temporary Stop to Delta Land Buy"
- B. June 7, 2016, Latimes.com, "State Water Board Drops Record \$1.5-Million Drought Fine"
- C. June 8, 2016, ACWA.com, "State Water Board Clarifies Deadlines and Information Required Under New Regulation"

Public Comment:

Next Regular Meeting: July 20, 2016, 1:00 p.m.

Public Health Conference Room

REPORT FOR THE MEETING OF THE ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT May 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Advisory Water Commission of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, California.

Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Nomellini, Roberts, Alternate Houghton, Commissioner Holman, Flinn, Winn, Herrick, Holbrook, Salazar, Jr., Neudeck, Secretary Nakagawa, Vice-Chairman Price, and Chairman McGurk.

Others present are listed on the Attendance Sheet. The Commission had a quorum.

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of February 17, 2016.

Motion and second to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016 (Holbrook/Price). Unanimously approved.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

Tom McGurk, Chairman of the Advisory Water Commission, led the agenda.

I. Discussion items:

A. Update on Demonstration Recharge Extraction and Aquifer Management (DREAM) and North San Joaquin Water Conservation District South Improvements Project: Second Extension of Public Review Period for Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration – Brandon Nakagawa

Secretary Nakagawa began with a recap of the last presentation on the DREAM Project at the AWC meeting in February. Since February, several aspects of the project were completed in preparation for the release of documents for public comment: the conceptual design, environmental documents, and public meetings by North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD) for landowners near the project site. The initial Notice of Intent to Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration and Notice of Availability of an Initial Study was released on March 4, 2016, with the intent to conclude the public comment period on April 4, 2016. This comment period was extended to June 3, 2016 to address senior water rights concerns raised by Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID) and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Discussions are taking place, but the review period for the project may continue to be extended until issues are resolved. With that said, broad support for the project remains.

Mr. Tom Francis, EBMUD Senior Civil Engineer, provided a statement on behalf of EBMUD regarding the DREAM Project. EBMUD remains interested in the DREAM Project and moving forward with the demonstration phase is important to EBMUD, as is working together with the County and NSJWCD. EBMUD will proceed with the proposed conjunctive use project once

discussions on water rights have been held amongst concerned parties (WID, NSJWCD and EBMUD) and support of the project is confirmed.

Vice-Chair Price asked if EBMUD expects resolution via negotiation and whether proceeding with the project can be done without agreed upon terms. Mr. Francis responded that WID has expressed concerns regarding the rights to flood flows, which is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) issue that is being analyzed. He also reiterated that EBMUD values this initial step of the pilot project to demonstrate all parties can work together on a conjunctive use project, which has been a twenty-year goal and will only proceed when concerns have be addressed.

Commissioner Flinn added that NSJWCD has always been supportive of the project. The outcome will show that groundwater recharge can work and is beneficial to the County. More importantly, based upon past history, this project can demonstrate working together with EBMUD for mutual benefit. Commissioner Nomellini stated it would be great if this project led to resolution on the river and the structure of water rights. Mr. Francis credited Commissioner Flinn, NSJWCD, and Jennifer Spaletta, NSJWCD legal counsel, on their efforts.

Commissioner Winn commented on his experience serving on the American River Authority (ARA), a multi-county entity consisting of members from San Joaquin, El Dorado, and Placer Counties. He expressed that the ARA values developing partnerships and working jointly toward mutual benefit. The DREAM project is an opportunity to test how a conjunctive use partnership could work locally and he supports the effort.

Mr. Francis concluded by stating his pleasure working as partners with Mr. Nakagawa and getting to know everyone "around the table" and looks forward to continuing the work.

A member of the public commented on her property which is located fifteen miles from the prospective tunnels, her concern of the drought, and salt in her soil. She referenced information she obtained on Pardee Reservoir. Mr. Francis responded that the DREAM project is intended to directly address those issues and is a pilot project to test a conjunctive use concept. However, Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is designed to address those concerns basin-wide for high to medium priority basins and San Joaquin is in a high priority area. GSPs are currently being discussed and are required to be submitted to the Department of Water Resource by 2020.

B. Recap of the Board of Supervisors Evening Study Session on the Topic of Water – Brandon Nakagawa

Mr. Nakagawa gave a recap of the Board of Supervisors' first study session on water held last Thursday night, May 12, 2016, led by Supervisor Winn and Supervisor Miller. Commissioner Winn elaborated that the study session was held in an effort by the Board of Supervisors to provide information on water policy and projects to the public and was the first of five study topics presented in this series. He commended Mr. Nakagawa and Kris Balaji, Public Works Director, on a job well done on their presentations of SGMA, Flood Control, and other issues. Commissioner Winn said the session was extremely beneficial and expressed appreciation of member attendance. There was not large attendance by the public.

Commissioner Nomellini reiterated that he was also impressed with the quality and delivery of information presented. Commissioner Herrick echoed the opinion of a job well done and stated the presentation on Delta issues was excellent.

Commissioner Flinn added that during his previous job working with the County, educating the public and getting the public interested was a challenge.

Commissioner Holbrook expressed his opinion that the public feels elected officials will act upon the best interest of the constituents. He feels lack of public attendance indicates the public's trust in the County officials and added that re-elections demonstrate this public belief.

There was agreement expressed that ongoing public dialogue is essential to keeping elected officials and the constituents they represent informed. In its capacity as an advisory body to County Board of Supervisors (BOS), Mr. Nakagawa encouraged the AWC to identify items of interest that could be brought forward to the BOS to continue the water policy and activity dialogue. He stated that there have been a number of topics already discussed at the AWC meetings that could be reinvigorated, and he would like to bring these topics back to the Commission for discussion next month.

Commissioner Nomellini added that the objective of the AWC was participation of a forum to resolve conflict and avoid antagonistic or adversarial dialogue prior to meeting with the Board of Supervisors. He stated it has been a slow and difficult process as there are many competing interests but he sees a lot of progress has been made over the years.

Chairman McGurk stated that there was a meeting in February amongst himself, Vice-Chair Price, Mr. Nakagawa, Mr. Kris Balaji, Director Public Works, and Mr. Fritz Buchman, Deputy Director of Development Public Works. The discussion and objective of the meeting was regarding the organization of the AWC and its near-term goals.

C. Presentation and Discussion on Local Drought Emergency – Mike Cockrell

Mr. Mike Cockrell, San Joaquin County Department of Emergency Services (OES) Director, presented the Local Drought Emergency status. Topics included: 1) the drought; 2) weather patterns; 3) agency progress assisting the public with drought issues; and 4) future projections.

Mr. Cockrell discussed the drought monitor, which is the tool used by many agencies for multiple purposes. Because of the recent rainfalls, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is asking OES for data on agricultural demands, water supply, etc., in an effort to reevaluate drought impacts. He shared that locally, the extreme drought designation remains, which may indicate an ongoing drought status through 2016 and possibly beyond. However, there is a public misconception that rain is an indication that the drought is over and there may not be a need to continue conservation efforts. Unfortunately, the winter rain levels were not sufficient enough to end the drought and the need remains for conservation messaging this summer.

El Niño is starting to come off of its cycle and raises questions such as: "What effect did it have on the drought situation?"; and "Is the drought over?". Several years of higher than average precipitation and snow levels are required to come out of a drought. The Association of California Water Agencies compiled a list of key factors to consider when reevaluating drought status, including snowpack, temperatures, rainfall, reservoirs, groundwater, urban and agricultural water demands as well as location of storms, and mudslides and debris.

Stockton water year precipitation totals and snow levels in the Sierra are improving in comparison to previous drought years, but are not adequate to change the drought emergency status. Locally, rainfall was 124% of normal and the five station index of precipitation in the

Sierras measured 104% of normal. The snow levels are and water levels in the Sierra are only 85% of normal.

This year, storm patterns were channeled and funneled mostly north and south of the County and reservoir conditions vary: Comanche – 64% of capacity / 96% of average; Pardee – 92% of capacity / 103% of average; and Shasta – 93% of capacity / 108% of average. Conditions in Southern California remain unfavorable.

The Weather Service and CPC indicate that conditions are transitioning out of an El Niño pattern, but La Niña is approaching. El Niño storm patterns create warmer temperatures in the Central Pacific and dropping off in Northern California. La Niña brings colder waters to California and pushes the storm systems into the Western Pacific. CPC predicts a 75% chance of development of La Niña by fall and winter. From July through August, La Niña creates no impact for the northern hemisphere, but hurricane patterns will decrease in the Pacific and increase in the Atlantic.

Temperatures for May through September are predicted to be 50% above average. Winter predictions include warmer temperatures, and 33% of drier than normal precipitation.

Mr. Cockrell provided State and Federal action updates. The Bureau of Reclamation began issuing water supply allocations to users and a temporary emergency change to modify the pulse flows of the rivers measured at Vernalis, affecting the Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. The Central Valley Project and the State Water Project contingency plans were revised and updated in April to which the Governor issued an Executive Order dealing with conservation. The Water Board then issued a Notice of Rulemaking to consider how to implement this Executive Order to try to make it more reasonable and realistic for the areas that need to enforce it. Other updates include the Delta Salinity Barrier will not be installed this year. For the Term 91 permit holders, self-curtailment to divert waters was issued in May. The water rights actions taken against Byron Bethany Irrigation District have been suspended.

The State Water Board has reduced figures on conservation requirements. The City of Manteca received the lowest reduction of 5 points taken off targets, while most areas received reductions of 2 or 3 points.

Mr. Cockrell also provided an update on drought-related community service. The San Joaquin County Human Services Agency (HSA) gave out 88,484 30 lb. food boxes, which feeds a family of four for about a week. In addition, the HSA also has a Weatherization Program to help low income families conserve energy in their homes, and the Toilet Exchange Program has been successful installing low-flow toilets. More funds are needed for the Toilet Exchange Program.

He continued with well permit updates and shared that the number of permits are tracking lower than last year. There have been three dry well permits – one well issue was resolved and permits were assigned to the other two wells to begin drilling. There have been no new pending cases.

Mr. Cockrell commended San Joaquin County for achieving 72% public awareness of drought conditions and conservation, which is attributable to outreach in newspapers, television, movie theater trailers, and local outreach events.

He concluded his presentation with public health concerns tracked during this drought emergency. West Nile Virus continues to be a concern due to the substantial rainfall and

standing water. There is heightened awareness of the Zika virus and Chikungunya virus. There have been no new cases of West Nile Virus in San Joaquin County, but it has been identified in other California counties.

Discussion was opened.

II. Communications:

Mr. Nakagawa provided a brief update of the communication items

A. April 19, 2016, Sacbee.com, "Delta Tunnels Bill Mandating Voter Approval Advances."

Mr. Nakagawa shared that the article highlighted Susan Eggman's bill, which would allow the voters of California to vote on the Twin Tunnels Project. This bill has been supported by the County as well as other Delta counties. The County is also in support of SB 554 (Wolk) – Delta Levee Maintenance, as well as support of AB 501 (Levine) – sharing and making public data of Delta research, and AB 2583 (Frazier) – making changes to the Delta plan and clarifications, which contains good language on how project should mitigate the damages and impacts. Close attention is being paid to the Feinstein Drought Bill which is being introduced in the House by Congressman Garamendi. The County has taken a position of oppose on previous drought bills. This Feinstein bill has similar language to promote exports over protections for endangered species and senior water rights and the County is likely to oppose this bill as well.

B. April 21, 2016, Mavensnotebook.com, "Bill to Protect State's Aquifers, Groundwater Moves Forward."

Mr. Nakagawa explained that this article focuses on Senator Wolk's bill regarding moratoriums on and the process for discretionary permits for well drilling. The County has taken the position of opposing this bill on the grounds that SGMA implementation is evolving and it is likely stakeholders would oppose a moratorium well drilling in basins that are critically overdrafted. The last State-conducted research analysis was done in 1980 and there has been a lot of new information, good projects, and water put back into the ground since then. Close attention will be paid to this bill as it moves through the Senate.

C. May 11, 2016, Recordnet.com, "Delta Land Buy Still a 'Go."

Mr. Nakagawa stated that the Delta land purchase by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is currently in escrow. The County, as well as others in the Delta have challenged the basis for this purchase. Commissioner Nomellini added that close of escrow is set for June 4, 2016. In addition, there is an Order to Show Cause hearing preliminary injunction scheduled tomorrow, May 19, 2016. And, trial court denied a temporary restraining order based on the determination of CEQA analysis could be done once the Board of Directors decides the exact use of the property. The committee has reports of using the property for WaterFix, water transfers, scientific purposes, or for restoring the wetlands. Legal counsel for MWD had stated in court that they do not know the future of the property and if they cannot decide, they will sell it.

Vice-Chair Price commented that there is a provision in the article stating position of the tunnel should come before purchase of the property. Commissioner Nomellini added that there had been a split decision down south on purchasing the islands, with reports that the funding was going to be provided by the State. An example of such a purchase was Staten Island, which is a now owned by a major conservancy.

Public Comment:

A member of the public commented on California voters being against the peripheral canals in 1982. She feels voters now are not well informed of the history behind the proposed twin tunnels. Commissioner Nomellini added that the attitude of the voters in Southern California in 1982 was based on cost and not growth, while Northern California had more of an environmental attitude and protection of the Delta. Each area had a different view.

Next Regular Meeting: June 15, 2016, at 1:00 p.m.

Public Health Conference Room

Adjournment: 2:10 p.m.



ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 18, 2016

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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ADVISORY WATER COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 18, 2016

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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Appeals court puts temporary stop to Delta land buy





By Alex Breitler Record Staff Writer Follow @@Alexbreitler

Posted Jun. 7, 2016 at 5:00 PM Updated Jun 7, 2016 at 5:25 PM

An appeals court has temporarily blocked a Southern California water district from purchasing more than 20,000 acres of land in the Delta.

The ruling from the 3rd District Court of Appeal on Tuesday came one day before escrow on the controversial \$175 million land buy was set to close.

San Joaquin and Contra Costa counties, Delta farmers and environmental groups originally sued in San Joaquin County Superior Court to stop the purchase by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. They argued that the purchase is a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act and requires more study before it can move forward.

A Superior Court judge rejected that argument, but the county appealed late last week, leading to Tuesday's temporary reprieve.

The decision, however, does not appear to be about the merits of the case itself. The court's twosentence statement says that Metropolitan cannot move forward with the purchase until additional written arguments are filed.

"Our position is that the stay is temporary until all parties can submit documents to the court and until the court can fully review the issue," said Cathy Stites, Metropolitan's senior deputy general counsel. "We don't believe it's a substantive decision."

She said Metropolitan and the current owner of the land — the Delta Wetlands Properties, a company controlled by Swiss investors — can extend the close of escrow while waiting for the court to decide on the merits of the case.

"It doesn't have to all be redone," Stites said.

San Joaquin County Counsel Mark Myles said in an email that the plaintiffs were "grateful" that the court prevented Metropolitan from closing the "unprecedented" land deal while they consider whether to extend it for the duration of the case.

San Joaquin County and Delta farmers have filed a separate lawsuit charging that the land sale violates earlier legal agreements concerning the islands.

— Contact reporter Alex Breitler at (209) 546-8295 or abreitler@recordnet.com. Follow him at recordnet.com/breitlerblog and on Twitter @alexbreitler.

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State water board drops record \$1.5-million drought fine



Water flows down a diversion canal operated by the Byron-Bethany Irrigation District near Byron, Calif. (Rich Pedroncelli / Associated Press)

By Bettina Boxall

JUNE 7, 2016, 3:44 PM



tate water regulators Tuesday dismissed a record \$1.5-million fine against a Northern California irrigation district accused of diverting water last year in violation of a drought order.

The action is the latest twist in the state's attempts to assert control over water diversions by agricultural districts that hold some of the oldest water rights in California.



Page 2 of 3

The State Water Resources Control Board alleged that the Byron-Bethany Irrigation District in Northern California ignored curtailment orders and took water that it was not entitled to under California's priority system of water rights.

With the drought slashing flows in the watersheds of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, the board last summer told districts with rights dating back to 1903 to halt diversions, thereby preserving supplies for districts with more senior rights.

Byron-Bethany, which has a 1914 right to withdraw from the southern end of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, continued its diversions for two weeks after the curtailment order was posted, according to the board.

The agency's enforcement order proposed a \$1.5-million fine, which Byron-Bethany protested, arguing that the water board did not have authority over its rights.

After reviewing the state's case at a March hearing, board officers found weaknesses in the complicated water analysis used to determine the curtailment and recommended dismissal.

The board voted Tuesday to drop the case, while affirming its authority to stop illegal diversions. The board plans to hold a workshop later this year to discuss ways of strengthening its calculations of water availability during a drought.

The board also dismissed an enforcement order – which did not include a fine – against the West Side Irrigation District of Tracy.

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State Water Board Clarifies Deadlines and Information Required Under New Regulation

Submitted by Emily Allshouse on Wed, 06/08/2016 - 3:24pm in Conservation Water News

The State Water Resources Control Board on Wednesday issued a notice clarifying upcoming deadlines and information required under its May 2016 urban conservation regulation.





Urban water wholesalers are defined in the regulation as "a wholesaler of water to more than one urban water supplier." As such, wholesalers are required to provide projections on the amount of water they expect to deliver to retailers based on a three-year water supply projection that assumes current supply conditions plus an assumed hydrology based on the 2012-'13, 2013-'14 and 2014-'15 water years.

- Urban water wholesalers are required to submit the following information: Name of the wholesaler
- Wholesaler contact name, title, email, and phone number
- Name and contact information of retail water supplier(s) receiving information on expected water supplies
- Webpage address that leads directly to the information that meets the requirements of the regulation. The information must be easily understood and transparent, e.g., acronyms and any calculations explained.
 - The wholesaler information needs to identify each source of water and the amounts it expects to deliver to each of its urban potable water retailers for the water year 2017, water year 2018, and water year 2019; starting from October 1, 2017 and assuming:
 - b the same hydrologic conditions of water year 2013 occur in water
 - the same hydrologic conditions of water year 2014 occur in water year 2018,
 - the same hydrologic conditions of water year 2015 occur in water year 2019, and
 - no temporary change orders that increase the availability of water to any urban water supplier are issued in the next three years
 - Include underlying analysis and assumptions used to calculate the numbers provided.

This information should be submitted via email to Kathy.frevert@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "wholesaler supply information."

Urban Water Retailers - Deadline June 22

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State Water Board Dismisses **Enforcement Actions Against** Byron-Bethany and West Side **Irrigation Districts**



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State Water Board Releases New Conservation Standards

Californians "Just Shy" of 25% Water Conservation Mandate

March 15 Deadline Approaches to Apply for Conservation Standard Adjustments

Under the regulation, urban water retailers also are required to self-certify their water supply based on a three-year water supply projection that assumes current supply conditions plus an assumed hydrology based on the 2012-'13, 2013-'14 and 2014-'15 water years.

The online form and supporting documentation must be submitted to the State Water Board by June 22.

More information is available is available on the State Water Board's Emergency Conservation webpage.

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