

AB 3030 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2000

Present: Roger Sherrill, Bill Richardson, Gary Antone, Serge Birk, Jim Lowden, Tom Heffernan, Bill Bergman, Bob Steinacher. Absent: Steve Kimbrough.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:06 P.M.
2. WELCOME NEW TAC MEMBERS: The TAC introduced themselves to the new members. New members are:

Serge Birk: Resident of Dairyville, works for Central Valley Project Water Association as their Environmental Fish Biologist, works with CALFED, Central Valley Project Improvement Act Implementation.

Jim Lowden: Corning Water District.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIRPERSON: Motion by Gary Antone and second by Jim Lowden to reelect Roger Sherrill as Chairperson and Bill Richardson as Vice Chair. Motion carried 8-0 with 1 absent.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bud Hagen, past member of AB3030 Temporary Advisory Committee, felt it is necessary to recognize that there is confusion regarding Proposition 12 and 13. These items are being promoted as a joint proposition.

Serge Birk answered that possibly the reason behind that is that when prospective voters were polled in the State of California on passing these propositions individually, where as opposed as collectively, it looked as if one would carry the other. That is why you will see many in the water community supporting these together.

Tom Heffernan said that in 1992 a rancher in Colusa County constructed a 3,000 gal. per minute well along South Avenue west of Pacific Farms almond orchards. This well is now for sale.

Roger Sherrill and Ernie Ohlin attended a workshop done by the State Water Resources Control Board. One issue is a decision by State Water Resource Board staff that two groundwater basins near Oceanside along the San Luis Ray River be classified as sub-terranean flow. A suggestion was made by NCWA for the to State Water Resources Control Board to enter into a workshop with water professionals to develop standards for determining when sub-terranean flows exist before any determinations are made. Ernie Ohlin added that this issue would be president setting.

Jim Lowden informed the TAC of papers served on Corning in a suit by the Delta Water Users Association, contending the Bureau of Reclamation activities have impacted their pre 1914 water rights. 100 districts were named in the suit. A large part of this issue deals with water quality.

5. MINUTES: Correction of page 2 paragraph 4, should read, “Ernie Ohlin received a call from the Department of Environmental Health stating that the Bureau of Reclamation is wanting information.....” Motion by Gary Antone and second by Robert Steinacher to approve the December 13, 1999 minutes with corrections. Carried 6-0 with 2 abstaining, 1 absent.

Motion to approve the January 10, 2000 minutes by Gary Antone and second by Bill Richardson. Carried 6-0 with 2 abstaining, 1 absent.

6. CALFED UPDATE: Serge Birk informed the TAC of his involvement in several technical committees as a stakeholder. With regard to the ecosystem restoration, funding has been under the Category 3 Program for one year and another two years of funding for ecosystem restoration program.

Serge Birk gave the committee members a brief summary of his involvement with the CALFED process.

Ernie Ohlin indicated that he was glad to see Serge involved in restoration because of the fact there are many proposals on Deer Creek and Mill Creek that we have ongoing concerns about. The bottom line is not so much concerns about fish restoration efforts, but rather the concerns about groundwater.

Bill Richardson commented that we are working in Tehama County on groundwater problems, but we don't want to lose site of the fact that the whole thing started with all the regulations and such for fisheries and fishery problems. Mr. Birk is a welcome addition.

7. TAC ANNUAL REPORT/DRAFT: The draft report was distributed to the TAC members. Roger Sherrill asked that comments be submitted quickly so that a final drafting can be prepared for presentation to the TCFC&WCD Board at their meeting in March.
8. STAFF REPORT: Ernie Ohlin reported that staff has been working on the annual report from staff prospective for presentation to the Board. It has been difficult to implement an AB 3030 Plan when there is no funding, but we are still looking for available grants.

Chrissy Bevens-Brown is still completing information from well data we have been gathering. 13,000-14,000 well logs have been scanned at DWR.

Another issue: Ernie reported, with regard to Mill Creek and Deer Creek, for fish restoration, the TAC looks at this regarding the effect on groundwater. When these

proposals deal with buying up water rights and altering water, irrigation, that is where the concern comes from in this group.

Serge Birk questioned committee discussion of negative impacts with any watershed. Does staff feel that the committee should review the current process that is there for anyone implementing a project?

Ernie answered that after gathering of his comments, they are presented to the TAC for input with regard to groundwater issues. It would help immensely if the TAC were involved at an earlier stage.

Ernie reported working with DWR on flood plain mapping of a section of Enloe Creek. Our second request is Jewett Creek. This may be completed during this fiscal year.

9. SUB COMMITTEE REPORT:

Chrissy Bevens-Brown met with Bill Richardson and Bill Bergman to refine the presentation of the well data gathered for the annual report. Staff has been accompanying DWR on their well monitoring and will continue in July and August on their own.

Roger Sherrill thanked the subcommittee for their participation and hoped they would continue working with staff.

It was requested by Ernie Ohlin a subcommittee be formed for aide in funding. This will be agendized in a later meeting.

10. MARCH MEETING SCHEDULE: Approved for March 20, 2000.

11. ADJOURNED: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:52 P.M.