

AB 3030 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2001

Present: Roger Sherrill, Tom Heffernan, Bill Richardson, Serge Birk, Robert Steinacher and Gary Antone. Absent: Steve Kimbrough, Jim Lowden and William Bergmann.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M.
2. MINUTES: Serge Birk asked that Page 2, third paragraph be corrected from “....the overall science program.” to read, “....how the conjunctive use program will integrate with Calfed Science Program.” Motion by Bill Richardson and Second by Tom Heffernan to approve the minutes of February as corrected. Carried 6-0 with 3 absent.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Bill Richardson questioned whether a speaker was expected to discuss managing or control of groundwater pumping. Judy Finch-Brown has accepted an offer to speak to the TAC and it was the consensus of the TAC to invite her. This will be arranged by Bill Richardson and put on next months agenda.
4. CALFED UPDATE: Serge Birk discussed the watershed restoration plan being funded by Calfed. The deadline for proposals is February 23.

Roger Sherrill discussed a conversation with Patrick Wright, (Executive Officer of Calfed) who is looking for a median to forward the programs affecting the Northern Sacramento Valley and then have the North part of the State act as a sounding board to move projects and receive feed-back. With issues turning to power instead of water this was put aside for a later date. The Sacramento Valley Water Forum was assembled to include several diversified groups of people and it is still an important group in the water arena.

Further discussions continued on the formation of the Calfed Advisory Group and jobs performed by the Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum.

5. TAC 2001 ANNUAL REPORT: Roger Sherrill distributed the draft copy of the annual report. Members were encouraged to review the document and submit suggestions before the next TAC meeting and presentation to the TCFC&WCD Board on March 27th
6. TAC NOMINATION FORMS/APPLICATIONS: Reviewing staff’s notes on the applications received, Roger Sherrill noted that four applications have been received for the two available seats with the City of Corning and Red Bluff appointing their own.

Due to the lateness of the seeking nominations, it was suggested, but not the consensus of the committee members to move the selection of new members to March. The selection process will remain the same, but the committee will get an earlier start.

7. STAFF REPORT: Due to a previously scheduled meeting, staff was unable to attend, but Ernie’s notes are

attached.

SITES RESERVOIR

Staff is attending weekly meetings (mostly in Sacramento) to discuss the possible development of new offstream storage - specifically Sites Reservoir. The meetings involve multiple representatives from Calfed, Bureau of Reclamation, DWR, GCID, TCCA, Colusa County, NCWA, EPA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Orland Unit Water Users, Corps of Engineers, Western Area Power Administration, Fish & Game, Friends of the River, etc.

Currently, we are attempting to develop a Purpose and Needs Statement which is one of the most important early issues involving the start of the permitting process. Also, many agencies developed interest statements relating to the project. (Tehama County Interest Statement is attached.)

FUNDING

As previously discussed with the TAC and Flood Control Board, staff is developing a “wish list” for funding to aggressively implement many aspects of our AB3030 Plan. The Board concurs that staff should apply for AB 303.

GRANT FUNDS

The application package should be out in mid March. Staff will continue to solicit input from the TAC regarding the items and activities to be addressed in the grant application. Of note is that the Flood Control Board felt there would be less “strings attached” with AB303 rather than applying for Calfed Conjunctive Use Feasibility Study monies.

Staff also attended a DWR sponsored Prop 13 Grant Funding meeting in Chico.

TAC NOMINATIONS

The Flood Control Board of Directors opened nominations for two open positions on the TAC. (Additionally, one will be appointed by the City of Red Bluff) Press releases were placed in the local newspapers and application forms made available at the Board of Supervisors office in Red Bluff, Public Works office in Gerber and City Hall in Corning. To date, four applications have been received.

Staff will request that the Flood Control Board of Directors discuss the possibility of establishing a process for interviewing the prospective candidates prior to making the appointments.

ORLAND UNIT WATER USERS MEETING

Staff attended the February 5, 2001 meeting which discussed preliminary limits to allow for drawdown on the water tables before actions would happen to curtail export. Interestingly, the boundaries are political (Water District) and not by sub-basin. The reason given was that irrigation and crop types were similar District to District so District Boundaries were acceptable to them. GCID appears to be a major player in Glenn County, although no GCID Representative was present. Staff will continue to interact with Glenn and Shasta County regarding their groundwater programs.

WOODSON BRIDGE EROSION AND RESTORATION

Staff met with Prop 13 Representative Earl Nelson, Burt Bundy - SB1086 Representative, to discuss possible

funding to repair the erosion on the west riverbank at Woodson Bridge. Additionally, funding to purchase lands upstream in Kopta Slough for a possible park site was discussed. As with most Prop 13 Funding Programs, an ecosystem restoration component must be present.

ORANGE COVE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Staff met with Jim Lowden and Bill Beren's from the Los Molinos Mutual Irrigation District. Issues discussed revolved around groundwater pumping to possibly replace surface water deliveries; the need for groundwater monitoring; Phasing; low flow channels, and the usual issues that surround this project. Staff is working with the Bureau of Reclamation to arrange a meeting with all parties involved to discuss the issues.

RED BLUFF DIVERSION DAM

Staff attended the solutions TAC meeting where CH2mHill Staff discussed the status of ongoing work to resolve fish passage and reliable water diversions at the Dam. A public meeting will be held on March 22, 2001 at 5:30 P.M. at the Red Bluff Community Center to update the public. The bypass option will also be discussed at the meeting.

FISH PASSAGE ISSUES

Staff has been in contact with numerous representatives from Fish and Game, Calfed, the Bureau of Reclamation, among others, to discuss the many programs to enhance fish passage in tributary streams in our County. The main item of discussion is to inform the agencies of our concern over stopping diversions for irrigation and possibly going to pumping groundwater and the effect that could have on ground water levels.

WELL MONITORING

Staff members will accompany DWR in early March to monitor the well grid in Tehama County. Additionally, County Staff will monitor the well grid throughout the Spring and Summer months.

ANNUAL REPORT

Staff is currently compiling information for the annual report which will be presented to the Flood Control Board in March.

8. SUB COMMITTEE REPORT: It was noted that of the nearly 11,000 well logs available, 7,000 well logs have been reviewed by Bill Richardson.

Discussions regarding a finance committee appointed during a previous meeting will be reviewed at the March meeting.

9. MEETING SCHEDULE: The next meeting will be March 19, 2001.
10. The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.