

**TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT AB3030 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2004**

Present: Tom Heffernan, Bill Richardson, Bob Steinacher, Walt Mansell, Kevin Borrer, Roger Sherrill, Steve Kimbrough. Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager, Dan McManus of DWR, Ken Belitz, US Geological Survey Project Coordinator and John Borkovich of State Water Resource Control Board. Absent: Gary Antone; Jim Lowden.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Roger Sherrill at 2:06 p.m.
2. INTRODUCTIONS: From the audience, the following were present; Lester Messina of Glenn County Water Resources; Judy Brown, a Glenn County Farmer; Richard Hendricks of State Division of Drinking Water, Redding; Tom Russ, Corning Public Works Director and John Brewer of the Corning Planning Dept.
3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 23, 2004 MINUTES: Motion by Walt Mansell and Second by Kevin Borrer to approve the February minutes. Carried 7-0 with 2 absent.

(NOTE: Due to no quorum at the March 15, 2004 field meeting, notes were attached for review and not a motion.)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Roger Sherrill announced the ACWA tour, Friday in Redding, dealing with effects on the Sacramento River and Federal and State Water projects.
5. MONITORING WELLS INSTALLATION - OVERVIEW: Ernie Ohlin presented an overview of this item.

Tehama County conducted a water inventory analysis approximately one year ago, identifying three Spring to Summer groundwater draw-down areas. This helped determine where monitoring wells should be placed. The first well is on Hall Road, County Property, site two is on Robert Steinacher's property, north of the Eucalyptus Farm west of I-5, and site three is between San Benito Avenue and 99W, south of Gerber Road on the Borrer Ranch. DWR grant funding through the AB303 enabled the wells to be installed. Monitoring of these wells during the summer will determine how draw-downs influence surrounding areas in the County. Dataloggers will be installed in all wells.

Dan McManus presented materials and samples for presentation of each well.

6. AB599(LIU) "GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING ACT OF 2001": Ken Belitz, US Geological Survey Project Coordinator, reviewed the AB599. One objective of this Act was to improve state-wide comprehensive groundwater monitoring and increase information available on the groundwater quality to the public. The second half of the first objective is being handled by the State Water Resources Control Board. Development, with the assistance of other agencies, an on-line inventory of groundwater information. The Act itself has an objective to assess each groundwater

basin in the State through direct and other statistically reliable sampling approaches. The third objective is to integrate existing monitoring programs and acquiring new data as needed.

Participants in are the SWRQB which is the lead agency; ITF or Inter-Agency Task Force consisting of the State Board, Departmental Services, DWR, Dept. of Pesticide Regulations, Dept. Toxic Substances Control and Dept. of Food and Agriculture.

What is the groundwater resource, Mr. Belitz continued? AB599 says protect groundwater as a source of drinking supply. What is the resource? There are two different approaches. AB599 specified that we should prioritize basins that provide drinking water supplies. There are about 500 groundwater basins and sub-basins in the State of California. Collectively, those basins, as mapped by DWR, occupy an area of approximately 176,000 kilometer square. Another approach to define the groundwater was defined by mapping active and inactive wells in the State. A 3 kilometer buffer was drawn around each well and simply allowed them to merge. Those areas could be defined as California's groundwater resource as useful drinking supply. There are approximately 16,000 wells within the area. 13,000 of those 16,000 wells are inside DWR's mapped basins. 20% are not inside groundwater basins. So, what is the groundwater resource? Is it the basins or the wells? There is no need to choose. A program can be designed to examine this either way.

Groundwater basins were the primary evaluated area with the exception of the Central Valley in which sub-basins were recognized as individual groundwater basins. In other parts of the State, sub-basins were very small. What was found was that for any specific factor, a few basins can account for a lot. Of the 472 basins evaluated, 14 basins accounted for 50% of the 13,000 wells located in basins. Six basins were accounted for 50% of the agricultural pumping. Underground fuel tanks, approximately 33,000 tanks with 23,000 to 25,000 located in basins. Nine basins account for half of all tanks. 12 basins account for half of all the pesticide applications.

Ernie Ohlin asked if and when the agencies involved in this research enter Tehama County, will departments from our County be involved. Mr. Belitz confirmed they will be.

Roger Sherrill added that local cooperation is essential for a successful program.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.