

**TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COORDINATED AB3030 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN TECHNICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2005**

Members present: Gary Antone; Allan Fulton; Jim Lowden, Roger Sherrill; Kevin Borrer; Walt Mansell; and Steve Kimbrough. Absent: Bill Richardson; Bob Steinacher. Also Present: Mark Barthel, City of Red Bluff; Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager; John Ayres, CDM; Max Richmond, Rio Alto Water District. Absent: Bill Ehorn of DWR; and Tccoy Dudley, DWR.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Antone at 2:05 p.m.
2. Introductions: Jim Lowden; Gary Antone; Roger Sherrill; Kevin Borrer; Walt Mansell; Ernie Ohlin; Steve Kimbrough; John Ayres, CDM; Max Richmond, Rio Alto Water District; and Allan Fulton.
3. Approval of August 15, 2005 & September 19, 2005 Minutes: Motion by Walt Mansell and second by Jim Lowden to approve the minutes of August 15 and September 19, 2005. Motion carried 7 to 0 with two absent.
4. Public Comment: Roger Sherrill announced Region 2 of ACWA is having a presentation Thursday, October 20, 2005 from 11-1 p.m. at the Canyon Oaks Country Club. The meeting will discuss the blueprint of California's water future. They have included an implementation plan to move forward to do something about infrastructure, reliable quantity and quality of water in California 20-years from now. The report recommended implementation of all 12 points of the plan. The Plan "No Time To Waste, a Blueprint for California Water," may be obtained by calling (916)-441-4545.

Ernie Ohlin announced the Enlargement of Shasta Lake scoping meeting is to be held on November 3, 2005, 6 p.m. at the Red Bluff Community Center. Discussions will include the early process for raising Shasta Dam.

Ernie Ohlin also noted that SB820 a bill requiring registering with State Water Resources Control Board before drilling and pumping water, was vetoed by the Governor.

Allan Fulton, Ernie Ohlin, and Bill Ehorn will be assisting with the Butte County Farm City Tour on November 9, 2005. The tour will stop at the District's monitoring well, located on Hall Road, and we will discuss our ground water management in Tehama County and coordination with DWR.

Ernie Ohlin provided information regarding approved funding recommendation through CalFed for the Battle Creek Project. Staff met with Representatives from Congressmen Herger and Amstead's office to discuss the issues. Congressman Herger will support the project, but not be a "cheerleader" for it. Also discussed was the "Beneficiary Pays" issue through CalFed and to stress that this is not a benefit for Northern California. It is beneficial to the Delta, for fisheries and for the exporters, but not to the water diverters and water-right holders in Northern California.

Staff distributed the Northern California Water Association Month in Review.

5. Chairman Vacancy-Discussion/Decision: Chairman Gary Antone announced his acceptance of the Public Works Director position for Tehama County.

Due to this item not being agendized as an action item, motion was made by Steve Kimbrough and seconded by Jim Lowden to change this item to an "Action Item" and to nominate a Chairperson for the 2005/2006 year. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 2 absent to change Item 5 informational to action.

Motion by Jim Lowden to nominate Roger Sherrill as Chairman. Mr. Sherrill, due to schedule conflicts, declined.

Motion by Steve Kimbrough to nominate Jim Lowden as Chairman of the AB3030 TAC. Motion seconded by Roger Sherrill and carried by those present 7 to 0 with 2 absent.

Motion by Roger Sherrill to nominate Allan Fulton to fill the position of Vice Chairman. Second by Steve Kimbrough and carried by those present 7 to 0 with 2 absent.

6. SB1938 and BMO Discussion: Ernie Ohlin distributed the SB1938 Compliance Review Draft Technical Memorandum and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding Groundwater Basin Management. SB1938 has a variety of components saying if you want to receive State funding for water projects you will comply with the requirements.

The AB3030 MOU states “Representatives of the District and Entity shall be jointly responsible for the activities described in Phase I of the modified draft plan. As noted below, the District and Entity shall implement Phases II and III of the Coordinated Groundwater Management Plan by separate agreement.” Ernie wanted to keep that point in mind that the TAC may have to revisit the issue, or there are some things that are not compliant with regard to fees and assessments. It does not apply just to Phase I, II, or III; it applies to all of them.

John Ayres of Camp Dresser and McKee reviewed the Tehama County Groundwater Management Plan and if it complied with SB1938. The current plan is focused on groundwater levels in sub-areas throughout the basin and the requirement is specifically for groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and essentially means surface water and groundwater interaction. What the code is looking for is a component addressing those issues. Some counties use quality or quantitative BMO's . The code does not state quantitative numbers are necessary, so we believe qualitative basin management objectives can be set by the individuals or the TAC. In reading the Water Code, Mr. Ayres continued, the BMO's are required for the basins and not sub-basins. The Sacramento Valley Basin and Redding Basin would need one each, but not necessarily for example, Red Bluff east or west, although it may be better management practices to do smaller areas.

John Ayres continued that another area not covered in the MOU is a map covering the Groundwater Plan area and areas that are not included in the Plan. Adopting monitoring protocols used to detect the four areas needs to be completed. Suggested components are annual reports addressing the overall management objectives, simple descriptions of how current issues are proceeding and how they are relating to the overall plan.

The SB1938 Compliance Review may have an effect on the BMO issue. John Ayers discussed the SB1938 Compliance Review. Voluntary components (AB3030) listed in the first table says what was listed and where they are in the existing groundwater management plan divided by section and by phase. The third section is the required components from Senate Bill 1938, and the table is on page 3 on the handout out.

Ernie Ohlin added that identification of well construction policies, as required by the environmental Health Department, should be acknowledged and should be recommended to the Board to incorporate into the Plan.

Discussions continued regarding Phase I and Phase II of the MOU. Ernie Ohlin suggested either examining/changing items, or proceeding to Phase II. It is important to identify that all phases are recognized.

Identification of recharge areas is an important issue we need to understand. With all the new urban planned developments in the county, it would be important to know what the plan is for the next ten years.

Ernie Ohlin continued by saying there was no definitive timeline from Phase I to Phase II. This will need to be addressed on future grant applications. When setting BMO's and trigger levels, it is to protect groundwater, groundwater quality, availability and reliability.

Steve Kimbrough felt the State should be informed that there is no timeline due to establishing trigger levels in our Plan and that cannot be projected at this time.

Roger Sherrill reiterated a past Board members concerns that they would hope we never reached Phase II or III. That would be the ideal groundwater management by never reaching restraining roles due to managing the system in advance.

Chairman Antone agreed and review of the Plan is in order to revise Phase II and Phase III wording or placement of specific phase actions in the Plan.

Roger Sherrill added that updated material on the Plan needs to be presented and accepted countywide.

Ernie Ohlin felt that all overlying property owners have the right to pump and irrigate fields. The County does not have the right to turn them on or off. But, where the County can protect citizens is when large developments come through the permitting process and are conditioned, the County can set conditions for alternate actions if the project has an impact relating to water. Hypothetically speaking, Sun City is proposing to pump from the 500 ft. level for all potable water and use the 1000 ft. level strictly for the golf course. Through the County Management Plan, if pumping at the 500 ft. level adversely affects surrounding pumpers, they could be conditioned to pump at the 1000 ft. level where there would be no adverse effects. Education is a prime factor.

Kevin Borrer expressed the concerns of pumpers and hopefully the County will attempt to take responsibility on new developments. In general, most of the agriculture developments are where the water is. Trigger levels will not be achieved in certain developments.

Roger Sherrill discussed the need for this committee to be involved in the County General Plan Amendment. You need to know the changes in land use throughout the County.

Ernie Ohlin discussed the surface diversion in Tehama County from the tributary streams. This issue will not go away. Less stream diversion is due to fish issues and it may not be a Sun City, but it may be necessary not to divert stream flow and you will need to pump groundwater. This may happen in the next 10-years.

Jim Lowden added that the pressure is cost and groundwater is cheap. Management costs are increasing and farmers can hardly afford surface water.

Allan Fulton questioned how to achieve trigger levels and how to engage the agricultural sector.

Ernie Ohlin answered in past issues, gathering representatives of larger agricultural operations and discussing issues with known people in the group was helpful. If methodology information is gathered, would these people be more inclined to agree to the information before a crisis came about?

Steve Kimbrough added that an informational meeting should be given as a “status report”, presenting information before the crisis arrives, showing what our direction is. Also, questioning those that would be willing to work through the problem.

Chairman Antone recommended reassessing all Phases of the Plan and examining where it is deficient, if there is an overdraft, and whom would it affect.

Ernie Ohlin addressed that John Ayres will gather information for individual areas for our next meeting. It is understood that a BMO trigger level plan needs to be established. Staff will meet with Allan Fulton and discuss the ag waiver issue and anyone who would like to attend. The information will be presented at the November meeting.

7. Sun City Tehama-Groundwater Investigation: Ernie Ohlin reported that after review of the Administrative Draft and their comments of “no groundwater management plan in

their area”, issues need to be addressed. The draft did not address monitoring or what they proposed in the area. Staff suggested a dual completion monitoring well at the 500 and 1000 ft. levels, on all four sides of the development and entering this information into the groundwater model to see if what they proposed or predicted is happening. If not, they will need to adjust the model and change their methods.

8. Next Meeting Date: November 21, 2005

9. Adjourn: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.