

**TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COORDINATED AB 3030 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN TECHNICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Allan Fulton at 2:15 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS: Allan Fulton, Bill Richardson, Walt Mansell, Roger Sherrill, Bill Richardson, Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager, and Thaddeus Bettner (Thad), Glenn Colusa Irrigation District General Manager.

Absent: Steve Kimbrough, Kevin Borrer, Bob Steinacher, and Mark Barthel

Due to time constraints, the presentation by Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

6. INFORMATIONAL REGARDING INSTALLATION & OPERATION OF UP TO 7 TEST WELLS TO CONDUCT AQUIFER PERFORMANCE TESTS ON GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS UNDERLYING GLENN COLUSA I.D, ORLAND-ARTOIS W.D., & ORLAND UNIT WUASA: Thad Bettner of Glenn Colusa Irrigation District gave a presentation regarding the installation of seven test wells installed within the boundaries of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID), Orland Artois Water District (OAWD), and Orland Unit Water Users Association (OUWUA). These test wells would be used to conduct aquifer performance tests on geologic formations underlying the GCID, OAWD, and OAWUA.

Ernie Ohlin questioned how many acres were included in the Orland Artois Water District and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District.

Thad Bettner stated there are 12,000 acres in OAWD and 175,000 in GCID with 130,000 of those acres actually being farmed and irrigated. The remaining land is made up of refuge land and idle cropping. The District also includes several areas that exclusively use well water and pumping.

Walt Mansell asked if the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District supplies water to the refuges in their District.

Thad Bettner explained that the refuges have their own contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for Level 2 water, and that supply is typically 100,000 acre feet annually. GCID does have a conveyance agreement with the refuges, and the water is transported through the canals.

Ernie Ohlin questioned if the District has seen an increase in permanent crops, or if most of their acreage is rice farming.

Thad Bettner answered that most of their acreage (approximately 100,000) is rice, but they have seen an increase of 2,000 to 2,500 per year, for a total of 12,000 acres. If the acreage increased to at least 25,000 GCID would begin looking at land where permanent crops could be grown. Recently, rice growers have switched to corn due to the increased ethanol demands.

Discussion continued regarding the installation of test wells.

Allan Fulton questioned GCID's perspective and participation on discretionary water transfers as it is viewed as protecting water rights.

Thad Bettner explained that after GCID performed their own analysis, they realized there was an exposure from their water rights perspective. If they challenged Phase A, the State Board could have made them give up water during dry years when they are unable to divert water. It was in their best interest to work on developing a solution that works for their district as well as the exporters, rather than going to a water rights hearing, which could cost them between 600,000 and 700,000 acre feet. The Sacramento Valley

water agencies voluntarily transfer 90,000 acre feet out of the basin annually instead of risking potentially 700,000.

Thad Bettner continued that GCID is proposing drilling six test holes, to determine the best locations to monitor and pull water from. Based on the information they know about the Tehama and Tuscan, they can determine the target area they should be pumping for. They will be installing up to seven test production wells, and working with DWR and their consultant to develop a testing program. Help determine where the water that is pulled out is coming from.

Ernie Ohlin asked for clarification regarding the number of test wells that will be installed.

Thad Bettner stated that they would be doing six test holes to determine the best location for the seven potential test wells. The seven test wells will be located within the three Districts (GCID, OAWD and OUWUA). However, due to the high bids received for the project, they may be capped at four wells.

The discussion continued regarding the test well installation.

Mark Barthel arrived at 3:10 p.m.

GCID is coordinating with Glenn County to make their information accessible on the Glenn County website. Ernie noted that Tehama County Flood Control will be setting up their website to link with Glenn, Colusa and Butte County's websites.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of the Minutes of the August meeting will be carried over until the next meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Allan Fulton opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Roger Sherrill informed the committee that Department of Water Resources will be holding a meeting September 26, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to discuss groundwater quality monitoring for the area south of Los Molinos to Redding.

Ernie Ohlin announced that North Sacramento Valley Water Forum will be having a presentation regarding the peripheral canal on October 10 at the Colusa Casino.

5. ESTABLISH SUB COMMITTEE FOR TAC APPLICANTS: Ernie announced the applicants for the new committee members. There was only one applicant for Small Districts, Bob Steinacher. There were three new applicants: Collin Pinestacker, a staff hydrologist for Lawrence and Associates; Bill Kemp, a 47 year resident of the area; and Lupe Green, a retiree and a former employee of the Discovery Center.

Allan Fulton will be forming a sub-committee to interview the applicants. Bill Richardson and Roger Sherrill volunteered to sit on the sub committee as well. Interviews will be held at a future date.

7. TRIGGER LEVEL BACKGROUND DOCUMENT UPDATE: John Ayres of CDM, informed Staff that most of the comments from the last TAC meeting have been incorporated into the document. The document should be completed within a week. Once staff has the document, it will be sent to all committee members. John Ayres is scheduled to attend the October TAC meeting to discuss the document in further detail.

Ernie Ohlin announced that the AB303 funding remains in the Governor's budget. Ernie will be in talks with DWR in regard to applying for a grant to do public outreach. There will be further discussion of this at another meeting to gain input from committee

members. The committee members agree it is essential to spend time doing public outreach to provide information about what the AB3030 committee is and what they do.

Ernie continued that the Flood Control Board has approved the use of \$10,000 from the existing grant money to expand the Butte County BMO Information Center. Staff was also given approval to purchase a device for water quality testing, similar to what Butte and Glenn Counties are using.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.