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MINUTES
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Boardroom, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Committee Members Present:

Daniel Naumann, chair
Gordon Kimball, director
Lynn Maulhardt, director

Staff Present:

Mauricio Guardado, general manager
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Dan Detmer, water resources manager
Eric Elliott, associate hydrogeologist
Dr. Zachary Hanson, hydrogeologist
John Lindquist, supervising hydrogeologist
Murray McEachron, principal hydrologist
Josh Perez, chief human resource officer
Zachary Plummer, technology systems manager
Dr. Bram Sercu, senior hydrologist
Daryl Smith, controller
Kris Sofley, executive assistant/clerk of the Board
Clayton Strahan, chief park ranger
Dr. Jason Sun, principal hydrogeologist/modeler
Brian Zahn, chief financial officer

Public Present:

Joseph Marcinko, assistant public works director, City of Oxnard
Jennifer Tribo, management analyst II, Ventura Water
Sam Collie

OPEN SESSION: 9:05 a.m.

Chair Naumann called the meeting to order at 9:05a.m. All Committee members were in attendance.

1. Public Comment

Chair Naumann asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes - Motion



Motion to approve the Minutes from the Water Resources Committee meeting of September 6, 2022, Director Maulhardt; second, Director Kimball. Voice vote: three ayes (Kimball, Maulhardt, Naumann). Motion carries unanimously 3/0.

3. Modeling of Projects for OPV Basins Sustainability, Part 1—Modeling Approach and Forecasted Water Supplies (see attached slides)

Dr. Bram Sercu delivered a presentation to the Committee describing the water supply projects proposed by United and other OPV basin stakeholders. He also summarized the general iterative modeling approach, as well as forecasted changes in water deliveries and pumping for the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley basins.

Director Maulhardt interrupted Dr. Sercu’s presentation to correct the impression that the sustainable yield was set at 50,000 AFY as far back as 2000 (as suggested by the graphic Dr. Sercu presented), stating that at one time, the sustainable yield was believed to be 120,000 AFY, but through advances in technology, modeling and studies, it has been determined that USGS model was wrong and the sustainable yield was lowered to 100,000 AFY. As UWCD ramped up its Groundwater Department, using the “best science” to advance its modeling efforts, it later supported the GSP analysis that estimated sustainable yield to be 50,600 AFY. He suggested that the graph be revised to show the historical estimates of sustainable yields over time, and attribute pumping reductions to improved irrigation efficiency, new projects and land use transitions from agriculture to M&I. Mr. Guardado concurred and suggested the creation of additional lines in the graph to show earlier assumptions. Director Maulhardt suggested presenting the information in 5-year increments to demonstrate that, in 1985 for example, FCGMA was tackling this issue and felt it was important to show that the issue has been dealt with consistently and as science and technology improves, so too does the data. Mr. John Lindquist came forward and stated that an Open File Report on the evolution of safe yield was about to be released and it includes safe yield figures back to the 1950s. Mr. Guardado suggested staff create a visual of what is represented in the document. Mr. Lindquist added that the term “sustainable yield” wasn’t defined until 2014 in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, even though there has been a similar understanding of the term since the 1950s.

There was then a discussion over the use of the term “hybrid scenario,” which Dr. Sercu explained was the term agreed to by the members of the FCGMA Operations committee, which represents a mix of projects designed to optimize basin yield, including the extraction barrier project United is developing. The presentation also examined the impact of increased water deliveries as pumping is reduced in coastal areas with the implementation of projects, and that with the hybrid project scenario (select projects and extraction barrier) water deliveries and basin yield goes up.

Before beginning his presentation, Mr. John Lindquist asked if the Committee would like him to defer his presentation to another meeting, as he knew it would take at least 30 minutes to get through all of the slides and he didn’t want to presume the Committee had the additional time that would be required. Chair Naumann suggested that Mr. Lindquist hold his presentation until after the Installation of New Monitoring Wells in the Fillmore Basin presentation by Mr. Eric Elliott and Mr. Dan Detmer’s Water Resources Department and GSA Activities Update.



5. Installation of New Monitoring Wells in the Fillmore Basin (see attached slides)

Eric Elliott presented a progress report to the Committee related to the construction of three shallow monitoring wells near the Fillmore Fish Hatchery, and a deep nested monitoring well near the downstream end of the Fillmore basin, as funded by a DWR grant through the Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA. Mr. Elliott also explained that this was the first time staff had worked with “sonic drilling” methods and explained the benefits of the technology, which includes rapid drilling, less waste disposal and continuous core samples.

Director Kimball expressed the appreciation of the Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA Board for United’s support, and he is glad that they were able to help contribute more knowledge regarding sonic drilling practices.

6. Water Resources Department and GSA Activities Update

Mr. Dan Detmer provide an oral update to the Committee on recent Water Resources Department activities and updates on GSA activities and schedules for the Fillmore and Piru Basins, Mound Basin and Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (Oxnard, Pleasant Valley and Las Posas Valley basins) as contained the staff report for this item.

4. Modeling of Projects for OPV Basins Sustainability, Part 2—Effects on Groundwater Conditions (see attached slides)

Mr. John Lindquist provided the second half of the OPV Basins modeling of projects for sustainability, summarizing groundwater elevations and flow paths forecasted to result from implementation of the new water supply projects proposed by United and other OPV basin stakeholders. Mr. Lindquist asserted that, based on the modeling conducted of the new “hybrid” projects (as defined by the FCGMA Operations Committee), the District’s Extraction Barrier and Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment project plus the other new projects will promote sustainable basin conditions without the need to reduce agricultural and M&I pumping from current levels. Mr. Lindquist said that project effectiveness in the mitigation of seawater intrusion is equal to or better than “reductions with projects” scenario as referenced in the GSPs for the OPV basins, and also result in improved groundwater quality.

Director Maulhardt expressed that the slides (slide 15 specifically) should include references to continued monitoring and management adjustments to meet basin goals, and should also include costs. Director Maulhardt said that that both Bram and John’s presentations are beneficial to all constituents and demonstrate the District’s expertise in groundwater modeling and show exactly what the department is capable of doing. He called the whole process and presentation “evolutionary.” Director Maulhardt continued, stating that FCGMA has always made decisions based on the best information available at that time. He said that this is an evolutionary process and as the District learns more, it needs to adjust, especially in the next five years, to look at potential modifications. Director Maulhardt also stressed that this has to be a collaborative process and added that this is exactly the type of information that participants at the Water Sustainability Summit are looking for and that the process demonstrates that the District is answering concerns of any naysayers.

Director Maulhardt said these presentations need to go to the full Board and suggested Mr. Lindquist start with the “punchline,” cut out the middle slides, and present slide 29, which



he called both significant and powerful. Director Maulhardt stated that these presentations visually answer the concerns of naysayers, are driven by stakeholder input, rely on proven technology, the EBB Water project is a solution to the problem and is in the perfect location with the perfect partner, and the money and costs will have to be managed.

Director Kimball added that these projects mean no cutbacks and that is a game changer. He also stated that the better staff is at getting this information out to the public, the more it becomes a viable solution for all.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Naumann asked if the Committee members had any future agenda items for consideration. None were offered. Director Maulhardt stated that he would like to take this opportunity to tell staff what a great job they have done and continue to do, and asked if the comments offered by him and other Committee members were helpful. Staff agreed that the comments were helpful.

ADJOURNMENT 11:05a.m.

Chair Naumann adjourned the meeting at 11:05a.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Water Resources Committee Meeting of November 1, 2022.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Naumann", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Naumann, Chair