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MINUTES
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Boardroom, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

Committee Members Present:

Daniel Naumann, chair
Mohammed Hasan, director
Gordon Kimball, director

Staff Present:

Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Dr. Maryam Bral, chief engineer
Marissa Caringella, environmental services manager
John Carman, operations & maintenance program supervisor
Brian Collins, chief operations officer
Dan Detmer, water resources manager
Dr. Zachary Hanson, hydrogeologist
Eva Ibarra, clerk for the Committee
Tessa Lenz, environmental scientist/regulatory affairs
John Lindquist, supervising hydrogeologist
Murray McEachron, principal hydrologist
Josh Perez, chief human resources officer
Zachary Plummer, technology systems manager
Vanessa Vasquez, administrative assistant
Brian Zahn, chief financial officer

Public Present:

Jared Bouchard, Pleasant Valley County Water District
Alden Broome, Guadalupe Mutual Water Company
Omar Castro, City of Oxnard
Brian Franz, GSI Water Solutions
Jorgen Gramkow, Southland Sod Farms
Tony Morgan, DBS&A

OPEN SESSION: 9:00 a.m.

Director Nauman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All Committee members were in attendance (Naumann, Kimball and Hasan).

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 January 31, 2023. Director Naumann; second, Director Kimball. Voice vote: three ayes (Naumann, Kimball, Hasan). Motion carries unanimously 3/0.

3. Hydrologic Conditions Update for the Santa Clara River Watershed, March 2023

UWCD's Principal Hydrologist Murray McEachron presented on weather forecasts from 2022, rainfall totals from October-March 2023, rainfall totals in Santa Paula, conditions at Lake Piru, forecasted flows at the Freeman Diversion, updates from the Santa Clara River and projected flows at the Freeman Diversion facility and release flows from Castaic Lake (see attached slides).

Director Naumann asked Mr. McEachron about the left-over water referencing a yellow line on a graph from his presentation on slide eighteen (projected flows at the Freeman Diversion). Mr. McEachron replied that stored water would be available through May. This prompted Director Kimball to ask if UWCD would have competition for Article 21 water. Mr. McEachron responded that UWCD would have to wait to see how it plays out, but a purchase isn't likely this year. Mr. McEachron continued the discussion by stating that a common question that's been received is whether or not CA remains in a drought and noted that Dr. Bram Sercu would be explaining this during his presentation. Director Naumann asked about water in the summer months and about diversions, including where staff expect to store Article 21 water. Mr. McEachron said the District will be able to meet surface water demands and will encourage users to take surface water deliveries. For Article 21, staff would need to wait to see if it is available in June and consider the condition of the recharge basins at that time. The water could potentially be diverted through Castaic.

4. Optimization of groundwater recharge at the Saticoy Facility

Senior Hydrologist Dr. Bram Sercu delivered a presentation to the Committee which included diversion goals for 2023, conveyance of water to the Rose Basin, the Saticoy-Ferro Recharge Pilot Project, United's Recharge Basin Maintenance and Rotation Program, current status of the Saticoy basins and the Forebay monitoring wells. He commented on what is required to end the "groundwater" drought in the Forebay and activities to manage sediment accumulation in the Diversion Canal and Desilting Basin (see attached slides).

Director Naumann asked if the Rose Basin and Noble 1 were being considered and if the Ferro Basin was being used? Dr. Sercu answered yes, the Rose Basin has been used, and added that if the water level rises in the basins this might affect mounding. The plan for the Ferro pilot project is to install pumps and piping to convey 54 cfs from Noble 3 to the Ferro Basin. Director Naumann continued the conversation by asking what percolation range was measured at El Rio. Dr. Sercu replied up to about eight feet per day and that measurements wouldn't be possible without looking at the gauges. He added that as mounding continues, optimizing recharge would be required and that basins that are currently unused will be rotated in.

Director Naumann pointed out a zero line on slide five (Recharge Basin Maintenance and Rotation Program) and asked if this represented sea level? Dr. Sercu responded yes. Other feedback from Director Naumann included adding some footnotes to slide 11 (What will it take to end the "Groundwater Drought in the Forebay?") on how the RPs have changed. Chief Operations Officer



Brian Collins added that the District sometimes pumps the desilting basin dry in April and then removes sediment when it is sufficiently dry.

Omar Castro from City of Oxnard made a public comment stating that residents are anxious to pump their Recycled Water Allocation (credits) as the Fox Canyon GMA resolution provides. He stated if the credits are not redeemed, recycled water will be used for water injection in the future. Based on Dr. Sercu's projection, he asked when can the less than 80,000 AF of available storage threshold be reached? Water Resources Manager Dan Detmer noted that the recent 2022 annual report reports on drought conditions from last year. He added that since then there has been significant recharge and groundwater mounding near the Saticoy basins, and the available storage estimate is down to 68,000 acre-feet in the Forebay. Mr. Detmer also stated that perhaps later this year that window will open for allocation recovery. One of the things that is not clear as of yet, he said, is if the City's production will increase greatly if recycled water allocation recovery becomes available. If UWCD can understand Oxnard's intentions related to allocation recovery, then staff can make a better argument.

Jurgen Gramckow, from Southland Sod Farms, asked if conditions would improve to where Fox Canyon GMA's resolution would allow Oxnard to pump back recycled water allocations? Mr. Detmer replied that he reviewed the terms of the resolution and basin conditions and thinks it likely that recycled water allocations can be used this year.

Director Naumann asked if FCGMA decided where water is pumped from? Mr. Detmer replied that per the resolution the water would be pumped from the OH well field in the Forebay or from the City's wells.

Director Naumann suggested that for the presentations this information needed to be reflected on and discussed. Director Kimball suggested to Dr. Sercu and Mr. McEachron that staff work to show how staff will work through these challenges shared in the presentations. Director Naumann concluded that the Board does not need to know all the details presented to the Committee, and recommended that staff make the presentation more concise, adding that, overall, it was an excellent presentation. Supervising Hydrogeologist John Lindquist asked Committee members if staff should tighten presentations? Director Naumann responded that all information is important and to discuss all water coming in, Article 21 and recharge activities with the full Board.

5. Water Resources Department and GSA Activities Update

Mr. Lindquist presented the Water Resources Department Updates that included staff actively supporting operations for releases and recharge and Groundwater modelers working on designs for the Extraction Barrier Brackish (EBB) Water Treatment Project. Next month staff recommended that Zach Hanson present on an annual report groundwater conditions and long-term overdraft.

Director Naumann added that all the District Facility Tours participants have had nothing but good feedback. He mentioned that within two to three hours after the tours, he receives phone calls from community members that were excited to see the work being done. He added that tour participants were thrilled to see water running and, addressing the public, he recommended they need to get out to the Santa Felicia Dam and see for themselves.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Will be reviewed with MEG and see if he has changes.



ADJOURNMENT 10:15 a.m.

Chair Naumann adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Water Resources Committee Meeting of April 4, 2023.

ATTEST:

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

Daniel Naumann, Chair