

REGULAR MEETING
Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster
July 1, 2009

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rubio called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency Boardroom at 5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey.

II. ROLL CALL

City of Seaside – Mayor Ralph Rubio, Chairman
Coastal Subarea Landowner – Director Paul Bruno, Vice Chair
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (“MPWMD”) – Director Judi Lehman, Secretary
City of Del Rey Oaks – Mayor Joseph Russell, Treasurer
Laguna Seca Subarea Landowner – Director Bob Costa
California American Water (“CAW”) – Director Craig Anthony
City of Monterey – Mayor Charles “Chuck” Della Sala
City of Sand City – Mayor David Pendergrass
Monterey County/Monterey County Water Resources Agency (“MCWRA”) – Curtis Weeks (Alternate)

Absent: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Director Weeks, seconded by Director Bruno, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the Watermaster Regular Meeting of May 6, 2009.

IV. REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no questions or comments from the public.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Consider Approval of Summary for Payments made during May and June 2009 totaling \$94,717.00.
- B. Consider current year Financial Reports – Through June 30, 2009.
- C. Approve two payments authorized and paid by CEO each under the \$10,000 authorized limit.
 - 1. HydroMetrics: \$7,500 (Obtain additional groundwater modeling data)
 - 2. MPWMD: \$5,000.00 (Make improvements to Watermaster database)

Moved by Director Weeks, seconded by Director Lehman, and unanimously carried, to approve the consent calendar as presented.

VII. ORAL PRESENTATION

There were no oral presentations scheduled.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

- a) The Board reviewed the submitted TAC report responding to informational requests from the Board regarding City of Seaside obtaining irrigation for its golf courses from the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD). Mr. Robert Jaques, Watermaster Technical Program Manager, stated it was the opinion of the TAC that it would not be possible for the City of Seaside-MCWD proposed project to achieve sufficient in-lieu replenishment of the Seaside Basin during the current Water Year in order to avert pumping reductions required by the Decision. He stated that the TAC did not look at the 09/10 water year however he was aware that, taking into consideration the new golf course irrigation design for conservation, the amount of water needed for irrigation for the upcoming year would be roughly 500 acre feet; with the 10% reduction equating to 560 acre feet, it appears that there would not be enough savings from the project to offset the 10% reduction in pumping even if the project was operational the entire upcoming water year. Chair Rubio stated the project was feasible for the City and MCWD however the City was not entering into agreements until Watermaster made a determination of the amount of offset made possible by the project and whether the court would accept the offset in whole or part. The Watermaster Budget and Finance Committee had not met yet on the issue.

Director Bruno felt that data obtained and determinations made by the TAC relating to one of the four conditions in the Decision that allows an exemption to the 10% cutback – sufficient groundwater levels in the basin determined to create a positive offshore gradient – should be addressed when seeking approval from the court for an accrued production offset.

Director Anthony expressed confidence that California American Water would reduce its pumping by 10% this water year.

Chair Rubio directed staff to

- Convene a Budget and Finance Committee on how to finance the project
- Provide a status report at the next regular meeting on basin production versus pumping limits for the current water year (Production amounts are due July 15th for a compilation of a report on production through 3 quarters of the current water year)
- Provide a report on the steps deemed necessary by Watermaster to implement the project by October 1, 2009
- Determine via a legal interface with the court if any accrued production offset from the project could be applied against the 10% cutback for the current or ensuing water year.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

- a) The Board reviewed the submitted memorandum from Mr. Jaques regarding the selection of scenarios to be evaluated by the updated Seaside Basin Groundwater Model. Mr. Jaques stated that HydroMetrics LLC, the consultant to Watermaster for groundwater modeling, was hopeful that it could provide preliminary modeling information to the TAC by August 2009. The TAC selected five scenarios for presentation to the board out of many submitted by HydroMetrics. The Recycled Urban Water Augmentation Project could be considered as being included in scenarios where water is brought in from outside the basin (not necessarily identified from where). Mr. Jaques stated that HydroMetrics was tasked with the details of the outcomes of the scenarios, and it could be determined by the TAC that detailed data warranted additional scenarios. The intent of the scenarios was to determine 1) protective water levels, 2) storage, and 3) water movement. Since the location of the seawater/groundwater interface is unknown, scenarios could not factor that in. The “baseline” scenario would be one where nothing changes, boundary conditions would be established and changes would be tracked by other scenarios over time. Once protective water levels were reached, the basin would be considered “full.”

Moved by Director Costa, seconded by Director Weeks, and unanimously carried, to approve the selection of scenarios to be evaluated by the updated Seaside Basin Groundwater Model as presented.

- b) The Board reviewed the submitted Request for Service (RFS) from Martin Feeney to install a new monitoring well in the inland area of the former Fort Ord where no wells currently exist as per the Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) scope of work and 2009 Capital Fund budget. A cluster of wells was recommended as less expensive to install and likely to give the most reliable data. The RFS allows up to 1,000 feet of drilling in order to obtain the data although 800 feet is hoped to be all that is needed. CEO Evans advised the board that the RFS provides for the transfer of \$44,199 from the Operations Fund to the Capital Fund to cover full projected costs. Director Lehman requested that the wording in the RFS be changed to more clearly reflect that the cost includes one installation of 3 “clustered” wells to avoid being interpreted as a per-well cost.

Joe Oliver, MPWMD Senior Hydrologist, responded to Mayor Russell’s inquiry stating that one of the scenarios approved in the previous agenda item would consider where existing wells could be redistributed to more effectively pump from the basin and possibly optimize its yield. The monitoring site being pursued is in an area of the basin where no wells were currently located and placement would aid in a better understanding of the basin’s characteristics including underlying formations. Director Bruno stressed the critical need for a clear determination of the importance of obtaining data at the considered location not only because of the high costs involved,

but also to properly prioritize the competing need to obtain data along the coast to determine protective water levels. Mr. Feeney responded that the priority placement of the well at the considered location was based on the need to know the gradient of inflow recharging the basin across General Jim Moore Boulevard in order to determine protective levels. No control data currently exists with the exception of water level data from 20 years ago from the well at Camp Hoffman. He felt that inland control was needed and that the Decision called for monitoring in that area.

Mr. Jaques stated the TAC felt Mr. Feeney's rates were very reasonable in comparison to similar services bid elsewhere in recent years. The TAC had confidence in his selection due to his extensive work with so many well drilling contractors in this part of the County. Watermaster was saved the cost of an added contingency by not going out to bid.

Moved by Mayor Della Sala, seconded by Mayor Russell, and unanimously carried, to approve the Request for Service to Martin Feeney to design and construct a monitoring well at an estimated cost of \$262,599 at the location specified, and to transfer \$44,199 from the Operations Fund to the Capital Fund to cover the estimated funding shortfall.

X. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (No Action Required)

- A. Timeline Schedule of Milestone Dates (Critical date monitoring)
- B. Technical Advisory Committee minutes of April 22, May 13, May 28 & June 10, 2009
- C. Water Production Report for Second Quarter Water Year 2009 (January 1 - March 31, 2009)
- D. TAC Progress Report on two topics: Groundwater Modeling – Protective Water Levels and Installation of New Monitoring Well

XI. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Director Bruno would be absent next meeting on August 5, 2009 and inquired if he could call into the meeting. The MRWPCA board room does not have the capability for wireless internet conferencing - there is only a speaker phone that is hard for the remote listener to hear through. Director Bruno would send an alternate.

Mayor Pendergrass, speaking as a representative of Watermaster, stated that the SNG Ecoresort court case had been appealed by MPWMD that claimed to have CEQA authority, challenging Judge Randall's ruling that no CEQA was required under the Decision. Mayor Pendergrass felt that other permit requests to MPWMD from water rights holders under the Decision would be scrutinized, challenged and delayed in like manner by MPWMD. Mayor Pendergrass requested that Watermaster strategize on how to protect the interests of the basin and the pumper's rights. Chair Rubio directed that legal counsels within each respective jurisdiction determine if there were concerns that needed to be brought collectively to the board and provide a reporting at the next regular meeting as a possible action item.

XII. EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENTS

Third quarter water production and level reporting is due July 15, 2009 in order to report final amounts at the next regular meeting. Water quality analysis is due August 15, 2009 for inclusion in the Annual Report due in November. The next Watermaster TAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 1:30pm at the Seaside City Hall portable building conference room; the July meeting is cancelled. Next Budget and Finance Committee meeting to be announced by e-mail notice. The TAC has had a continuing agenda item regarding the status of the City of Seaside in-lieu golf course irrigation project and any update is listed in the TAC minutes provided at each regular board meeting. Chair Rubio requested that the City of Seaside look at the issue and determine if any further assistance is needed from the TAC. Marina Coast Water District and the City of Seaside were meeting today; unknown what time and what issues were to be discussed.

Mr. Freeman reported that the State Water Resources Control Board has the Draft Cease and Desist Order on its closed session agenda on July 7, 2009.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE – Regular Meeting to be held on August 5, 2009, at the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) Board meeting room at 5 Harris Court, Building "D" on Ryan Ranch in Monterey at 2:00 p.m.

XIV. There being no further business, Chairman Rubio adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.