

VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
CONTINUED MEETING HELD AUGUST 15, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District was continued to August 15, 2012 and convened at the City of San Buena Ventura City Hall in the Santa Cruz room on August 15, 2012.

There were present Directors: J. Curtis, M. Hanson and E. Lee. Also present was General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp. There was also present: Karen Waln, City of Ventura, Martin Gramkow, Ranch Matilija, Debora Smith LARWQCB, Russ Baggerly Casitas MWD, Bots Krimmer, A to Z Law, Jeff Palmer, OVSD, Mike Hollebrands, Meiners Oaks WD, Cindy Lin US EPA, Renee Purdy, LARWQCB, Shirley Birosik LARWQCB, Shana Epstein, City of Ventura, Omar Castro, City of Ventura, Ray Olson, City of Ventura, Dale Zurawski, Farm Bureau, Steve Wickstrum, Casitas MWD, Lorraine Walter, Ventura River Watershed Council and members of the public.

1. Cindy Lin with the U.S. EPA gave a summary of the pending Pumping TMDL that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or U.S. EPA must adopt by March 24, 2103 in accordance with a Consent Decree. To avoid the TMDL Cindy Lin and the LARWQCB staff recommend the major pumpers consider implementing a voluntary ground water management plan. Then a finding could possibly be made by EPA and the LARWQCB that the pumping impairment is being addressed by an "Alternate" program and would qualify for as a Category 4B and eliminate the need for a TMDL. If the Category 4B option is pursued the EPA will need to obtain concurrence from National Marine Fisheries, California Department of Fish and Game and the judge regarding the Consent Decree.
2. Shirley Birosik of the LARWQCB reported that the staff are planning to de-list reach 3, downstream of Casitas Vista Road, because they do not have data indicating that reach is impacted by surface and pumping diversions. Birosik also passed out a draft Memorandum of Agreement framework for the parties to consider:

For Discussion Purposes – Draft MOA Framework

Participating agencies: Water Board (Regional Board and Division of Water Rights), USEPA, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, NOAA Fisheries, Water agencies and larger private pumpers/diverters (list TBD)

Possible roles of water agencies (and large private pumpers/diverters?) moving significant amounts of water:

- Participate in development of a GW management plan and local GW management agency
- Report potentially illegal pumping and diversions
- Participate in studies as needed
- Pursue completion of HCP or individual incidental take permits for steelhead trout
- Casitas MWD – continue implementing bypass flows for the Robles Diversion in the NOAA Fisheries BO
- Evaluate implementation of potential conservation actions identified in the 1997 Ventura River Steelhead Restoration and Recovery Plan
- Timeline:

Possible roles of State Water Board Division of Water Rights:

- Coordinate on determining whether there are pumpers from a subterranean stream and refer for water rights permitting licensing as appropriate
- Organize and identify information on water rights licenses and reports for the watershed
- Pursue enforcement of illegal activities
- Timeline:

Possible roles of local watershed agencies (County, cities, water agencies):

- Continue work needed to remove Matilija Dam
- Timeline:

Possible roles of NOAA Fisheries:

- Pursue enforcement of incidental take of steelhead trout in violation of the Endangered Species Act
- Provide feedback on critical conditions for steelhead trout (water-year type, flow, pools) for adaptive management of water resources
- Timeline:

Possible roles of environmental groups:

- Coordinate and facilitate monitoring of key indicators
- Timeline:

Possible roles of USEPA and Regional Board:

- Provide timely feedback on consent decree issues and provide oversight; "approve" list of alternate programs allowing for the impairment to come off the TMDL-required portion of the 303(d) list; support applications for grant money to fund pertinent projects or studies

3. Cindy Lin indicated that U.S. EPA and the LARWQCB needed to hear back from the agencies and pumpers if they want to pursue the voluntary groundwater management plan or have the TMDL established. The EPA and LARWQCB need to know the pumpers preference by early fall because they need time to prepare the TMDL if the decision is to implement the TMDL. The next meeting to continue this discussion is set for September 25, 2012, 11:00 A.M. in the Santa Cruz Room.
4. MEETING ADJOURNMENT - the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 o'clock p.m. at the Ventura City Hall in the Santa Cruz Room.

Attested:



Ed Lee, President



Marvin Hanson, Vice President