

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deidre Sullivan, Chair
Ken Ekelund

John Huerta

TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DATE: Wednesday, June 10, 2015
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

A G E N D A

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
(Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker on matters within the jurisdiction of the Agency not listed on this agenda. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and make statements on agenda items as the Committee considers them.)
3. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 18, 2015.**
The Committee will consider approval of the Minutes of the above-mentioned meeting.
4. **CONSIDER RECEIVING A REPORT ON POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANNING; AND, PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF.**
Rob Johnson, Deputy General Manager, will present this item to the Committee.
5. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**
The Committee will discuss and determine details for its next meeting.
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Deidre Sullivan, Chair
Ken Ekelund

John Huerta

TIME: 2:30 p.m.
DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2015
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

MINUTES

Call to Order @ 2:34 p.m. by Committee Chair Deidre Sullivan.

Members present: Directors Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Claude Hoover
Members absent: John Huerta

A quorum was established.

2. **Public Comment** – None.
3. **Approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on February 18, 2015.**

Committee Action: Upon Motion and Second of Committee Members Ken Ekelund and Deidre Sullivan respectively, the Committee approved the February 18, 2015 Minutes (Director Claude Hoover abstained).

4. **Consider receiving a report on potential funding opportunities for the Monterey County Water Resources Agency**

Robert Johnson, Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the Committee.

Committee Action: Upon Motion and Second of Committee Members Ken Ekelund and Claude Hoover respectively, the Committee unanimously received the report.

5. **Consider receiving a report on a Comprehensive Approach to Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin Sustainability.**

Robert Johnson, Deputy General Manager, presented this report to the Committee.

Committee Action: Upon Motion and Second of Committee Members Ken Ekelund and Claude Hoover respectively, the unanimously Committee received the report.

6. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be on April 8, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

7. Adjournment @ 4:07 PM

Submitted by Wini Chambliss

Approved on

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE:	June 10, 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	
AGENDA TITLE:	Consider receiving a report on possible options for Drought Contingency Planning; and provide direction to staff		
Consent ()		Action (X)	
Information ()			
SUBMITTED BY:	Robert Johnson	PREPARED BY:	Robert Johnson
PHONE:	(831) 755.4860	PHONE:	(831) 755.4860
DEADLINE FOR BOARD ACTION:		June 22, 2015	

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

Receive a report on possible options for Drought Contingency Planning; and provide direction to staff.

SUMMARY:

As California enters its fourth year of drought, Drought Contingency Planning is critical to the sustainability of water resources for the State. Staff will present options for moving forward with Drought Contingency Planning, then seek direction from the Agency Board of Directors.

DISCUSSION:

As Monterey County moves into the fourth year of drought, planning for the sustainability of water resources is important. Drought contingency for the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP) was analyzed in the SVWP Environmental Impact Report (EIR). That text was provided as part of an information item to the Board of Directors in the March 2015 Meeting Packet.

Staff has been seeking possible grant prospects for drought contingency planning and come across a possible opportunity. Also, staff has been developing a list of actions that could be taken to help develop a Drought Contingency Plan, as well as implement some options in the short term (similar to the reduction of flows from Nacimiento Reservoir).

Staff is looking to provide and discuss options to the Committee, then take what is recommended by the Committee to the Board of Directors for action.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The CAO's Office has put an Inter-agency Drought Task Force together, of which the Agency is a member.

FINANCING:

Seeking to work with the County and securing a grant for this effort.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:	YES ()	NO ()
FUNDING SOURCE:	(Fund, Budget unit)	
COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:	None	
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Information Item from March 2015 Board of Directors meeting 2. Cover Sheet from Bureau of Reclamation Grant	
APPROVED:	<hr/> General Manager Date	

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEETING DATE:	March 23, 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	
AGENDA TITLE:	Drought Contingency Planning		
Consent ()		Action ()	
Information (X)			
SUBMITTED BY:	Robert Johnson	PREPARED BY:	Robert Johnson
PHONE:	(831) 755-4860	PHONE:	(831) 755-4860
DEADLINE FOR BOARD ACTION:	March 23, 2015		

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

None – item presented for informational purposes.

SUMMARY:

The current drought has begun its fourth year. Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) is especially important during these episodic events. As part of the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, DCP was performed and incorporated into the computer modeling and project design.

DISCUSSION:

With the current drought entering its fourth year, concerns regarding DCP for the SVWP are again coming to the forefront. Drought periods were considered, evaluated, and incorporated into the modeling for the SVWP, as well as in the project’s design.

To quote from the SVWP EIR, Section 3.2.6 on Drought Contingency Planning;

“Planning for and understanding how the preferred action would operate during drought conditions was a critical factor in the development of the SVWP. Drought contingency planning provides a means to manage the Basin during expected drought periods, such as the drought period of the late 1980’s/early 1990’s.

The SVWP has been designed to accommodate expected drought episodes (based on the drought of record that occurred in 1987-1991) while continuing to meet its overall objectives. The preferred action assumes the basic conjunctive use of ground and surface water during drought. Conjunctive use takes advantage of surface water supplies during periods of availability and preserves groundwater supplies for use during periods of drought or other periods when surface water supplies are not available.

Surface water supply that would be derived through reservoir reoperation and river diversion is variable and would be constrained during drought periods. The

Salinas Valley Integrated Ground and Surface Water Model (SVIGSM) was utilized to assess groundwater conditions that would result from the preferred action's continued in-stream groundwater recharge and the delivery of diverted Salinas River water. The underlying assumption is that groundwater pumping would occur in all project service areas where surface water deliveries are made.

Drought contingency was evaluated against the historic droughts of record within the Salinas Valley during the 1949 - 1994 hydrologic period. The delivery of diverted Salinas River water during normal and wet years results in reduced groundwater pumping. This in turn results in increased groundwater levels. The SVIGSM evaluations assumed that groundwater is pumped whenever river diversions are not available or are not adequate to meet the needs of the designated delivery area. The results indicate that groundwater supplies are adequate to meet project objectives without re-establishing intrusion in the Salinas Valley through droughts of historic record.”

At the monthly Agency Reservoir Operations Committee (ResOps) meeting, reservoir storages, releases, and current groundwater conditions are evaluated and discussed. If Board action is necessary, motions from ResOps are brought forth at the subsequent Board of Directors (BOD) meeting.

In short, DCP was taken into account during the design of the SVWP. If there are additional actions that are desired by the BOD, this item can be brought back as an action item at a later meeting,

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None.

FINANCING:

Not applicable at this time; if further action is requested, financing considerations will also come to the BOD.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R15AS00047

WaterSMART: Drought Contingency Planning Grants for Fiscal Year 2015



U.S. Department of the Interior
Policy and Administration
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver, Colorado

May 2015