

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SALINAS RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING (BMP) COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Richard Ortiz, Chair
Claude Hoover
Deidre Sullivan
Silvio Bernardi

Bob Antle, Public Member
David Bunn, Public Member
Don Chapin, Public Member

TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DATE: Wednesday, April 9, 2014
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 BMP Committee meeting held on March 12, 2014**
The Committee will consider approval of the minutes of the above-mentioned meeting.
4. **Consider receiving a report regarding efforts related to Water Rights Permit #11043**
Robert Johnson, Assistant General Manager, will present this item for consideration by 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
SALINAS RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (BMP) COMMITTEE**

Richard Ortiz, Chair
Claude Hoover
Deidre Sullivan
Silvio Bernardi

Bob Antle, Public Member
Don Chapin, Public Member
David Bunn, Public Member

TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

MINUTES

1. Call to Order @ 8:36 AM by Committee Chair Richard Ortiz.

Members present: Director Richard Ortiz, Director Claude Hoover, Director Silvio Bernardi and Public Member Bob Antle
Members absent: Director Deidre Sullivan and Public Members David Bunn and Don Chapin

A quorum was established.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approve the Minutes of the BMP Committee meeting held on February 12, 2014

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Silvio Bernardi and Claude Hoover, the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2014.

4. Consider receiving a report regarding pertinent reports related to Salinas River Basin Management

Rob Johnson, Assistant General Manager, stated that based upon the Committee's request at the February 2014 meeting, he compiled and will distribute binders to Committee members containing foundational documents in CD format. He went on to describe the documents contained in the binders, stating these binders will provide background information regarding Salinas River Basin Management issues. Mr. Johnson informed Committee members of the vast amount of data available, far beyond the CDs contained in the binder. Committee members asked questions regarding the availability of data and the format in which it is stored. Mr. Johnson responded the Agency maintains an onsite library that is organized by area. Some of the data (documents, maps, studies, etc.) are in hard copy format and some are digitized (scanned).

Committee members requested that one of the binders be made available to the public for check out and/or review.

A Committee member asked about 404 Permitting and whether there is an opportunity to utilize this information to make a meaningful comparison of the state of the River at the time of the 1995 flood event to the current state of the River currently to determine possible effects of a flood? This could prove beneficial in securing 404 Permits. We could look at the analysis done in 1997 to produce some type of comparison. Photos of the River prior to the 1995 flood and comparing those photos to today's growth in the river, a sound case can be made regarding the probability of flooding and the devastation that could occur...to lives, industry and the economy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob Perkins, Salinas resident, encouraged the Agency to make information available to the public in a searchable format. He suggested securing a college intern to convert documents to a digitized format. Mr. Perkins also mentioned securing stored documents so they will not be at risk should flooding occur.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Claude Hoover and Silvio Bernardi, the Committee accepted the report regarding pertinent reports related to Salinas River Basin Management

5. Consider receiving a report regarding efforts related to Water Rights Permit #11043

Rob Johnson, Assistant General Manager, stated the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will submit their selected project suite(s) to this Committee for comprehensive analysis and strategy development for the NOP process and forward movement. The final RAC meeting will be held April 10. So, this Committee can expect to receive information in May 2014. Mr. Johnson then discussed a feasibility matrix utilized by the RAC to rate projects under consideration. During the next RAC meetings, RAC members will have the opportunity to build a concept mix and match projects listed on the feasibility matrix to create a project suite for consideration by the BMP Committee. If no suite is selected, the charge given to the RAC will be complete at that time. The NOP needs to be released in July 2014. General Manager David Chardavoyne stated the NOP will be sent to the Board of Directors for consideration in June 2014.

Mr. Johnson discussed the strategy for moving forward: continue working toward the development of conceptual project alternatives; commence working with State Water Resources Control Board staff; champion political support (Board of Directors, Board of Supervisors, local, State and Federal); and commit sustainable resources.

Committee Questions/Comments (*Staff responses emboldened and italicized*):

1. Who will work on the NOP? ***It will be performed in house by Senior Engineer Manuel Quezada with assistance from Senior Hydrologist Elizabeth Krafft.***
2. Will it include the financial costs of the project? ***The NOP just looks at project alternatives.***

3. What if a better project suite materializes two years from now? Does that throw us off track with respect to compliance with 11043 milestones? *It could; but, if we maintain conversations with the State Board regarding this process, we might be able to dovetail this new concept in and there may be opportunity to stretch.*
4. It might be beneficial to make the project suite as broad as possible.
5. Do we have anything in writing formally acknowledging our request for extension? *Yes, via the Settlement Agreement.*
6. Is Castroville's situation included in the contingency analysis for CSIP? *I don't believe so.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eric Tynan, General Manager of the Castroville Community Service District, discussed an issue of seawater intrusion within a quarter mile of two of three wells on the 400-foot aquifer (actually on top of one of the wells), with chloride increasing 100 parts per million in the last quarter. As long as the wells are below sea level, seawater intrusion is advancing. It is important to get the basin levels up.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Claude Hoover and Silvio Bernardi, the Committee unanimously received the report regarding efforts related to Water Rights Permit #11043.

6. **Consider receiving a report regarding efforts related to the Salinas River Management Program (Long-term Program)**

Rob Johnson reviewed this item, indicating that it represents the move from channel maintenance to river management. The river management program encompasses more than just clearing the channel. The river management program also includes a comprehensive program to protect cities and agriculture land from flooding; measures to enhance fish and wildlife habitat and fish passage; improvement in water quality for environment and urban uses; mitigation of seawater intrusion; maximization of surface water and groundwater quality; and, consideration of the impact of the Salinas River on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Mr. Johnson also discussed the development of the Salinas River Management Program, including its conceptual plan, recent activities; and, feedback from public meetings in 2013. He discussed challenges related to the Salinas River and provided a map for the path forward in the development of a long-term program.

Committee Questions/Comments (*Staff responses emboldened and italicized*):

1. The Revocation order defines WR Permit #11043 water, and none of the projects fall under the definition.
2. What kinds of future studies need to be done to support the kinds of projects that are necessary? ***We have not determined that yet.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Claude Hoover and Silvio Bernardi, the Committee received the report regarding efforts related to the Salinas River Management Program (Long-Term Program).

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

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 @ 8:30 AM.

8. Adjournment

Committee Action: Chair Richard Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 10:07AM.

Submitted by: Wini Chambliss

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (BMP) COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE:	April 9, 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	
AGENDA TITLE:	Consider receiving a report regarding efforts related to Water Rights Permit #11043		
Consent ()		Action ()	
Information (X)			
SUBMITTED BY:	Robert Johnson	PREPARED BY:	Robert Johnson
PHONE:	831.755.4860	PHONE:	831.755.7860
DEADLINE FOR BOARD ACTION:		April 28, 2014	

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

Receive a report regarding efforts related to Water Rights Permit #11043

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION:

At the January 2013 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, the BOD directed staff to move ahead with opposing the proposed revocation of Water Rights Permit #11043 (Permit) by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

At the April 2013 BOD meeting the BOD received an update on the proposed revocation of Water Rights Permit #11043 by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

At the June 2013 BOD meeting, the BOD approved an amendment to the Downey Brand (DB) contract to pay for work done by DB and GeoScience related to the Permit.

On December 17, 2013, an update was presented to the Agency BOD and Board of Supervisors (BOS) at a joint meeting.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The Agency continues to move forward on the milestones set forth in the Settlement Agreement (SA) regarding Water Rights Permit #11043 (Permit). The Permit was to be revoked by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in August, 2013, however through staff and counsel efforts, the SA was achieved and the Permit was protected, as long as the Agency adheres to a strict, aggressive set of milestones for water project implementation. The milestones end with a project being developed and delivering water by July 2026. The water allocated to the Permit will be used to continue the battle against seawater intrusion in the Salinas Valley.

The Agency formed a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) who has been working on developing a conceptual suite of projects that would effectively utilize the water allocated by the Permit. At the October meeting, the RAC (and members of the public who wished to participate) went through a workshop exercise that broke the committee into groups and asked each group to

develop a suite of projects that would best utilize Permit water. Each group then presented their concept to the group.

In December, the RAC began working of conceptual project suites that would utilize the Permit water. In January, the RAC increased their meeting frequency from monthly to bi-weekly to produce project suite alternatives that would then be analyzed through an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process; a process that, by the SA schedule, needs to have a Draft EIR out in July 2015.

The need to come to consensus regarding conceptual project suites was discussed at the February 27, 2014 RAC meeting. At the March 27, 2014 meeting, conceptual project suites were beginning to take shape. An update on that process and what is being discussed will be presented to this committee at this meeting. These conceptual project suites could become part of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) that will be released by July of this year.

Staff continues to develop a timeline and schedule for resources to complete the next set of milestones: 1) developing a NOP to initiate the environmental process, 2) developing a financing plan, and 3) planning for the writing of an Environmental Impact Report, and should be able to provide this information at the April BMP Committee meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:	YES ()	NO (X)
FUNDING SOURCE:		
COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:		
ATTACHMENTS:	1.	
APPROVED:		
	_____ General Manager	_____ Date