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

Ken Ekelund, Chair Mike Scattini Fred Ledesma

TIME:

10:00 a.m.

DATE:

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

PLACE:

Monterey County Water Resources Agency

893 Blanco Circle Salinas, CA 93901 (831) 755-4860

## **MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 10:00 a.m. by Committee Chair Ken Ekelund.

Members present:

Directors Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini

Members absent:

Fred Ledesma

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVE PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2012

COMMITTEE ACTION: On motion by Committee Member Mike Scattini and seconded by Committee Member Ken Ekelund, the Committee approved the November 16, 2012 Planning Committee Minutes.

4. CONSIDER ADOPTING THE GREATER MONTEREY COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

COMMITTEE ACTION: Due to the lack of a quorum, this item was forwarded to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

5. CONSIDER RECEIVING AN UPDATE ON THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S REVOCATION OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY WATER RIGHTS PERMIT #11043 PROCESS

Robert Johnson, Acting Assistant General Manager/Chief of Water Resources Planning, presented this item for consideration by the Committee. He noted that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Permit No. 11043 was issued on November 20, 1957 for municipal use. Water was to be moved north through two projects, the East Side Canal and the Castroville Canal. Two dams and other major projects were constructed by the Agency to utilize local water within the Salinas Valley in order to halt seawater intrusion and balance the Salinas groundwater basin.

The permit has been extended about five times through the years in order to preserve the water right. In 1983, the most recent amended permit revised the diversion rate to 400 cfs; modified the quantity to 168,538 acre-feet annually, and included irrigation, municipal and industrial uses.

The hearing date of January 28, 2013 was postponed. The Agency was granted an extension, though a new hearing date has not been set. Agency staff will be requesting a resolution from the Board of Directors opposing the revocation. Staff will establish an ad-hoc committee with members selected by the Interim General Manager to discuss possible strategies for utilization of the water allocated by Water Rights Permit #11043.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Roger Moitoso of Arroyo Seco Vineyards provided additional historical background to the subject. He feels the permit is not an asset but a liability to the County and should be allowed to expire. In his opinion, this is a permit to sell surface water to the highest bidder i.e. the Monterey Peninsula.

The Committee commented that:

- They would like to see actual annual flows not an average.
- The permit could be used to maintain and/or improve infrastructure.
- The permit needs to be better defined.
- It is better to hold on to the permit. Without a water rights permit there are no projects. Because of Propositions 13 and 218 it takes an extensive amount of time to get a new project going.
- Must form an ad-hoc committee immediately.

COMMITTEE ACTION: On motion by Committee Member Mike Scattini and seconded by Committee Member Ken Ekelund, the Committee received the update on the State Water Resources Control Board's revocation of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Water Rights Permit #11043 process and recommended forwarding to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

6. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

The next meeting date is set for Wednesday, February 13 2013 at 10:00 a.m. No future agenda items were discussed.

7. ADJOURNMENT by Chair Ken Ekelund at 10:50 a.m.

Submitted by: Alice Henault

I certify that to the best of my ability these accurately reflect the proceedings of this meeting.

Alice Henault

Wini Chambliss Clerk of the Board