

MOKELUMNE FORUM

MEETING No. 12

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: July 21, 2005

LOCATION: San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
3290 North Ad Art Road
Stockton, CA 95215

ATTENDEES: Tom Francis – East Bay Municipal Utility District
Mike Harty – Center for Collaborate Policy
Bob Granberg – City of Stockton
Gary Goffe – Calaveras Public Utility Department
Hank Willy – Jackson Valley Irrigation District
Mel Lytle – San Joaquin Co. Public Works Dept.
Jim Hanson – Hanson Engineering / San Joaquin Co. Public Works
Tom Gau – San Joaquin Co. Public Works Dept.
Kevin Kauffman – Stockton East Water District
Sue Shalvey – Mokelumne Coast to Crest Tail
Ed Pattison – Calaveras Co. Water District
Jim Abercrombie – Amador Water Agency
Rob Alcott – East Bay Municipal Utility District
Gerald Schwartz – East Bay Municipal Utility District
Lena Tam – East Bay Municipal Utility District
John Skinner – East Bay Municipal Utility District
Frank Beeler – City of Lodi
Fred Weybret – North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Ed Steffani – North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Tom Orvis – San Joaquin Farm Bureau
Bruce Blodgett – San Joaquin Farm Bureau
Eric Hong – Department of Water Resources

ACTION ITEMS

1. The next meeting of the Forum is scheduled for Sept. 15th, 2005 at the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau's offices located at 3290 North Ad Art Road, Stockton, CA. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM and adjourn at or before 12:00 noon.
2. During the July meeting, Jim Hanson of Hansen Engineering and John Skinner of EBMUD were charged with developing draft outline for a proposed Mokelumne River water availability study. They are to present the draft outline during the

September Forum meeting. Lena Tam of EBMUD, Jim Abercrombie of Amador Water Agency, and Mel Lytle of San Joaquin Co. Public Works Dept. agreed to work with John and Jim on this initial step. At least one meeting is planned to support this effort in advance of the Sept. 15 Forum meeting.

3. Forum participants-and others interested in the Forum-should contact Mike Harty between now and the next Forum meeting to discuss any concerns related to the proposed water availability study.
4. Mike Harty will continue contacting Forum participants (past and current participants and those with a potential interest in attending future Forum meetings) as part of his assessment effort and will provide an update at the September 15th meeting.
5. Forum participants are asked to be prepared to provide alternative meeting times / dates (for subsequent regular Forum meetings) at the Sept. 15th Forum. If an alternative standing date can be identified, the group will consider moving Forum meetings to better accommodate Foothills Conservancy and others who face a meeting conflict related to the PG&E re-licensing project.
6. The preferred meeting location continues to be the room available at the Farm Bureau's office in Stockton. Mike Harty will contact Bruce Blodgett to discuss the details of securing the meeting room for Forum meetings beyond September 15th.
7. Tom Francis of EBMUD will add Bruce Blodgett and Tom Orvis of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau and Sue Shalvey of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail to the Mokelumne Forum email list.
8. EBMUD will provide Breakfast for the September 15th meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

Preliminary Matters

The Forum welcomed several first-time participants: Sue Shalvey of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail, Eric Hong of the California Department of Water Resources, and Bruce Blodgett and Tom Orvis of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau.

June Meeting Summary

Hank Willy of the Jackson Valley Irrigation District asked that his name be added to the list of those attending.

Agenda

The proposed agenda for the morning's Forum meeting was discussed with no changes requested.

Introduction of New Participants

Eric Hong. Eric Hong of the DWR is the Forum's new agency contact for the foreseeable future. Eric is Chief for San Joaquin Valley and Southern Calif. Sections and oversees Conjunctive Water Management. Eric has assumed Tim Parker's duties in regards to meeting attendance / coordination with local partner groups (groups that have entered into Memorandums of Understanding with DWR) until such time as Tim's replacement is identified. Eric emphasized the importance that he and others (such as elected officials) see in helping entities in the Mokelumne River watershed address their water resource issues, and his commitment to working closely with the Forum to help it achieve the objectives laid out in the MOU. Eric's phone number is (916) 651-9232, and his email address (ehong@water.ca.gov).

Eric advised that the bulk of the financial commitment between DWR and the Forum for the short term (next year) is comprised of meeting facilitation services. The CCP task order (with DWR) to provide this service should be finalized shortly.

In response to an inquiry about DWR's ability to assist groups such as the Mokelumne Forum in upcoming years, Eric mentioned that while funding to support the MOU-driven activities appears to be solid over the short term (from sources such as Prop. 50), they have had to cut some of their related program efforts such as the current round of AB303 funding.

Sue Shalvey. Sue Shalvey of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail (MCCT) provided background about herself and MCCT, a proposed 300-mile trail that would follow the Mokelumne River / Watershed and traverse the Central Valley to a proposed connection with the American Discovery Trail near Antioch. Sue handles outreach needs of the MCCT (to inform interested groups of the plans for the trail).

The MCCT has three specific goals:

1. Develop ways / means to construct the legacy trail;
2. Use the trail as a vehicle to educate the public about geology, culture, history, and economics, and show their connection to the region's water resources; and
3. Highlight the effects of rapid development / urbanization and the need to preserve open spaces for multiple uses.

The MCCT has a web address at: www.mc2c.org.

Tom Orvis. Tom Orvis of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau will handle matters regarding air quality, water resources, land use, and endangered species. Tom anticipates that he will be the Farm Bureau's designee to attend future Forum meetings.

Bruce Blodgett. Bruce Blodgett is the new Executive Director of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau. He most recently served in the CA Farm Bureau's offices as their director of natural resources, and worked on various wetlands and land acquisition matters in that role. Bruce affirmed the Bureau's interest in the Mokelumne Forum and offered his criterion for participation: are Forum projects and other water resource initiatives "good for agriculture?"

Bruce was asked to provide the group with his perspective on the top three issues that face the region's farming community. He commented that the following top his list:

- Business Climate – the ability of the local farmer to maintain operation(s) in a climate of increasing regulations and their associated costs;
- Water Supply – a reliable water supply is vital for the region's growers; and
- Development Pressures – as the region's population grows, increasing demands are being placed to convert agricultural lands into residential uses.

Bruce diplomatically declined to specifically comment on proposed future projects, past problems, or potential changes to current regulations. However, he did reiterate that if an initiative was demonstrably good for the region's agriculture and was in keeping with existing Farm Bureau Policy directives, his group likely would be supportive.

Additional Activities by Agencies (or a Sub-Group of Agencies) of Potential Interest to Members

Proposition 50 – Grant Application Activities:

General. Tom Francis and Eric Hong noted that approximately 50 applications were received by DWR/ the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for implementation grant funding under proposition 50, chapter 8. A total of approximately \$1.4 billion in funding was requested. DWR/SWRCB has approximately \$148 million available in this round. Eric noted that this is a two-step grant process (step 2 applications are by invitation only). Step 2 invitations will be announced in late 2005. Grant award notification is not anticipated until mid-2006. The next round of grant applications would not open until early 2007 (approximately 18 months)

EBMUD. Tom Francis provided the group with background regarding the implementation grant application submitted by the Freeport Regional Water Agency (FRWA) (of which EBMUD is a partner). The grant requested \$50 million to fund a portion of the Freeport Regional Water Project (FRWP) as well as three other projects proposed by other grant partner organizations (the Nature Conservancy, the County of

Sacramento and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District). Tom provided additional details to the group such as the funding split proposed and the nature of each of the four projects that form the grant application. He also noted that a Functional Equivalent Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) was prepared and adopted by partner agencies concurrent with the grant application.

City of Stockton. Bob Granberg of the City of Stockton submitted an implementation grant application to fund their Delta Diversion Project. The grant requested \$50 million to fund a portion of the design and construction phases. The Stockton application references the Northeast San Joaquin Groundwater Banking Authority's IRWMP (currently under development). Bob noted that the project when completed would allow the City of Stockton to have a new 33 TAF surface water source in place by the 2010 timeframe, thereby lowering the stress on the region's groundwater supplies.

Status of Mike Harty's Stakeholder Discussions

Stakeholder discussions. Mike summarized the informal stakeholder discussions he has been conducting since the June meeting.

His conversations to date suggest there is an impression among some individuals/groups that current Forum participants have reached decisions about proposed projects. This impression undermines the willingness to participate. In addition, it may be that some organizations will find it easier to respond to an invitation to participate in a particular activity (such as the water availability study proposed under Point #1) as opposed to regular Forum involvement.

Mike suggested that if the water availability study moves forward there may be an opportunity to invite other individuals or groups to participate. Such an invitation could be made as a follow-up to the September meeting.

In addition, Mike noted that meeting timing was a problem for a few people (this topic has been discussed at several prior Forum meetings). He asked that participants bring their calendars / schedules with them to the September meeting in order that alternative meeting dates could be reviewed. If a suitable time / date could not be found, the group may need to consider holding an occasional evening and/or alternate date/time meeting to foster broader participation.

Proposed Water Availability Study. As a way of making progress on concrete products, Mike suggested the group consider working on a framework document as the first step toward estimating water availability. This type of product was identified in the MOU as desirable. A study framework would include an outline of the work elements that would be undertaken as part of any study. The questions that a study may need to answer could also be identified in the framing document. Mike suggested that John Skinner of EBMUD and Jim Hanson of Hansen Engineering / San Joaquin County Public Works (SJ

County) be the technical leads on the framework document (since they had considerable background knowledge needed to perform the work). The first step would be to develop a draft outline for the framework document and get the Forum's approval.

Mike acknowledged that, while there were no objections raised around the table, this should be considered a proposal and meeting participants should feel free to contact him between now and the next Forum meeting to present concerns or suggest a different approach.

Considerable discussion followed in regards to what should or should not be included as part of the outline. Comments and questions were directed to John Skinner and Jim Hanson in order to provide them with guidance. It was noted that as the study progressed, matters would likely come up that would require the advice of agency counsel (aside from the technical matters that are anticipated to be reviewed).

In the outline / framework document, the following topics would likely be considered:

- Matters regarding County of Origin;
- Water rights / entitlements;
- Available existing studies / information;
- Stream hydrology / physical structures in place; and
- Water supply needs (current needs and needed to support growth).

In addition, John and Jim should consider which Forum parties should be involved in the study (as it progresses in the months / year ahead). Statewide water issues may also need to be considered / acknowledged. Similarly, there should be some consideration given to the ability to obtain grant funding to help perform the study. It was noted by John Skinner that the outline may take the form of a "scope of work". Mike Harty summarized that what John and Jim could bring back in September may be viewed as a "bare bones framework".

To assist John and Jim in preparing the outline, Jim Abercrombie of Amador Water Agency, Lena Tam of EBMUD and Mel Lytle of San Joaquin County will assist. A commitment was made to have a draft outline ready for circulation at the September Forum meeting.

Eric Hong was asked to describe how and if the help of an engineering consultant currently under contract to DWR (e.g., WRIME, Inc.) could be utilized to facilitate this study as it moves beyond the outline stage. Eric noted that for now their MOU budget was limited to facilitation assistance. It was his hope that if technical assistance was needed, that service would be undertaken by Forum members. Mike Harty indicated that discussions of DWR study assistance and/or involvement could occur following the preparation of the outline.

In regards to Point #2.

Future Meeting Arrangements

The preferred meeting location continues to be the room available at the Farm Bureau's office in Stockton. Mike will contact Bruce Blodgett to discuss the details of securing the meeting room for Forum meetings beyond the September time frame.

Closings

It was determined that no Forum meeting would take place in August.

The next meeting of the Forum was scheduled for Thursday September 15th at 9:00am at the SJ Farm Bureau's meeting facilities in Stockton.

Lena Tam of EBMUD offered to provide breakfast at the September Forum meeting.

The July 21st Forum Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12 noon.

NOTE: The initial draft of these meeting minutes was prepared by Tom Francis of EBMUD. Mike Harty reviewed and edited the draft. Please send comments or questions to Mike.