

MOKELUMNE RIVER FORUM
MEETING No. 40
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: February 5, 2009

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

ATTENDEES: Mike Harty
Tom Francis – East Bay Municipal Utility District
John Herrick – South Delta Water Agency
Kevin Kauffman – Stockton East Water District
Bob Granberg – City of Stockton
Brett Wyckoff – Department of Water Resources
Gerald Schwartz – East Bay Municipal Utility District
Charlie Swimley – City of Lodi
Anthony Barkett – Stockton East Water District
Alex Coate – East Bay Municipal Utility District
Jim Abercrombie – Amador Water Agency
Tom Gau – San Joaquin County Public Works Dept.
Mel Lytle – San Joaquin County Public Works Dept.
Jim Hanson – Consultant w/ San Joaquin Co. Public Works Dept.
Ed Pattison – Calaveras County Water District
David Edwards – Wallace Community Services District
Charles Cantoni – Wallace Community Services District
Rod Schuler – Amador County (Retired)
Hank Willy – Jackson Valley Irrigation District
Pete Bell – Foothill Conservancy

ACTION ITEMS AND AGREEMENTS

1. Add Rod Schuler's address (rschuler@volcano.net) to the Forum email list.
2. At the next Forum meeting (likely to be held on May 7, 2009), attendees will be provided with a summary handout detailing the modeling results and the IRCUP+ terms and conditions effort as prepared by the Forum subgroup (i.e., Amador Water Agency, Calaveras Co. Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and San Joaquin Co. Dept. of Public Works).
3. At the next Forum meeting, attendees will be provided with a tentative schedule for the near-term IRCUP+ work effort / protest resolution time frame as prepared by the above-mentioned subgroup.
4. Amador Water Agency will cover the facilitation expenses for the next Forum meeting.

5. The City of Stockton will provide breakfast for the next Forum meeting.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Preliminary Matters

Due to the State's budget crisis, DWR will not be able to pick up the charges associated with providing meeting facilitation (until such time as the crisis is resolved / funding re-established). Instead of postponing Forum meetings there is an agreement to shift the Forum schedule to quarterly meetings in 2009. Four agencies have agreed to share the cost of meeting facilitation on a rotating basis (Amador Water Agency, Calaveras County Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and San Joaquin Co. Dept. of Public Works). The estimated cost for each meeting is \$2,000 and contracting will be through the Center for Collaborative Policy, where Mike Harty is a sub-contractor. If the budget crisis continues past 2009 plans for holding and facilitating Forum meetings will be revisited. EBMUD will pay for the facilitation expense associated with this meeting.

Mike Floyd of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has taken another position within the agency. Brett Wyckoff was introduced as DWR's replacement representative on the Forum.

The City of Lodi provided today's breakfast.

November 2008 Meeting Summary

Forum members were asked to review the November meeting summary and forward any requested edits to Tom Francis of EBMUD.

Purpose and Agenda

Mike Harty, the Forum's facilitator, stated that the primary purpose of the February meeting was to receive an update on discussions among the four Forum subgroup agencies on the IRCUP+ effort, including (1) a status report on development of the Terms and Conditions document, and (2) a summary of the results of IRCUP+ modeling conducted in 2008.

AGENDA TOPIC: UPDATES FROM FORUM MEMBERS

The Foothill Conservancy (Conservancy): Pete Bell noted that his agency continues to work to advance Wild and Scenic River legislation for the Mokelumne River. His organization is also tracking potential water-related projects on the River (i.e., the Enlarge Pardee Reservoir project and the Raise Lower Bear Project).

Jackson Valley Irrigation District (JVID): Hank Willy noted that the drought could have an impact on area farmers (possibly cutting water deliveries by 40%, and if the drought continues water deliveries to ag. could be cut by as much as 60%).

Calaveras County Water District (CCWD): Ed Pattison noted that the State budget crisis has impacted projects that were supported by state grant monies. One example is a project with the USGS to install groundwater monitoring wells. Work on preparing / updating Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP), such as the Mokelumne, Amador and Calaveras (MAC) IRWMP, has continued, although state funding plans could impact the schedule / steps taken as associated with the IRWMP efforts.

San Joaquin County Public Works Dept. (SJC): Tom Gau noted that some grant-supported efforts had been put on hold in his county as well.

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD): Alex Coate mentioned that the District continues to operate under drought restrictions. EBMUD also faces tough economic conditions in the current period / short term. Alex advised that EBMUD's Water Supply Management Program (WSMP 2040) effort was continuing, and that the Camanche Permit extension work also was moving forward.

Tom Francis provided an update on WSMP 2040. Four public meetings will be held concurrent with the public review of the Draft Program EIR for WSMP 2040 (which was released on Feb. 19, 2009). Two meetings will take place within the Mokelumne area on March 16th (one in Lodi, CA and another in Sutter Creek, CA).

Gerald Schwartz advised that EBMUD's Freeport Project construction continues on pace. Regarding the Folsom South Canal Connection (FSCC) component, the southern (pipeline) reach and the middle reach are now completed. Work remains on the northern reach. The Freeport Regional Water Authority component is lagging a bit behind the FSCC component.

City of Stockton: Bob Granberg noted that the Delta Water Supply Project is making good progress. Beyond work on the pipeline and pump station, Stockton has prepared a Rate / Fee Study that will be shared with their City Council shortly. The City continues to await word from the State Dept. of Fish and Game regarding a 404 permit for the facilities.

On other matters, the City is working with Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID) on environmental documents regarding a pending water transfer.

Stockton East Water District (SEWD): Kevin Kauffman noted that SEWD is continuing to seek potential partners in a groundwater banking concept. They hope to meet with EBMUD staff in coming weeks. Water for the bank would be sourced from the Calaveras River.

Kevin also noted that SEWD has been in discussions with Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District regarding merging their service areas / operations, potentially encompassing over 200,000 acres. Also, he mentioned that SEWD has joined an appeal dealing with steelhead trout critical habitat issues.

South Delta Water Agency (SDWA): John Herrick mentioned that SDWA anticipates that the water quality within the stretch of the Delta that flows through their service area is expected to create problems this summer. They expect low river flows coupled with no pumping, leading to salt buildup. Notification of farmers is a significant challenge.

AGENDA TOPIC: Update on MOCASIM Modeling

Mel Lytle opened a discussion regarding the MOCASIM modeling effort that was conducted by a subgroup to the Forum this past year (2008). Modeling results were used to evaluate the potential merits of an Inter Regional Conjunctive Use Project Plus (IRCUP+) effort.

Mel noted the following:

- Modeling is linked to discussions among EBMUD, AWA, CCWD and SJC aimed at resolving water rights protests involving these parties.
- SJC's MOCASIM model was used to simulate the river flow / hydrology / facilities
- SJC spent approximately \$100k to upgrade the MOCASIM model such that it could be used to evaluate the IRCUP+
- Some simplifying assumptions (such as the concept of "virtual storage") were made in order to evaluate the IRCUP+, as the MOCASIM model would need significant modifications were such assumptions not made (and cost / time did not allow for such modifications)
- Multiple "cases" were reviewed. Each case assumed particular IRCUP components, agency water rights / water demands (existing and future), and water use priorities
- Results illustrated the merits of an IRCUP+ approach, as well as the merits of additional work (and study)
- Incorporating a groundwater recharge element allows a non-firm supply to become a firm supply, as the reliability of banked water is realized

Mel noted that fundamentally the subgroup viewed the results of the modeling as promising, with follow-up needed to review the IRCUP+ concept in more detail.

AGENDA TOPIC: IRCUP+ Next Steps
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Mike Harty opened a discussion about how to link discussions among the four protest resolution/modeling subgroup agencies, modeling efforts, and the wider Mokelumne Forum, particularly around access to information such as Mel's Power Point.

The modeling/protest resolution subgroup representatives (Jim Abercrombie, Mel Lytle, Ed Pattison, and Alex Coate) agreed it would be premature to share the Power Point update on the IRCUP+. While there has been progress (via the modeling results and the meetings that have since taken place to craft an approach to the IRCUP+), additional

work is needed. There is no pressing deadline to meet, funding is limited, and it is very important to take a deliberate approach to a “public rollout” of this information, e.g., the Power Point presentation from Mel. The Forum remains an important element to support development of an IRCUP+ but the modeling/protest resolution agencies need additional time before a public rollout.

Pete Bell of the Foothill Conservancy expressed concern that not enough information was being shared. The presentation by Mel was not circulated among Forum members either before this meeting or on paper at this meeting, and it is difficult to evaluate the data. Sharing information is critical to support the Forum, to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding Forum objectives and information relevant to those objectives. It will be important for Forum members to have relevant information and participate in meaningful discussions about an IRCUP before any fundamental choices are made.

Jim Abercrombie replied that the discussions remain preliminary and no proposals have been presented for approval to board members at AWA. Jim’s recommendation is to allow time for further work on the terms and conditions document and then conversations with board members about an IRCUP+ concept.

Other representatives of the four agencies generally agreed with Jim about these steps: 1) complete the terms and conditions document 2) inform respective governing boards then 3) share with the Forum members. There also is appreciation interests articulated by Pete Bell and shared by some others. In light of the importance of access to information for other Forum members, there was a commitment to the following approach:

- At the next Forum meeting (likely to be held on May 7, 2009), attendees would be provided with a summary handout detailing the modeling results and a summary of the IRCUP+ terms and conditions
- Also for the May Forum meeting, a tentative schedule for the near-term IRCUP+ work effort / protest resolution time frame would be provided

All Forum members were generally supportive of this approach while still holding their specific interests in timely access to relevant information regarding an IRCUP+ project..

AGENDA TOPIC: DWR / STATE BUDGET

Brett Wyckoff of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided a brief update on how the State’s budget woes impacted matters of interest to the Forum. He noted the following:

- Bond monies have been frozen since December 2008. No reimbursement requests (under Prop. 13, Prop. 50, etc.) would be processed.
- IRWM (Prop. 50) and Local Groundwater (Prop. 13 / AB 303) grantee work performed would be somewhat “at risk”, in that there is no guarantee that reimbursements will proceed following the resolution of the budget crisis.
- DWR’s Prop. 84 efforts continue. Specifically, he expects the following:

- The Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) regarding the acceptability of the region defined for a particular IRWM will move forward this spring.
- It may take 18-24 months for the Prop. 84 grant application to proceed from application thru to grant award.
- Staff continues to work on Prop. 84-related IRWMP standards.
- Budget issues may end up making for a more relaxed / manageable schedule (as it comes to preparing grant applications / making grant awards).
- Brett suggested that there is going to be competition for State monies (from all groups interested in getting financial support). He recommended that water agencies stress (to their electeds) the importance of having bond monies reserved for the purpose of developing water resource / water supply projects and programs.

AGENDA TOPIC: NEXT FORUM MEETING

The next meeting of the Mokelumne River Forum is tentatively scheduled to take place on May 7, 2009. It will be held from 9:00 am thru 12 noon at the offices of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau in Stockton, California.

CLOSING

The February 5, 2009 meeting of the Mokelumne River Forum was adjourned at approximately 12 noon.

NEXT FORUM MEETING - BREAKFAST PROVIDER & AGENCY COVERING FACILITATION EXPENSES

Amador Water Agency agreed to cover the Facilitation expenses for the next meeting. This will involve a PO or letter agreement with CCP.

The City of Stockton agreed to provide Breakfast.

NOTE: The initial draft of these meeting minutes was prepared by Tom Francis and reviewed by Mike Harty. Please send comments or questions to tfrancis@ebmud.com