

**Zone 7 Water Agency
Administrative Committee:
Summary Notes and Minutes**

Meeting Date:	February 23, 2011	Start Time:	4:00 p.m.	
Directors Present:	J. Greci S. Palmer B. Stevens	Staff Present:	K. Arends J. Chahal J. Duerig	M. Katen M. Lim E. Rank

1. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Members of the public did not provide comments.

2. East Alameda County Conservation Strategy

Mary Lim gave a presentation to the Committee updating them on the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS). The Conservation Strategy contains significant amounts of biological and land use data (in GIS format), as well as conservation goals and objectives, mitigation measures and mitigation ratios, and a habitat quality scoring system. This document will provide benefits to Zone 7, as well as to other agencies, land conservation organizations, land developers, and the resources agencies, by way of streamlining future permit processes. The data is meant to be used, shared, and updated by all.

The document is complete, but serves as a living document. The Steering Committee will now function as an Implementation Committee. While the details have yet to be worked out, it is assumed that the document/data will live with one agency (serving as data manager), and it will be updated at least annually by the Implementation Committee. A Public Advisory Committee will also be formed.

Director Greci asked if Zone 7 might want to be manager of the document/data, perhaps if the cost is low or if other agencies are willing to share the cost. During the public comment period, retired geologist Dave Lunn asked if the Regional GIS Group would receive the data, and staff's answer is that they do - and it has been suggested that perhaps that group is well suited to manage the data into the future.

This item will be on the March meeting of the Board of Directors.

3. Coordinating with East Bay Regional Parks District on Shadow Cliffs

Elke Rank gave a presentation to the Committee updating them on Zone 7's ongoing groundwater recharge operations at Shadow Cliffs, the East Bay Regional Parks District's (EBRPD) Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA), and coordination between the agencies, noting that the presentation had been a team effort by herself (environmental), Matt Katen (groundwater), and Jarnail Chahal (engineering).

Shadow Cliffs is currently the only lake available to Zone 7 for recharge. In 2002, EBRPD built a siphon that siphoned water from Arroyo Del Valle to Shadow Cliffs. EBRPD owns and operates this siphon with water supplied by Zone 7. Staff estimated the efficiency of the recharge and stated that approximately 64% of water siphoned into Shadow Cliffs percolates to groundwater when considering the amount of evaporation from the lake.

The EBRPD's LUPA for Shadow Cliffs is available online for public comment. In the Plan, there are textual misunderstandings/inconsistencies regarding Zone 7's future ability to provide water to maintain the lake levels. Zone 7 will be providing comprehensive comments to the Park District. Staff's current

assumption is that Zone 7 will continue to provide water when available; however, water allocations, recharge needs, facility status and the need for operational flexibility will continue to define availability.

During the public comment period, retired geologist Dave Lunn commented that the public had previously raised issues that led EBRPD to slow down the LUPA approval process. He suggested that EBRPD should not count on any water from Zone 7. He said he was confused about the 64% percolation calculation made by Zone 7 staff and the remainder of the siphoned water being lost to evaporation since evaporation in the lake would happen regardless of the siphon. He also stated that it is not only siphoned water that is evaporated. Staff stated that recharge was calculated by taking evaporation minus the rainfall on the lake, which is left at a constant level to provide a point of reference for relative recharge.

Director Greci acknowledged Zone 7's good working relationship with EBRPD, and further, asked if Zone 7 increases transfers into the lake during the summertime, which staff responded it is most likely the case. Director Stevens stated that we need to look at this from an economic standpoint; a third of the water is lost to evaporation, which has a financial impact. Director Palmer would like to see us move to rate statements in the future (i.e. rate of percolation and rate of evaporation); then we can begin to look at efficiencies. Staff asked the Committee if they would like to have a Board liaison meeting with the EBRPD Board to discuss continued operations of the siphon, etc. The Committee stated that staff should communicate as part of our anticipated written comments on the draft LUPA that the Zone 7 Board is still willing to meet as a liaison committee, and then allow EBRPD decide if or when to meet.

4. Consider Update of Board Policy on Conducting Business

Jill Duerig described some of the inconsistencies between actual practice and the existing *Board Policy on Conducting Business*, in particular the *Directors Compensation And Expense Reimbursement Policy*. The Committee commented that the policy should be re-written so that it reflects our current practices. Jill will draft new text for possible amendment to the Board Policy, such that a total budget for Board travel is to be approved each year, and that a "lessons learned" style presentation or written summary is a requirement for any Director who travels to a conference or seminar.

5. Possibility of Adjusting Sumer Office Schedule for North Canyons Building

Jill Duerig described the benefits of providing a 9/80 work week for all staff at the North Canyons office, such as reduced air conditioning cost at the office, reduced employee travel expense, work/life balance, air quality implications, etc. A suggested summer pilot program was described for the North Canyons office that mimics the 9/80 schedule at DSRSD, which closes their office every other Friday during the summer months. She asked the committee if there were any fatal flaws to that concept or if she could explore via meet-and-confers with the bargaining units. The Committee supports a pilot program this summer.

6. Verbal Comments

AGM Kurt Arends provided an update to a public comment made at the regular February Board Meeting regarding the Iron Horse Trail. A member of the public had suggested that Zone 7 was acting as a barrier to the Iron Horse Trail extension in Pleasanton. In response, Kurt summarized that the only activity Zone 7 has been engaged in recently regarding the Trail is having the opportunity to comment on two possible new routes, indicating that we would prefer an option that avoided a new trail segment requiring a bridge near the demineralization facility because of potential conflicts with easements and pipelines. Staff will be sending a follow up comment letter clarifying Zone 7's comments and willingness to work with EBRPD on any proposed alternatives.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.