

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PUBLIC EDUCATION FORUM  
SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
BOULDER CREEK, CALIFORNIA**

**January 9, 2003**

A Public Education Forum of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District was called to order by Dir. Rapoza on Thursday, January 9, 2003 in the District's Operations Building, 13057 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, California at 7:06 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll call showed Dirs. Rapoza, Nelson, Prather, Ross and Vierra present. District Manager Mueller was also present.

**APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Discussion Regarding the Establishment of Program Policies and Desirable Environmental Educational Activities

Dir. Rapoza asked all individuals in the audience to introduce themselves. The following individuals were present:

- 1) Fred Mc Phearson, Boulder Creek (long time resident and teacher)
- 2) Nancy Macy, Boulder Creek (Valley Women's Club Environmental Committee)
- 3) John Vallen (California State Parks)
- 4) Alice Townsend (County Office of Education)
- 5) Tod Landis, Ben Lomond (interested citizen)
- 6) Skip Matthes, Boulder Creek (interested citizen)
- 7) Lisa Rudnick, Ben Lomond (Waterman Gap Citizens Advisory Committee)
- 8) John Armstrong, Felton (San Lorenzo Valley High School)
- 9) Don Alley (Alley and Associates)
- 10) Terry Umstead, Felton (San Lorenzo Valley High School Watershed Academy)
- 11) Kevin Collins, Ben Lomond (Department of Fish and Game Commission)
- 12) Mary Jo Walker (Valley Women's Club)

Dir. Rapoza informed the audience that the District is holding this Public Education Forum to collect public input regarding the establishment of

01/09/03

program policies and desirable environmental educational activities within the community. Dir. Rapoza indicated that the Board would like to implement a program that does not take an enormous amount of staff time.

Dir. Vierra stated that he would like to move forward with implementing a program and not wait another year.

Dir. Nelson agreed with Dir. Vierra and would like to quickly develop some form of pilot project to get off the ground, even if all questions have not been answered. Dir. Nelson would like some questions answered regarding the administration process. Dir. Nelson reminded everyone of the District's Mission Statement. Dir. Nelson felt that environmental education leads to appreciating the role ecology plays with humans and would support our economy. In addition, Dir. Nelson stated that restoration leads to environmental education and would improve habitat.

Dir. Prather explained the process the Board is considering. The Board is looking for input regarding the program framework that would have a minimum impact on the Board, possibly by appointing a Sub-Committee or Commission. The framework should include eligibility criteria and funding. Dir. Prather would like to receive input from the community on these issues.

Dir. Ross stated that this Board is unanimous with the decision to get something done and have it environmentally effective to our community. Dir. Ross believes that the decisions made should be within the parameter of the District's Mission Statement.

Dir. Rapoza would also like input on things that the District should not consider when establishing an Education Program. Dir. Rapoza read the Mission Statement to the audience.

Terry Umstead would like to have consistent access to available funds. There are many educational and community needs. The main objective would be educating people in the Valley (adults, children and students alike).

Nancy Macy indicated that the program needs to be a community-based effort and agreed with the idea of restoration. Some ideas would be to run ads, advertise at movie theatres, news broadcasts, monthly mailers, utilize CAB for non-native plant removal, hold movie nights and watch videos related to watershed, educate business owners, provide food composts for businesses, provide barriers for turnouts (Cal Trans), have artists and artisans involved in producing plays, help get the word out for free things people can do like dispose of tires refrigerators, set up a program for best before and after award (clean-up), inform people on the natural history of watershed, provide

information on septic tanks, provide people with small scale logging options, implement a live fish cam for biology of creeks, website creative and interactive, radio announcements (young people to create spots), sponsor series of town hall meetings on environmental issues, science camp is great for 6<sup>th</sup> graders (do it for teenagers and adults). The Valley Women's Club would be available to implement programs and involve people.

John Armstrong stated that he has some very gifted teachers that are good at writing grants; however, he would like to avoid a lot of paper work and make it simple for the kids to participate. Mr. Armstrong felt that keeping the projects small would result in a tremendous return.

Don Alley stated that project applications would need to be prioritized. Someone will need to oversee the projects. The Watershed Resources Coordinator will need to be involved to accomplish this task. The money that is being offered has to be spent in a positive way and the criterion used has to be balanced. Mr. Alley liked the idea about the website and the live fish cam.

Fred Mc Phearson stated that education is a very broad subject and the money should be used for educating people in the District. The more people that know about our watershed the better off we are going to be. Mr. Mc Phearson agrees with the idea of having ongoing funding. Mr. Mc Phearson stated that education needs to be spread throughout the community and he supports the annual Watershed Festival.

Kevin Collins felt strongly about three (3) issues; water conservation during drought periods, educating homeowners about erosion control and educating people regarding debris in the streams. Removing wood from the streams is extremely destructive.

Alice Townsend offered her time and resources for the Education Advisory Committee. Ms. Townsend would like the Board to consider scholarships for children interested in ongoing education and careers in environmental studies.

Lisa Rudnick agreed with Don Alley's concept. Ms. Rudnick indicated that she has tried to interact with Valley Women's Club on various issues and cautioned the Board to be careful. Ms. Rudnick felt that it would be a crime to use Waterman Gap funds for the purpose of educational activities. Ms. Rudnick indicated that she did not trust the Board or the Valley Women's Club and was very frustrated regarding what came of the Waterman Gap property fiasco.

Skip Matthes felt that someone should be responsible for prioritizing the projects. Mr. Matthes disagreed with the concept of the Watershed Resources

Coordinator overseeing this program. In addition, he felt that smaller grants were safer than larger grants. Mr. Matthes does not agree that the schools are a safe place to place funding. The institution of public education (schools) is not a safe place and should not be used as a catchall for this funding.

Dir. Vierra suggested that an Education Advisory Committee be appointed by the Board of Directors with each Board member choosing one person to sit on the Committee.

Dir. Rapoza directed staff to agendize this issue for the January 16, 2003 Board of Director's meeting and each Board member should be prepared to appoint one person to sit on the Education Advisory Committee. In addition, the Advisory Committee would then meet with the Education Committee to design the program framework for a Commission and present to the full Board for further discussion.

Dir. Prather would like to keep Board level participation to a minimum.

Lisa Rudnick requested information on how the concept of Education Forum came up. Ms. Rudnick stated that there is a clear conflict of interest between the Board and the Valley Women's Club.

Manager Mueller stated that conflict of interest is clearly defined by Government Code.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

The Education Forum was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Kelly Stephens  
District Secretary