



NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Responsible for matters of stewardship of the District's property including: Urban Water Management Plans; Water Conservation Programs; Classis Watershed Education Grants; Watershed Management; Resource Management and other environmental related matter.

Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:45 am via video/teleconference.

MINUTES

1. Convene Meeting 9:47 a.m.
Roll Call: R. Moran, L. Farris, E. Fresco, K. O'Connor, J. Supp were present.
D. Herbst was not available.
Staff: R. Rogers, C. Blanchard, H. Hossack
2. Oral Communications: none
3. Old Business: none
4. New Business:
 - A. PRESENTATION ON CONJUNCTIVE USE PLAN-M. PODLECH
R. Moran introduced this item.
C. Blanchard introduced Mike Podlech, Aquatic Ecologist.
M. Podlech described the process for the Conjunctive Use Plan and shared his presentation.
L. Farris questioned if any of the 4 options can be used in any combination or are there some that don't work.
M. Podlech said that scenario 1f would use North System unused potential diversion and so would scenario 3d. But because scenario 1f is essentially ready to go immediately. Down the line a scenario like 3d would come on line replacing 1f. Scenario 3d assumes that scenario 2b would have been implemented.
E. Fresco questioned if Felton has a requirement that it's water not be diverted outside of Felton. Were the effects of climate change considered in the different scenarios.
M. Podlech said that Felton water rights includes what is called a "place of use" in terms of where that water is allowed to be used and is currently restricted to the Felton System. The State Water Board would have to be petitioned to expand the place of use for the water. Climate change was not considered in the scenarios.

D. Alley addressed M. Podlech's scenarios.

M. Podlech responded to questions. He suggested that anyone that wants to get into the weeds should read Nick Johnson's report first.

Discussion by D. Alley and M. Podlech.

N. Macy questioned if M. Podlech had collaborated with D. Alley. She also questioned if he had consulted with National Marine Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife and other agencies about the scenarios.

M. Podlech said that the studies were shared with the other agencies.

C. Dzendzel questioned if there are other water sources in Felton besides Fall Creek that have been abandoned. She is concerned about water rights in Felton.

M. Podlech said that none of the Felton sources have been abandoned. The entire system cannot be diverted if the San Lorenzo River is below certain thresholds.

L. Summers questioned the final report version of scenario 3d.

M. Podlech said there is nothing contradictory between the scenarios. He added a 4th scenario to the analysis in the November report.

M. Lee questioned hopes that we are in conversation with the City regarding Loch Lomond water rights. He also questioned Bull Creek obstructions. He questioned ASR with putting water into Olympia Wells. He continued to question the conversation with the City

M. Podlech responded that perhaps R. Rogers would be a better person to ask these questions. There has been conjunctive use discussion with the City.

L. Farris questioned if it is safe to say that you recommend taking some or all these scenarios and moving the over to the SMGWA plan.

M. Podlech said he couldn't answer that question.

R. Rogers said he thinks that you will see several of these scenarios will be part of the SMGWA plan. Our Water Master Plan needs to be completed.

R. Moran read some comments from D. Herbst, a public committee member that was not available for this meeting.

- Dry year conditions are a critical threat to aquatic life but the conjunctive use strategies may help with that aspect at least in the mainstream.
- Hydrologic extremes are going to increase in frequency.
- Lagoon habitat restoration is needed.
- Sediment is a key limiting factor to spawning and invertebrate food quality and availability.
- Flushing flows should be considered.
- Be sure that all fish surveys are comparable.

R. Rogers said that this report is informational. Perhaps this presentation should be shared with SMGWA. We should ask M. Podlech what the next step should be.

M. Podlech said that there are a lot of different entities are involved and need to be pulled in at the right time to be helpful.

R. Rogers said that the City of Santa Cruz has been contacted regarding

our Loch Lomond allotment and taking it right into our South System.

R. Moran thanked M. Podlech for his presentation. He also thanked D. Alley. He thanked the public for asking great questions.

5. Written Communication: None
6. Informational Material: None.
7. Adjournment 11:20 a.m.