

**Water Resources Committee
March 26, 2013
Meeting Summary**

Directors Present: J. Greci, S. Palmer, B. Stevens

Staff Present: K. Arends, J. Duerig, A. Flores, C. Mahoney, C. Winey, T. Church

Director Stevens called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m., with Directors Greci and Stevens present.

1. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

There were no public comments.

2. East Pleasanton Specific Plan Update

Ms. Winey presented an update on the activities of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan (EPSP) Task Force, of which Zone 7 is a member. The EPSP includes Lakes H, I, and Cope in addition to 393 acres in the surrounding area. The update focused on the latest EPSP Task Force Meeting in March where three development alternatives were presented for Lakes I, H, and Cope. The three alternatives were not vetted by Zone 7 staff prior to this presentation. The three alternatives showed nearly half of Cope Lake as “open space” suggesting public access on Zone 7 Property and without considering that the “open space” area may be underwater depending on Zone 7’s water resource management plan for the lakes. The three alternatives indicated a park that encroaches on Zone 7 property in Cope Lake. Further, the three alternatives indicated a “Destination Use” immediately adjacent to a Zone 7 water treatment facility and along a road that Zone 7 uses for chemical deliveries.

Zone 7 prepared and presented their own map in response to the three alternatives clearly delineating property boundaries and a fencing scenario for areas that are not under agreement with a local agency that would take on funding, planning, and liability for public access. To remind the Task Force that Zone 7 has plans for the COLs that need to be considered in the EPSP, Ms. Winey discussed five items for consideration related to Zone 7’s planning process for the COLs: Future El Charro Road width restrictions (40-100 ft max), public safety/access concerns, water quality priorities, trails, and conflicts surrounding the Destination Use area. The Draft EPSP and associated Draft EIR are scheduled for completion in December 2013.

Director Greci commented that Zone 7 is not in the recreation business and any trails or public access in the COLs would have to be funded and managed by others. He reiterated that Zone 7 should work with another agency to assume recreation costs and that Zone 7’s priority is protecting water quality. General Manager Duerig responded that there may be ways that Zone 7 could accommodate recreation while protecting the agency’s water management interests but it will require working with other agencies.

Director Stevens asked why the alternatives did not extend past Stanley Boulevard and Ms. Mahoney responded that the EPSP only addresses areas that were not included in the City of Pleasanton’s General Plan.

There was further discussion about El Charro Road and the maximum width allowed for the road. The City of Pleasanton has an existing easement that allows for a 40’ to 100’ maximum public roadway in the area of the current Haul Road. Alternatives are currently being considered by the EPSP Task Force.

3. Chain of Lakes Planning Update

At the previous meeting, the Committee requested that staff present a more comprehensive overview of the potential uses of the COLs. In response to that request, Dr. Flores provided an overview of the methodology that Zone 7 intends to use to evaluate the suggested/requested uses for the Chain of Lakes (COLs). Dr. Flores walked the committee through the potential suggested/requested uses, preliminary screening criteria to evaluate the suitability of each lake to support the use, and the scoring system proposed to assess the overall suitability of each lake for multiple uses or for restricted use. The scorecard approach is intended to be a quantitative and systematic means of comparing the suitability of each lake for each use. Dr. Flores also presented a preliminary matrix illustrating the compatibility or incompatibility of certain uses.

Director Stevens asked about possible hatcheries. Staff explained that aquaculture and hatcheries would both be in the category of “other uses.”

Staff also presented efforts to update the lake configuration profiles. There was discussion about actual and proposed modifications to lake depths, which are being coordinated with the quarry operators/owners.

The Directors were generally supportive of staff’s approach and recommended a condensed presentation of the proposed uses and evaluation methodology to the Board in April. Director Greci noted the importance of Zone 7 developing and communicating the agency’s plans for the use of the Chain of Lakes—and particularly Cope Lake and Lakes H and I—to the EPSP Task Force so they can be considered in the development of the Draft EPSP. Director Stevens suggested revising the schedule to incorporate the EPSP timeline to underline how the Chain of Lakes planning effort will be coordinated with the EPSP development. The Directors reiterated what an important asset the Chain of Lakes is to the Valley, and how critical it is to improving water supply reliability.

Dave Requa (DSRSD) commented that the proposed approach was balanced and commended General Manager Duerig for being open to different uses of the lake. He noted the importance to DSRSD of having recycled water storage at the Chain of Lakes, either at Cope Lake or elsewhere. He also noted that he expects that Zone 7 will continue to work with the retailers as Zone 7 proceeds with the evaluation process.

Director Palmer joined the meeting.

Finally, Dr. Flores presented photos from staff’s site visit to the Quarry Lakes area, which is located in Fremont and is owned by Alameda County Water District (ACWD) and portions are operated by East Bay Regional Parks District as the Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area. The Quarry Lakes are former mining pits that have been converted for water management (groundwater recharge), recreation, and habitat uses. The overall size is much smaller than the overall size of the Chain of Lakes area. ACWD staff led the site visit and provided an overview of the planning process they undertook for the Quarry Lakes transition.

4. Verbal Comments

There were no verbal comments.

5. Adjournment

Director Greci adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.