

**ZONE 7/DSRSD/LIVERMORE/PLEASANTON/CAL WATER LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING**

March 26, 2014

MINUTES

Present:

City of Pleasanton

Kathy Narum
Karla Brown
Nelson Fialho
Daniel Smith

DSRSD

Georgene Vonheeder-Leopold
Dan Gallagher
Bert Michalczyk
Pat Howard

Zone 7 Water Agency

Jill Duerig
Bill Stevens
Angela Ramirez Holmes

City of Livermore

Darren Greenwood
Dan McIntyre
Doug Horner
John Marchand

Cal Water

Frank Vallejo

Item 1 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Pleasanton Councilmember, Karla Brown.

Item 2 - Citizen's Forum

No comments.

Item 3 – Update on Status of Drought declarations in the Tri-Valley and expected water availability for the remainder of 2014. (Zone 7 and all retailers)

Jill Duerig from Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7) spoke on both Items 3 and Item 4 combined. She shared that their sustainability report is tied to the drought update. Zone 7 reports to their directors once a month. Zone 7 gets 80% of water from the State Project.

Zone 7 gets 80% of water from State Project, various storage areas. Most critical part is south bay aqueduct which moves water to the south or to our area, into or out of Lake Del Valle. All Zone 7 imported supplies moves through that system.

With water at its lowest levels ever this January, a local drought was declared. We've surpassed 1976-77 conditions. Six of our last seven years have also been dry years. Lake Oroville is the main collector of snow pack.

The state water project has had issues with reliability, so we are getting less water through the project. In 2010 we received nearly 100% supply, but nothing in the last 3 years close to that at all. It'll be closer to 0% this year.

With the drought pumping in the delta could be halted. If this occurs, no deliveries will come through the delta. We now lose that access as well. The DWR has been moving a lot of water into Lake Del Valle, from which we get all our carry-over water this year, maybe around 1500 AF.

The annual sustainability report, gives us information on how much supply we have, what the demand will be, and how we get through the next 5 years. Zone 7 board negotiated with entities here today, to project a 5-year projection forecast.

This year is different. Back in January there was already a reduction on our demands. Demands are projected during the previous October. In order to get through 2014, and have enough water, we will use all our carryover water this year, so we won't have any next year.

So where do we go from here? The snow survey allocations will likely remain at 0%. Delta pumping may be limited by water quality. The next DWR update will be on April 10th, with the annual report going to our board on April 16th. In May and June we will consider financial impacts. Ongoing construction of emergency projects will be accelerated.

Retailers need to impose conservation rates. If things don't improve drought-wise, everyone should be at a mandatory stage. Outdoor irrigation must be cut back to 1-2 days a week, without extending watering time. We need to accelerate water recycling and negotiate groundwater pumping with Zone 7.

Some questions arose from the group:

- Can you clarify how 75% allocation is groundwater and storage, what's the percentage split? Groundwater will be at 1/2.
- What will be the combination in future years? About an average of 15% groundwater.
- How much groundwater basin are we getting into? Basin wide, operations storage is at 57%, lower than a year like this. The DWR did a lot of work at the south bay aqueduct, where we actually have drawn down lower than usual. We will use 20% this year and the same for next year to localize impacts. Currently, 50% of storage, historic lows, is based on how low we've had the basin before. The chain of lakes, haven't had a lot of pumping, so historic lows are different. We don't know if there will be an impact, if too low, so we can't go there.

- Is there anything we can do about the valve problems that exist below the 800K AF to remedy the situation at Lake Oroville? The DWR hasn't identified a safe way to replace those valves.
- What if cities in March and April can't stop people from watering? The DWR says they will cut us off, after the 16,000 AF carryover. We don't know if they will really do that. It will depend on how much groundwater we can pump. They look at per capita of populations, times 50 gallons per day. Then they look at the difference and make a determination. If we go through too much water in the earlier months, we make it more difficult in the later months. We will continue to look at different examples and/or scenarios.
- Speaking of watering 1-2 times a week. If one looks at the dry weather average flow in our area, it's around 20 mgd. The reason it goes up is because of outdoor watering. Yes the average in January is down and in February too. But the summer months it goes up closer to 55 mgd. That difference is all outdoor watering.
- Will water quality get worse, with a water split? Possibly due to bromide levels. Zone 7 uses chloramines.
- Can we switch to free chlorine? Free chlorine creates more thialmethane, which makes it easier to come out with low levels in the plant. It's not a straight out swap.
- To keep the pumping of groundwater to a minimum, while relying on stored water, what would Zone 7 like to see? A 20% reduction? Zone 7 is looking at a 25% reduction. On April 16th the sustainability report will give us a better idea.

Item 4 – Preview of Annual Sustainability Report and Conservation Messaging for 2014 (Zone 7)

Item 4 was covered under Item 3.

Item 5 – Update on Delta/BDCP (Zone 7)

Kurt Arends, from Zone 7, shared that the reported handed out (Update Related to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan) was a first update on the delta. This conservation plan is currently open for public review. Of the 22 measures, the top measure is tunnels.

The EIR / EIS looks at impacts and alternatives. This document, currently allows for public comments, and goes to the state on June 13, 2014.

Website for more information is: <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/Home.aspx>

Item 6 – Chromium regulation and potential financial impacts of chromium (Zone 7)

Kurt Arends shared that Chromium is made of two special components. Chromium 3 which is a dietary aide and chromium 6. He spoke about it being 50 parts per billion in our water, and proposed it should be 10 parts per billion. This document is out for public review and comment. On April 15, 2014, the final level will be determined, with final adoption of the document in June.

Most wells reach the 10 parts per billion levels currently. However; how will that work in the system by the time water blends. It would be lower than 8%, and blending water may work.

We will know more in April. If construction of a facility isn't feasible, maybe renting a treatment facility will help avoid money up front. We will need to develop a lot of technology. If limits are lowered, financial impact will occur.

Some questions arose from the group:

- If this is supported by Mayors in Alameda County, could this carry some weight? If Chromium 6 is ingested it becomes Chromium 3 in our bodies, which is a necessary nutrient.
- Are parts per billion different in January with rainfall vs. summer with well water? We see a variation in sampling. It's an annual average.
- As you stress the groundwater basin, to historic lows, will water quality change? Yes it could change, and could get better.
- Could a Reverse Osmosis (RO) system be in place? Studies are complete and looking at different technologies.
- At delivery or after source? At delivery. The water in the system is much lower at this point.
- With large numbers, what costs will this add to water pricing? It would come out of our Capital funding in operations and will depend on how many wells are affected or where treatment takes place.
- Is Chromium 6 found in water from wells? It improves at point of delivery and with more surface water. So yes, it's not an issue with our surface water, only with well water.

Item 7 – Sun setting of Water Quality Joint Resolution between Pleasanton, DSRSD and Zone 7 (Zone 7)

Kurt Arends shared that in 2005 a joint resolution was created and is updated every two years in their Annual Water Quality control report that's given to the retailers.

All identified projects are evaluated or implemented. A lot of redundancy occurs with two retailers. A lot of basic principles can be incorporated into the water policy itself. Kurt handed out a revised Water Quality Policy draft dated: October 30, 2013.

Zone 7's goal is to adopt this policy at their next meeting. It will be one document that will contain everything regarding their water policy.

Some questions arose from the group:

- If we go to groundwater exclusively, how do we balance water quality? The current plan with the drought is water "quantity", not water quality. Overall, extra water available to the valley overrules improvements of removing the hardness in our water. Every drop we don't deliver or isn't available, focuses on conservation. The plant is functioning as far as the membranes go, we turn on to exercise it, but the goal is to keep it off to conserve.

- Should we convey the water hardness message to our customers? We should make our customers aware.
- Back to item 3, did we come to a conclusion regarding Angela's questions about getting the water conservation work out? If messaging isn't right, the public will be confused. We want to be sure retailers time our declarations together, to achieve the 20% reduction.
- Currently we are at 20% reduction and not achieving goals. We would like help getting the message out to our citizens once and correctly. Pleasanton is currently working with a marketing firm. Can we all work together if message is the same? Yes we should. Just remember that Zone 7 isn't on mandatory, we are on whatever the Governor says we are at.
- Zone 7 will await another update from the DWR, and will adopt resolutions to help direct us all to mandate water conservation. We need very definitive leadership and we need to know what the real goal is in plain terms, so we can all coordinate our message.
- Focus should be on how much water is used, not a percentage. Some will need to cut more water, because they use more water.
- City of Pleasanton went to council to update their ordinance and have a penalty system in place, to penalize those who are not yet conserving. We won't penalize those already conserving.
- What happens when we go mandatory? Maybe outdoor watering will be allowed only once a week.

Item 8 – Verbal Comments

- When will Zone 7 increase rates? July 1st, but can change. We will know more by mid-April.
- Is it best to jump out with new rates? That will be decided after mid-April.
- Continue to get the message out repeatedly.
- Add water quality policy to next meeting
- Review Item 7 (sun setting of Water Quality Joint Resolution to next meeting)

Item 9 - Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.