

# ***Zone 7/DSRSD/Livermore/Pleasanton/Cal Water Liaison Committee Meeting***

**Zone 7 Water Agency  
Boardroom  
100 N. Canyons Pkwy.  
Livermore, CA 94551**

**Monday, April 27, 2015  
4:00 p.m.**

## **Meeting Notes**

Zone 7 Directors:     Dick Quigley  
                             Jim McGrail  
                             (Not present) Sarah Palmer

DSRSD Directors:     Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold  
                             Dawn Benson

Staff present:         Jill Duerig, Zone 7 General Manager  
                             Carol Mahoney, Zone 7 Integrated Planning Manager  
                             Brad Ledesma, Zone 7 Associate Engineer  
                             Darren Greenwood, Livermore Public Works Director  
                             Bert Michalczyk, DSRSD General Manager  
                             Dan Gallagher, DSRSD Operations Manager  
                             Dan McIntyre, DSRSD Engineering Manager  
                             Leonard Olive, Pleasanton Staff

1. Call meeting to order  
Director Quigley called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.
2. Citizen's Forum  
No public comment.
3. Annual Sustainability Report  
A presentation was given by Zone 7 Integrated Planning Engineer, Brad Ledesma. The presentation given was the same as the one presented to the Board on April 15, 2015. Handouts of the presentation slides were available. The presentation summarized the annual report, which states that Zone 7 can meet 100% of the 2015 delivery requests for M&I and untreated customers, and 96% of the 2016 delivery requests – even if there is no conservation in 2015 and 2016 should also be a critically dry year (i.e., 1977 hydrology). Staff noted that although the state as a whole may be experiencing a four- year drought, the local climatological and hydrological evidence suggests that the Livermore Valley could be in the ninth year of an extended drought. With this in mind, the estimates for required water deliveries, water availability, and storage for 2015 and 2016 used a conservative approach to provide maximum flexibility in planning. The

Annual Sustainability Report is a tool in creating a water operations plan but does not act as the operations plan, itself. Staff highlighted the completed drought projects that had been approved to move forward by the Board in January 2014 as a part of the original drought declaration, and introduced two projects that staff are working on to meet future water supply needs: 1) The reliability intertie with East Bay Municipal Utility District; and 2) Phase I of Busch Valley Well with the potential for the installation of a mobile or temporary pump station in the event that moving water from east to west in the valley becomes necessary under limited surface water conditions.

Questions: Pleasanton's Leonard Olive asked about the average capacity of the groundwater basin and Zone 7 staff displayed a graphic of the available groundwater storage through time showing that the basin was at about 56% of operational storage based on fall water levels measured in October 2014, which is still above the groundwater levels measured during the 1987 to 1992 drought. A request for a copy of the graphic was made and Zone 7 staff promised to email it to the retailers.

DSRSD's Bert Michalczyk inquired about the challenges of moving water through the Delta and recovering water from the Kern County banks in the event of an unplanned shutdown of Delta export pumping this summer. Staff indicated that Zone 7 has already taken delivery of about 5,000 acre-feet of banked water to date in 2015, which is in striking contrast to nearly zero banked water deliveries at this time last year. Staff also explained that the capacity of the State Water Project pumps would easily accommodate the requests made since most Table A deliveries will be made from San Luis Reservoir and the SBA contractors make up a very small percentage (~7%) of the total Table A needs.

DSRSD Director Dawn Benson expressed concerns with using average deliveries of 60% for 2017 through 2019 and Mr. Ledesma explained that over the 5-year study period, this was reasonable and noted that this resulted in a 5-year average of 42% for the study period which is consistent with allocations over the last nine years.

DSRSD's Dan Gallagher raised questions about potential water quality concerns in the Delta over the coming summer. Mr. Ledesma explained that DWR already has permits in hand to construct a rock barrier that should minimize salt water intrusion, and reiterated that cold water habitat releases from Oroville would also help. Staff also indicated that unlike last year, there is already enough water in Lake Del Valle to accommodate blending should water quality degrade.

DSRSD's Bert Michalczyk noted while that Zone 7 staff projects that Zone 7 can make 100% deliveries this year he asked whether it was Zone 7 staff's professional opinion as water managers that Zone 7 should make 100% deliveries this year. Zone 7 staff stated that that decision was made for them by the Governor. Accordingly, Zone 7 is supporting the Governor's declaration and would be supporting the retailers in their efforts to meet the anticipated requirements under consideration by the State Water Resources Control Board.

DSRSD's Dawn Benson also asked about the amount of carryover that came from Zone 7's banking programs in Kern County; Mr. Ledesma answered that about half of the 9,000 AF of storage was recovered from the banks. Based on additional discussion, Mr. Ledesma explained

that concerns over the long-term nature of the drought, its impact on growth and the economy, and whether dry conditions constitute the “new normal” will be explored in the Water Supply Evaluation.

Director Quigley noted that he felt that the Cope to Lake I drought project constructed last year was a gold star project that provided significant groundwater recharge recovery and he was proud to say that Zone 7 could meet the retailer’s delivery requests.

4. Continued Support of Statewide Emergency Water Conservation Efforts

Staff member Brad Ledesma provided a presentation. A resolution was passed by the Zone 7 Board on April 15, 2015, that lifted Stage 2 Actions from Resolution 14-4361; continued Zone 7’s support for statewide emergency water conservation mandates; continued the local drought state of emergency, and directed staff to work closely with retailers on conservation messaging. The presentation highlighted the recent declaration from Governor Brown, actions taken by the State Water Resources Control Board, and the timeline of implementation of the actions proposed by the State.

Questions: DSRSD’s Bert Michalczyk asked if the Zone 7’s Board action on April 15 rescinded the prior Zone 7 declaration of a state of emergency, the prior enacted Stage 2 water use restrictions and/or prior action taken by the Zone 7 manager under the manager’s authority previously granted to establish a conservation level. Mr. Ledesma indicated that the local drought state of emergency remained in place, and that the adopted resolution lifted Stage 2 actions as defined by Zone 7’s 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. The resolution also directed Zone 7 staff to support the State’s requirements.

DSRSD’s Dawn Benson also asked about fire suppression needs and if there was enough water to cover this. Zone 7 staff explained that even during last year’s restrictions, the health and safety needs were not in jeopardy and that Zone 7 conservation requests almost exclusively focused on reducing outdoor irrigation.

Questions were also raised about grant funding and conservation programs that may encourage recycled water use and targets for commercial developments. Staff noted the current programs for lawn conversion and large-landscape programs for commercial and industrial properties.

5. Water Supply Evaluation Update

Mr. Ledesma provided a presentation that reviewed the process of developing the 2011 WSE, including development of water supply options by collaborating with the retailer staff. Three of the 2011 portfolios were reviewed: Current Plan, In-Valley and Intertie. The amendment will largely examine changed conditions from these original portfolios and new data points such as: changes in the State Water Project, operational constraints of the banking programs and Byron Bethany Irrigation District transfers, demand management changes, public perception, extended mining period in the Chain of Lakes area, updated recycled water studies, and little to no local control due to other political factors within the State. A kickoff meeting with the retailers was held in December 2014 and one-on-one meetings with each retailer were conducted in January and February 2015. Based on feedback from the retailers at these meetings and during the Water Policy Roundtables, an updated draft list of water supply options has been developed for further discussion and evaluation. The goal is to complete the effort by the end of summer 2015 by

evaluating the pros and cons of various options and working closely with the retailers to develop a resilient Capital Improvement Program.

Questions: DSRSD's Dan McIntyre inquired about a public comment period for the WSE. Staff pointed out that all of the committee and board meetings were open to the public during the original 2011 WSE development and noted that there would be similar meetings for the update during which the public could provide comments.

Mr. Michalczyk requested an additional metric in the analysis to address water storage "recovery" after a drought. Mr. Michalczyk also suggested that elements such as rainwater capture, greywater systems, and recycled water expansion in new developments could be other good options for investigation in the analysis as they have a high outreach value by raising community awareness of the need to conserve water.

Director Quigley inquired about potential requirements in the upcoming Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) related to groundwater accounting. Staff noted that the guidelines were not yet completed for the UWMP, but that it is anticipated that such requirements would not be included. The requirement of completing a Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan would likely include groundwater budgeting and Zone 7 is ahead of the curve with our Groundwater Management Plan and Salt/Nutrient Management Plan.

Livermore's Darren Greenwood commented that costs of retrofitting recycled water systems and long-term maintenance/asset management of dual plumbing systems may be cost prohibitive and stated that indirect potable reuse would be preferable and likely more cost effective.

6. Verbal Comments

No verbal comments.

7. Adjournment

Since there were no further issues or comments, Director Quigley adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.