

**SUMMARY MINUTES****ZONE 7 / EBRPD / LARPD / TRI-VALLEY CONSERVANCY****LIAISON COMMITTEE****Tuesday, July 22, 2014****2:30 p.m.****Zone 7**

Sarah Palmer, Director  
Jim McGrail, Director  
Dick Quigley, Director  
G. F. Duerig, General Manager  
Kurt Arends, Assistant General Manager - Engineering  
Amparo Flores, Associate Engineer  
Brad Ledesma, Associate Engineer  
Colleen Winey, Assistant Geologist

**EBRPD**

Ayn Wieskamp, Director  
Beverly Lane, Director  
Robert Doyle, General Manager  
Dave Collins  
Bob Nisbet  
Mark Ragatz  
Kelly Barrington

**LARPD**

Tim Barry, General Manager  
John Lawrence, Assistant General manager

**Tri-Valley Conservancy**

Jeff Williams, Director  
Jeff Cranor, Director  
Laura Mercier, Executive Director

**1. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda**

Director Sarah Palmer called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. There were no public comments.

**2. Zone 7 Chain of Lakes Planning (Zone 7)**

Dr. Amparo Flores and Ms. Colleen Winey presented an overview of Zone 7's recently completed planning effort and report on the 'Preliminary Lake Use Evaluation for the Chain of Lakes'. The Chain of Lakes consist of ten former quarry pits in the Livermore Valley that will ultimately be owned by Zone 7 and used primarily for water management and other related

purposes. Zone 7 currently owns Lakes I and Cope Lake, with Lake H to be dedicated to Zone 7 within the next three years. The other lakes will be transferred to Zone 7 over the next 20-50 years. External agencies have proposed or requested other non-water management uses for the lakes.

Dr. Flores and Ms. Winey discussed the purpose of the evaluation, the underlying assumptions, the primary and secondary uses considered, the evaluation process, and the results. Primary uses directly support Zone 7's mission (surface water storage and conveyance, groundwater recharge, and stormwater detention) while secondary uses are those that have been requested or proposed by external agencies (active recreation, education/passive recreation, habitat conservation, and recycled water storage). As defined by Zone 7, active recreation involves potential body-contact with the lake or its slopes (e.g., swimming, fishing, non-motorized boating), while education/passive recreation do not involve such contact (e.g., bird-watching, trails, educational kiosks). Secondary uses would require an external agency to fund and operate.

For each lake, percentage scores were assigned to various uses being considered based on a set of criteria; those uses that scored 50% or greater were considered relatively more suitable. Dr. Flores and Ms. Winey emphasized that no uses are being precluded at this time (unless there is a conflict with a designated use of the lake as identified in governing documents or agreements). Five of the lakes (Lakes I, E, D, B, and A) were considered suitable for education/passive recreation. Only two lakes scored positively for active recreation, but were below the 50% threshold (Lake A and Cope Lake). Many of the lakes were considered suitable for a number of uses; the relative compatibility of various uses was summarized in a use compatibility matrix that Ms. Winey presented.

Ms. Winey also presented the near-term recommendations that were approved by the Zone 7 Board for Lakes I and H, and Cope Lake in February 2014. Finally, Ms. Winey presented possible public safety concerns at the two lakes considered for active recreation that would need to be considered by any future operator of recreation at the lakes. These include submerged hazards, riprap on the slopes, active mining activities, and abandoned mining equipment on Cope Lake. Ms. Winey also pointed to a recent event on Lake A, when a trespasser dove into the lake and suffered injuries.

Directors Beverly Lane and Ayn Wieskamp requested clarification of the definitions of passive versus active recreation; while Zone 7 intended the designations to refer to the level of contact with the lakes and their slopes, others may confuse the designations with the level of exertion associated with the recreational activity. Zone 7 agreed to clarify in future documents/presentations. Mr. Robert Doyle inquired about the water elevation variations expected at Lake I. Mr. Don Kahler (Pleasanton Gravel Company) indicated the potential for 40-50-ft differences in elevation. Ms. Winey also noted that water elevations will vary according to the level of mining activities (groundwater is pumped into Cope Lake by a mining operator, and Zone 7 is moving that water into Lake I via a new pipeline) and groundwater levels in the Main Basin. Director Lane inquired about the water elevation in Shadow Cliffs and Mr. Doyle responded that it is maintained at the beach level when the water is available.

Director Lane inquired about public access considerations in the evaluation and Ms. Winey responded that parking access and proximity to schools, etc. were included in the evaluation criteria, and that more details can be found in the report. Director Wieskamp asked about the proposed trails shown on the figure of near-term recommendations and Ms. Winey responded that the question marks indicate areas outside of Zone 7's property lines and that the current alignments are intended to ensure that public access does not interfere with Zone 7 water management operations and that public safety is not compromised. Ms. Jill Duerig also clarified that Zone 7 would not put in trails, but could potentially provide easements or license agreements to another public agency for such trails.

### **3. Planning for Patterson Ranch (Zone 7)**

Mr. Brad Ledesma presented an overview of Zone 7's recent acquisition of the former Patterson Ranch parcels located near Lake Del Valle. During the presentation, Mr. Ledesma described the location of the parcels, their role in flood protection, water supply, and water quality, and the reasons their acquisition would help Zone 7 meet two key strategic planning priorities:

- 1.15 – Develop long-term balanced management of watersheds
- 1.16 – Manage the watershed to maintain and improve source quality to protect public health and safety

Mr. Ledesma also described the cost allocation methodology.

Mr. Ledesma then described Zone 7's plans for the property, which included making no use changes at this time. Mr. Ledesma also described the Memorandum of Understanding between Zone 7 and EBRPD, and told the participants that Zone 7 is developing a grazing management plan with the current tenant, whose lease expires in October 2014.

Following the presentation, several meeting participants asked or made the following questions or comments:

#### Future Uses and Structures

Director Jeff Williams of TVC asked that, given Zone 7 is not planning any use changes at this time, are there were any existing structures? Staff responded that yes, two permanent structures exist, along with a trailer that houses the current tenant's ranch assistant. Director Ayn Wieskamp of EBRPD asked if Zone 7 could show the locations of the structures; Mr. Ledesma showed the general location, while other meeting participants helped verbally describe their location.

#### Future Trail Connections

Ms. Laura Mercier of the TVC asked if Zone 7, LARPD, and EBRPD could work with TVC to provide a trail that would connect their property with the Sycamore Grove Park area. Ms. Jill Duerig noted that cow/calf operations would need to be considered. Mr. Kelly Barrington indicated that EBRPD must deal with cow/calf operations all the time, and that EBRPD would be happy to provide their expertise in evaluating new trails adjacent to cow/calf operations on Zone 7's property. Mr. Barrington also added that any future memorandums of understanding or easements could

incorporate any mitigation measures. Mr. Robert Doyle of EBRPD then added that although an easement or license agreement makes sense, it is probably too early to start that process since Zone 7 needs more time to review the existing environmental conditions on the property. Mr. Doyle also said that Zone 7, as the owner, would ultimately make the decisions that make sense for them. Director Beverly Lane of EBRPD also mentioned that Zone 7 does not necessarily need to make long-term grazing decisions, as EBRPD has many month-to-month leases with their tenants.

#### Potential Trespassers and Future Fire Hazards

Mr. Doyle mentioned that fire management and trespass issues may become an issue now that the Patterson Ranch area is public property – public property will attract more trespassers. Additionally, Mr. Doyle mentioned that fire hazards may be higher than normal due to less grazing (i.e., higher dry grasses) and the current drought – more trespassers increases the risk of fire. Ms. Duerig indicated that fire hazards are being reviewed as part of the grazing plan.

#### General Comments

Representatives of the EBRPD, LARPD, and TVC commended Zone 7 for their open communication regarding the acquisition, and expressed overall gratitude that Zone 7 was able to make the investment.

#### **4. Verbal Reports**

Director Wieskamp stated that it is good to have these face-to-face discussions and she would like to schedule another meeting. Director Palmer agreed to have Zone 7 schedule another meeting. Ms. Duerig noted that coordination will continue at the staff level, until the next Liaison Committee meeting. Mr. Tim Barry stated that LARPD appreciates being involved in these discussions.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Director Sarah Palmer adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.