

Zone 7 Water Agency – Board Retreat Discussion Notes



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Discussion Notes

Facilitator: Dr. Bill Mathis
Scribe: Janice Mathis

Hilton Garden Inn
8/17/2015; 3:00 p.m.

Board members present: President Palmer, Vice President Quigley, Directors Greci, Stevens, Figuers, Ramirez Holmes.

Staff Present: Jill Duerig and David Aladjem.

President Palmer called the meeting to order at 3:22.

During the Citizens Forum, Margaret Tracy expressed concerns about the use of wastewater over the Main Basin, citing the appearance of nitrate hot spots in some areas.

President Palmer thanked Ms. Tracy then introduced Dr. Bill Mathis, who began the retreat with a discussion of the Agency's past performance in achieving the Board's direction as background to identifying areas that should be adjusted looking forward to the future.

A. Goals and Accomplishments

Summary of 2014–15 accomplishments

Ms. Duerig showed a power point, listing accomplishments in each category of the Strategic Planning Priorities, noting that the presentation had been developed for all-employee meetings and was based on a spread sheet previously shared with the board members.

B. Goals for the Future

Goals and Objectives (Strategic Initiatives) should reflect consensus of the Board with clear direction? No clear direction (majority) invites chaos. The board mentioned the following:

- Quarries are shutting down in the Bay Area; what does this mean for the Chain of Lakes?
- El Niño is coming. We need to be on the public's radar for flood. We are already doing the things that are needed; we also need to communicate to the public that preparations are well under way
- We need to get as much of the water returned from San Luis Reservoir now as possible. More generally, we need to work with DWR to improve water supplies for next year or the next drought
- Study on Patterson Ranch? Do we need to hire a consulting firm?
- Develop one-page fact sheet on watershed protection and use of Patterson Ranch
- City Meetings that are related to water are of interest to the Board; there may be other meetings that are of interest to Board members; the question was raised whether or not staff can track and provide such information to the directors.

The board then discussed possible revisions to the Strategic Planning Priorities, including:

- **1. Provide customers with a reliable, cost-effective and safe water supply.**
 - Reorder items so that 1.11 and 1.14 are moved up (after 1.5) and the current 1.6 (about Chain of Lakes) is moved to the end.
 - 1.15 – Reword to “Develop long-term balanced management of watersheds, including a plan for the future of the Lake Del Valle Property.”
- **2. Provide Eastern Alameda County with an effective system of flood protection.**
 - 2.3 – delete “and StreamWISE”
 - 2.5 – Revise; delete “Fisheries restoration and related”
 - 2.7 Add “into long term planning and the CIP”
 - Add 2.9 – “Increase public awareness of flood preparedness efforts.”

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- **3. Provide the Agency with effective organization, administration and governance.**
 - 3.3 – Delete all after the word “Agency.”
 - 3.5 – Delete 3.5
 - 3.6 – Eliminate the words “ensure sufficient operator” replacing with “attract and retain sufficient” and delete parenthetical
 - 3.7 – Delete the words “modern” and “software, etc.”
 - 3.9 – delete the words “are in place.”
- **4. Operate the Agency in a fiscally-responsible manner.**
 - 4.3 – Eliminate word “new.”
 - 4.4 – Change to “Continue to review...”
- **5. Increase public understanding of the Agency and its functions.**
 - 5.2 – Add “and flood preparedness” after conservation.
 - 5.3 – Delete wording “of the Agency’s website” and replace with the word “of.”
 - 5.5 – Delete all after “program”
 - 5.6 – Delete words “other internet based and other.”

A discussion followed concerning potential flooding, warnings and El Niño. Most agreed for a need to prepare, warn people, give strategy of floods, flood warning, etc. October is flood preparedness month; use this opportunity to get the word out for El Niño.

Next Steps:

Future Board Meeting date: 5:00 p.m., November 18, 2015, at which the Closed Session should include GM Goal Setting

Director Palmer adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.