

**Water Resources Committee
September 24, 2013
Meeting Summary**

Directors Present: J. Greci, A. Machaevich, B. Stevens

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

Director Stevens called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., with Directors Greci and Machaevich present.

1. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

There were no public comments.

2. Chain of Lakes Evaluation Update

Ms. Winey presented an update on the Chain of Lakes Use Evaluation Plan that continued the discussion from the June 2013 Water Resources Committee (WRC) and Board meetings. “Primary Uses” that help Zone 7 fulfill its mission were identified as Flood/Stormwater Detention, Groundwater Recharge, and Surface Water Storage and Conveyance. “Secondary Uses” may allow a lake to have multiple benefits but must be compatible with Primary Uses. Secondary Uses included Recycled Water Storage, Habitat Corridor and Conservation, and both Active and Passive Recreation. Staff presented the scoring criteria and the initial scores for all the lakes. In order to normalize scores, scores were presented as a percentage of the maximum possible points.

In response to questions from the Directors, it was noted that the Groundwater Recharge scores were based on connection to the upper and lower aquifer combined. Only Lakes B, C, D, and E are proposed to be mined to a depth that encounters the lower aquifer. The scores reflect currently approved conditions and those assumed to be approved through pending amendments. This allows Zone 7 to evaluate the benefits or impacts of such an approval of the currently pending amendment on SMP-23 for Lakes A and B by the County. Additional questions from Directors regarding storing recycled water in the lakes were addressed by staff and the General Manager in that this preliminary evaluation simply presents the relative suitability of various uses, and additional considerations—such as the need to replumb the other lakes if a lake is used for recycled water storage—would need to be addressed in later analysis. It was recommended that staff should consider whether recycled water should be in the Primary Use category.

Valley Trails representative, Joseph Cunningham, said that he was satisfied with what he had seen so far and asked if Cope Lake, which was identified for stormwater detention use, has sufficient capacity. Ms. Mahoney responded that Zone 7 is in the process of developing a hydraulic model that will clarify how much storage would be required, but that multiple lakes had been identified that could provide regional stormwater storage.

Pat Costanzo, a developer representing Kiewit (a property owner within the EPSP), asked what was Zone 7's definition of "passive recreation" and what recreational uses may be possible. He stated that the development community would like guidelines from Zone 7 regarding the use of the lakes for recreation.

Staff clarified that Passive Recreation could include such things as trails, bird watching, and other activities that do not involve body contact with lake water. Ms. Mahoney stated that when specific development plans are available, the developers should bring those proposals to the Board for consideration.

The Directors stated that they were not supportive of committing staff to develop recreation plans and reiterated that developers or other funding partners should present a specific proposal to the Board for consideration, recognizing that developers will need to be responsible for the associated cost and liability of any recreational facilities requested on Zone 7 owned land. Additionally, while active mining continues, Zone 7 cannot create a liability issue by having recreation on haul roads or in the way of quarry maintenance.

The Directors directed staff to present the preliminary evaluation of lake uses at the October 2013 Board meeting.

3. SMP-23 Amendment Update

Ms. Winey summarized the updates included in the proposed SMP-23 Amendment which covers Lakes A and B. The amendment includes changes to the formerly approved 1987 configuration of the lakes, cross-sections of Lake B to C, including a proposed overflow from Lake B into the Arroyo Del Valle, the proposed realignment of the arroyo and modifications to conduits and diversions. Staff also pointed out that the overflow elevation is currently at or near the average groundwater elevation meaning that additional water may not be able to be added to the lake to provide the needed pressure-head to facilitate groundwater recharge. CEMEX is looking into whether they can raise the downstream berm without creating a dam. If plans for Lake B cannot be modified to eliminate the overflow structure then 1.) The lower aquifer would be exposed to evaporation if mining continues to the proposed depth, and 2.) Water could be lost to the Arroyo Del Valle in high groundwater years.

In response to questions from Directors regarding Lake A, staff explained that CEMEX is still studying what may be possible for mining at that lake given the former slope instabilities. At a minimum, they will mine enough to provide Zone 7 with the agreed facilities. Ms. Winey stated that Lake A is not currently in a state to be turned over to Zone 7, but the actual timeline is still being discussed. Likewise, the timeline for realigning the Arroyo Del Valle is not yet known. The Directors also commented on the use of Lake A to decant sediment before it clogs the recharge faces of other lakes. It was noted by Directors that there is a bigger issue at stake if Zone 7 loses water from Lake B, in that Zone 7 may not be able to get more water from the State in the future to replace it. Ms. Winey responded that Zone 7 is working with CEMEX to keep the water in the basin as much as possible.

4. Strategic Planning Priorities

The Committee recommended modifying the Strategic Planning Priorities to include the following:

- 1.15 Develop long-term balanced management of watersheds.
- 1.16 Maintain the watershed to improve source water quality to protect public health and safety.

5. Verbal Comments

Director Stevens recommended that staff give the CEMEX presentation to the Board in addition to the update on the Chain of Lakes Use Evaluation.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.