

**MINUTES OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF GROUND WATER AGENCIES (AGWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2006 – 1:30 P.M.
AT CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER**

Chairman John Rossi called the meeting to order.

Directors/Alternates present:

Tom Haslebacher	Kern County Water Agency
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Ken Manning	Chino Basin Watermaster
John Rossi, Chairman	Western Municipal Water District
Carol Williams, Secty/CFO	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
Tony Zampietro	Raymond Basin Management Board

Affiliates present:

Terry Foreman	CH2M Hill
Kathy Kunysz	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
John Otto	Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District

Others present:

David DeJesus	Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Donna DiLaura	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
Fred Fudacz	Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott
Dick Rhone	Bookman Edmonston
Phil Rosentrater	Western Municipal Water District

MINUTES/FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Chairman deferred approval of the September 2006 meeting minutes to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Update on CRWQCB Santa Ana Region Proposed WDR's for Injection/Percolation of Imported Water- Chairman Rossi reported on the progress of the workgroup formed to develop an alternative to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's proposed Waste Discharge Requirements on imported water recharge. Chairman Rossi reported that the primary parties are now working to develop a local cooperative agreement and are discussing the technical aspects of a monitoring program. The Regional Board's Executive Officer confirmed that he is not looking for a great deal of new data; however, workgroup participants are concerned about a potential requirement to monitor for emerging contaminants such as pharmaceuticals and endocrine disruptors, which are largely associated with wastewater. The parties have agreed to set aside this issue for a time, and to discuss other aspects of the program, which will include a two to three year monitoring phase, after which the basins will be separated into two categories -- those with salinity issues, and those without salinity problems. Then sources of water for the salinity areas would be determined, a plan would be developed, and appropriate courses of action would be proposed to mitigate

water quality issues. Chairman Rossi noted that the draft agreement is currently in its fourth iteration and should be finalized within the next several months.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the authority of regional water quality control boards to regulate imported water for groundwater recharge. Mr. Fudacz stated that there could be potential liability under CERCLA if imported replenishment water is considered a "waste." Director Manning closed the discussion by stating that this issue will be a topic for discussion at the AGWA Conference in February 2007.

Update on GAMA program implementation/results in AGWA member areas – Chairman Rossi reported that USGS has prepared its first draft Interpretive report from the GAMA program and is currently working with ACWA's Groundwater Committee to receive input on interpretation and presentation of data prior to finalizing the report. Mr. Haslebacher reported that his agency is also reviewing the interpretive report as part of the ACWA Groundwater Committee review.

Chairman Manning reported that USGS sampling is scheduled to take place in Chino Basin in November.

Review of MWD Groundwater Basin Assessments - Ms. Kathy Kunysz reported that Metropolitan Water District has completed a preliminary draft of its Southern California Groundwater Basin Assessment Report and has submitted these drafts to the various basin managers for review and comment. MWD would like to receive feedback as soon as possible in order to complete a final draft by the end of the year. A brief discussion followed, with various agencies confirming that their data had been received and will be included in the final draft of the report. In response to a question by Director Manning, Ms. Kunysz stated that MWD staff hope that this report will ultimately identify opportunities for storage programs and how best to shape those programs to meet dry-year storage targets while accommodating local needs and limitations.

Development of Groundwater Principles for Joint Effort with GRA – Chairman Rossi reported that he attended a meeting with members of the GRA Legislative Committee to develop a cooperative strategy for educating legislators on groundwater issues and laying groundwork for obtaining funding for groundwater programs. Mr. Rosentrater distributed a copy of draft policy principles for review and comment. Chairman Rossi noted Proposition 84 implementation legislation is forthcoming, and a 2008 water bond is being formulated, and AGWA should work with GRA to provide input into both of those measures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MWD Liaison Committee – Chairman Rossi reported that Western MWD is working with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District on an application for remaining Proposition 50 funding for ASR wells, and the application is expected to go before the MWD board soon for approval. Additionally, he reported that MWD's projected water rates for 2008 will be available shortly.

Communications Committee – Director Manning reported that plans for the February 2007 AGWA Conference are in progress. He noted that AGWA received \$3,750 from the American Groundwater Trust (AGWT) for the 2006 conference. AGWT's executive director initially felt the amount due to AGWA should be revisited since he felt that AGWA did not

completely fulfill its role in the conference implementation; however, the objection was later dismissed, and it was agreed that the roles and responsibilities of both AGWT and AGWA will be clearly defined in the contract for the February 2007 conference. Director Manning distributed a proposed agreement from AGWT for the joint event, along with the preliminary conference schedule. He also asked for volunteers and suggestions for individuals to serve on panels at the conference, and he asked that any suggestions be forwarded to him by the end of the week.

With regard to the ongoing website upgrades, Director Manning reported that he will arrange a demonstration of the revised layout for AGWA members at a future meeting and in the meantime forward a link of the website to Board members for their review and comments. Additionally, Director Manning requested that any available photos of the various AGWA members' areas be forwarded to him for inclusion on the website.

Legislative/Regulatory Committee –Director Rossi reported that Eastern MWD is working on legislation regarding rights waste water effluent; he indicated he would bring additional information to the next meeting. He also encouraged members to bring their agency-sponsored legislation for AGWA information and possible support.

AGENCY REPORTS

Mr. Otto reported that the Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District is working with the Department of Corrections on a project to provide water for turf irrigation. He noted that the department was seeking a 25-year contract for bond purposes but the district felt that even five years was too long a term. He noted that negotiations are continuing.

Mr. Haslebacher reported that the Kern County Water Agency has gone out to bid for the Cross Valley Canal project. He also noted that USGS wanted to perform GAMA sampling in Kern County in the winter, when little pumping occurs, and would not compensate well owners for turning on wells for sampling. He stated that he accompanied USGS personnel for four days of sampling activities in Owens Valley.

Director Zampiello reported that the Raymond Basin Management Board has adopted supplemental water criteria to be used for recharge or injection. The Board will now begin working through the administrative side of the permitting process, using Valley Water District's injection of MWD water as a test case. Director Zampiello reported that a resolution in support of federal funding for the Foothill Communities Water Supply Reliability Program was just adopted by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG). The COG is also developing its own strategic plan, which includes a water supply policy for the San Gabriel Valley. Additionally, as stated in previous meetings, Raymond Basin currently has a \$5 million authorization for the Foothill Communities projects in the House version of the Water Resources Development Act bill. The projects are intended to increase flexibility of imported water deliveries across the Foothill Communities and bring replenishment water to the Raymond Basin.

Director Manning reported that in regard to establishing hydraulic control in the Chino Basin, water appears to be leaking around the southwest side of the Basin into the Prado Dam area, and Chino Basin Watermaster staff are developing a pumping strategy to contain the water. The area where the leakage is to be contained coincides with the plume of contamination

from the Chino Airport, and the County is working with CBWM on a solution. Additionally, Director Manning reported that CBWM has been successful in obtaining about \$92 million in funding for several area projects. The funding will assist in the Desalter projects as well as both the Chino and Ontario Airport plume projects.

Chairman Rossi reported that the State Water Resources Control expects to hold hearings in 2007 on water rights applications submitted by Western MWD and others to appropriate water made available by the operation of the Seven Oaks Dam. Also, Western MWD has signed an agreement with MWD to put water into the Inland Feeder from Diamond Valley Lake. Chairman Rossi also announced that the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority has hired Celeste Cantu as its new General Manager.

Mr. Kennedy reported that Orange County Water District is studying whether or not to annex additional areas in the southern portion of the county. The area is within the Irvine Ranch Water District and is controversial due to the issue of who pays for new infrastructure to serve the area.

Mr. Fudacz reported that the South El Monte Operable Unit litigation continues in the San Gabriel Valley, although the litigation has been stayed while a mediator attempts settlement among the parties.

NEXT MEETING

The Chairman stated that the next regular meeting of AGWA is scheduled for **Monday, January 8, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.** at the offices of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, located at 725 N. Azusa Avenue, Azusa, CA 91702. **(PLEASE NOTE EARLIER MEETING TIME.)**

Carol Williams, Secretary/CFO

ATTEST:

John Rossi, Chairman