

TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2013

Members Present:

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman
Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee
Susana De Anda, At-Large Appointee
Keith Watkins, At-Large Appointee
Dennis Keller, At-Large Appointee
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee
Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee

Members Absent:

Mike Ennis, Board Alternate Representative
Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee
Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative

Staff Present:

Julieta Martinez, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Denise Akins, County Administrative Office
Nina Dong, County Counsel
Jake Raper, RMA

Members of the Public who voluntarily provided their names on the attendance sheet:

Carole Clum
Shane Smith
Michael Tharp
Richard Garcia
Beverly Garcia
Miguel Herrera
Yublay Vang

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.

2. Public Comment Period

Carol Clum from Three Rivers commented on the California Environmental Protection Agency's (CAL EPA) new program CalEnviroScreen. She provided the Commissioners with two handouts. See Attachment A.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2013 meeting

Commissioner De Anda made a revision under Section Number 5 Disadvantaged Community Water Study.

She stated that instead of the Stakeholder Technical Review, wording should read: The Stakeholder PSAG (Pilot Stakeholder Advisory Group) process.

Motion to approve minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Watkins, second by Commissioner Schafer. Motion approved.

Commissioner Keller abstained due to his absence at the last meeting.

4. Discussion of Water Bond Position

Chairman Ishida requested this item be put on the agenda because the Board is most likely to take action within a month.

Commissioner Schafer provided the Commissioners with a handout highlighting the current position of the ACWA Board of Directors. He suggested mirroring ACWA's position in the draft letter being proposed by the Board of Supervisors. He mentioned he didn't find a recommendation in the letter on the dollar amount the Board believes should be adopted by the legislature for the ballot. It might be a good idea to make a recommendation in addition to the concept.

Chairman Ishida stated the letter is intended to respond to the media coverage on the bond that was drafted and reduced. The County is trying to gather support from other counties, including delta counties.

Commissioner Keller suggested the Board of Supervisors take consideration that the Friant Project can be put at risk and the County of Tulare benefits a million acre/feet average annual from the Friant Project. He shared he has some difficulty taking such a strong position. It would be easier to oppose if there was not storage included. There needs to be more thought to support a position that opposes something that is starting to address the sustainability of the Friant Project because it does not offer the possibility of supplemental storage. We have a very senior position for diversion out of the delta for the Friant project.

Chairman Ishida acknowledged that this is a slippery slope but as a Friant Water user he is aware that there is not enough bond money to go around. Working with the government for nine years he learned that just because you build a pipeline it does not mean you will get water. There needs to be more goals in the proposal. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Keller asked if the Board is looking for a recommendation and stated the Commission is here to do as the Board pleases. If the Board decides to ask for a recommendation of the Water Commission they can put together a committee to circulate a draft amongst the Commissioners to work on and bring it back on the July 8th meeting.

Commissioner Schafer added that last Friday at the ACWA Legislative committee they handed out a couple of additional documents beyond what was distributed to the Commissioner. One is entitled ACWA outlines priorities for the 2014 Water Bond and the second is Frequently Asked Questions about ACWA and the 2014 Water Bond. There are some good questions and responses. If the Chairman would like a copy of that information to use in the development of the letter, he will provide it.

Chairman Ishida appointed Commissioner Larsen, Commissioner Schafer, and Commissioner Keller to form a sub-committee and work on a draft Water Bond Letter. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Larsen, seconded by Commissioner Keller, Motion approved.

5. Update on Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantage Community Water Study

Denise Akins, County Administrative Office, stated not much has changed since the last meeting. There is still one pilot project study that is out being reviewed by the community. There is two circulating for internal

review.

Commissioner De Anda commented that for the first pilot, non-infrastructure management, the community review part of the process meeting is set for June 26 in Porterville. The first PSAG meeting will kick off sometime this month or sometime next month. She will email the flyer to other Commissioners.

Commissioner Boyer shared that the internal draft for the upper Kings will be going to the internal review later this month, and is included in the Tulare Lake Basin.

6. Subcommittee Reports

None at this time.

7. Staff Reports

None at this time.

8. Commissioners Comments

Chairman Ishida stated the court case on the nitrate monitoring study was lost.

Commissioner Kapheim stated it was interesting to see the difference in the tentative and final decision.

Commissioner Schafer stated he understands the lawyers are having a bit of a time over language of the final order.

Commissioner Keller shared that at this point in time we can look forward to the general order for the third parties in this area being implemented around the 25th of September.

Chairman Ishida asked for an update on the IRWPs.

Commissioner Larsen stated there was a joint meeting scheduled between the governing boards of the Kaweah Delta Conservation District and the Deer Creek and Tule River Authority on Friday the 21st to go over the issues that the Department of Water Resources raised several years ago of trying to integrate the Kaweah and the Tule together. They have now modified that position. We are issuing a draft document with a number of policy options being presented to both boards. Discussion followed.

9. Next meeting – Monday, July 8, 2013, 3:00 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Chambers

Commissioner Kapheim suggested the Commission focus on what is going in the Governor's office. Next meeting things will be pretty well identified and substantive and it should go on the agenda.

Chairman Ishida requested Commissioners notify staff if there is something that should go on the agenda.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm.

Carole Clum's Public Comments at Tulare County Water Commission June 10, 2013

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL EPA) announced a new program on Earth Day April 22, 2013, to pinpoint communities as a whole which suffer from multiple contaminants, instead of individual neighborhoods or various locations of a single toxin. The program is called CALENVIROSCREEN. It pinpoints communities particularly vulnerable to multiple contaminants, such as: idling heavy duty diesel trucks, Superfund clean up sites, landfills, pollutants in groundwater, junkyards with heavy metal leakage, meat processing plants, agricultural fields sprayed with pesticides, and traffic on freeways such as Highway 99. The program tracks total environmental pollution for whole communities.

In the San Joaquin Valley the most polluted community is West Fresno. People in West Fresno have a 20 year shorter lifespan than people living in North Fresno. Bakersfield is the second most polluted community in the San Joaquin Valley.

Multiple pollutants cause low birth weights which make children more vulnerable to asthma. People who live in polluted communities are generally poor. They can't afford to move to a cleaner environment.

To find your community's rating enter your zipcode into the on-line site CALENVIROSCREEN.