



**FINAL MINUTES**  
**Water Supply Planning Committee of the**  
**Monterey Peninsula Water Management District**  
*February 4, 2014*

**Call to Order**

**Committee members present:** Bob Brower, Chair  
Jeanne Byrne  
David Pendergrass

**Staff members present:** David Stoldt, General Manager  
Larry Hampson, Planning & Engineering Division Manager  
Sara Reyes, Office Services Supervisor

**Comments from the Public**

The following persons addressed the committee. (1) **Ron Brown**, a local architect, requested that the use of atmospheric water generation technology provided by EcoloBlue be certified as a reliable water source that could be used in local residential and commercial applications. He asked that the committee place this issue on a future agenda for further discussion. (2) **Doug Davis**, Sales Manager for EcoloBlue, stated that he would like to meet with Water Management District staff to discuss the use of atmospheric water generators. He noted that commercial units can produce up to 1,500 gallons per day of 99.9 percent pure water, with no adverse environmental impacts.

**Action Items**

1. **Consider Adoption of November 5, 2013 Committee Meeting Minutes**  
On a motion by Pendergrass and second of Byrne, the minutes were approved unanimously on a vote of Pendergrass, Byrne and Brower. Byrne requested an update on water rights related studies at the next committee meeting.
2. **Review and Provide Comments on Draft Los Padres Dam and Reservoir Long Term Strategic and Short-Term Tactical Plan**  
On a motion of Byrne and second by Pendergrass, the committee voted to request that The Shibatani Group revise the report to include: a plan for decommissioning Los Padres Dam and construction of off-stream storage; a timeline for completion; a cost estimate; a focus on the need to regulate the Carmel River; a solution for regulation of the river should Los Padres Dam remain intact; and a description of flood control measures needed on the Carmel River with and without off-stream storage. The motion was approved on a unanimous vote of Byrne, Pendergrass and Brower.

The committee members discussed the report with the principal author, Robert Shibatani, of The Shibatani Group, Inc. Their comments are summarized here. (a) The report studied the watershed in order to determine how maximization of the existing hydrology and infrastructure could benefit the water users. (b) The best option is to remove Los Padres Dam and develop off-stream storage at Pine Canyon. NOAA Fisheries supports off-stream storage. This could provide 20,000 acre-feet of storage for water supply, and downstream flow to benefit the fishery. (c) Pine Canyon is not adjacent to local vineyards, so there should be no adverse effects for growers. (d) If the public will not support removal of Los Padres Dam, the next option is to develop a plan for regular mechanical dredging. One advantage to off-stream storage is that the siltation rate may be low, in comparison to main-stem storage. (e) The concept of off-stream storage should be studied, but a new off-stream dam should not be proposed as it would compete with other projects under consideration (e.g. desalination and groundwater replenishment). Los Padres Dam should remain intact and a dredging program commenced. (f) This is not proposed as an alternative for a replacement water supply. However, if it is determined that only a regulated river can result in a healthy river environment, then off-stream storage must be considered. (g) Previous MPWMD analysis indicated that a significant portion of the spawning and rearing habitat in the watershed is above Los Padres Dam; however, there is no proof that removal of Los Padres Dam would improve the fishery. If steelhead numbers continue to decline, there will be a need to study how siltation at Los Padres Dam affects steelhead passage. (h) The Tactical Plan should be revised to include: a plan for decommissioning Los Padres Dam and construction of off-stream storage; a timeline for completion; a cost estimate; a focus on the need to regulate the Carmel River; a solution for regulation of the river should Los Padres Dam remain intact; and a description of flood control measures needed on the Carmel River with and without off-stream storage.

During the public comment period on this item, George Riley expressed concern about possible flooding in the Carmel river and asked if the Los Padres Reservoir could be used as a storage area for flood control or to provide water during rationing periods. The concern is the high cost of water management. He asked if Los Padres could be used as a diversion point for storage, rather than develop a costly solution to solve the storage problem.

**3. Consider Recommendation to the Board to Amend Cost Sharing Agreement with DeepWater Desal**

Pendergrass offered a motion to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the amendments to the cost sharing agreement with DeepWater Desal. The motion was seconded by Byrne and approved unanimously on a vote of Pendergrass, Byrne and Brower. No public comments were directed to the committee.

**4. Consider Authorization to Increase Budget for Groundwater Replenishment Project (GWR)**

Byrne offered a motion to recommend that the Board approve the GWR Budget and that: (a) Prior to February 13, 2014 Board consideration of the budget, it will be revised to incorporate cost reductions. Funding for completion of CEQA work will be the focus of the budget. (b)The motion also included establishment of a joint ad-hoc committee regarding GWR that includes two members of the MPWMD Board of Directors and two

members of the MRWPCA Board of Directors. (c) Amendment 1 to the Cost Sharing Agreement should also be approved. The motion was seconded by Pendergrass and adopted on a unanimous vote of Byrne, Pendergrass and Brower.

Keith Israel, General Manager of the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) provided the committee with an update on progress of the project and development of source water agreements. During the public comment on this item the following comments were received. **(1) Dennis Allion**, Chair of the MRWPCA Board of Directors, stated that the Agency is working to educate source water sponsors that a regional perspective is needed and that they have a vested interest in working to develop GWR. A draft agreement has been developed. He urged the committee to recommend adoption of the GWR budget, and possibly identify a portion of funding that would be held back until certain conditions are met. **(2) Dale Hekhuis** urged the two agencies to form a joint ad-hoc committee made up of two or three directors from each agency that could coordinate on development of the GWR project.

#### **Discussion Items**

- 5. Update on Water Rights Related Studies**  
Deferred to the next committee meeting.
- 6. Update on Utilization of Water from Monterey Peninsula Airport District Wells**  
Deferred to the next committee meeting.
- 7. Review National Marine Fisheries Service Recommendations re the Carmel River Basin Included in the Final South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan**  
Deferred to the next committee meeting.
- 8. Update on Access to Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility**  
Deferred to the next committee meeting.

#### **Suggestions from the Public on Water Supply Project Alternatives**

No comments.

#### **Set Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 9 am in the Water Management District's conference room.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.