

COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
WEEK OF MAY 4-10, 2014

NO BOARD MEETING ON APRIL 29, 2014
BOARD MEETING OF MAY 6TH LIGHT
PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED
SLOCOG CANCELLED

NO SENSE IN ROILING THE WATERS BEFORE THE ELECTION

Board of Supervisors Meeting On Tuesday, April 29, 2014 (Not Scheduled)

April 29th was a 5th Tuesday. The Board did not meet. It generally meets on the first 4 Tuesdays of each month.

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, May 6, 2014(Scheduled)

Item 2 - Introduction of the Annual Update of the Nipomo Growth Management Ordinance. The purpose of this item is to set the matter for hearing on May 20, 2014. The ordinance essentially restricts growth (new permits for homes) to 1.8% of the total number of dwelling units which existed in the previous year. The Board letter does not indicate how many there are. Perhaps the number will be available by the 20th.

Item 7 - Renewal of a \$100,000 Annual Grant for Outreach to Potential Medi-Cal Patients. This is a routine item by which the Board authorizes the staff to contract with the State for the grant, which it then passes through to nonprofits in the community. The nonprofits seek to find un-enrolled Medi-Cal eligibles and get them signed up. As the write-up states, the grant is directed toward specific groups:

By accepting this allocation, the County agrees to provide Medi-Cal outreach and enrollment services and activities with the focus on one or more of seven targeted populations including the following: persons with mental health disorder needs, persons with substance use disorder needs, persons who are homeless, young men of color, persons who are in county jail, in state prison, on state parole, on county probation or under post-release

community supervision, families with mixed immigration status, persons with limited English proficiency.

The interesting sub-text is that the number of eligibles has substantially increased because of the Affordable Car Act (ACA) – Obama Care:

This funding comes on of the heels of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Due to the ACA, many more people, especially those in the seven targeted populations, have become eligible for Medi - Cal, however, these newly eligible people may not be aware they are eligible or know how to apply for this coverage and need assistance to sign up for Medi -Cal. Some people may have accessed health care from the County Medical Services Program (CMSP) or Medically Indigent Service Program (MISP) in the past, but now may be eligible for more comprehensive medical coverage through Medi -Cal.

The Board should request staff to bring back a report on how enrollments are preceding for the regular ACA exchange patients as well as ACA-Medi-Cal. How many more people became dependent on government funded medical care as a result? What are the future policy implications?

Item 8 - \$365,000 Annual Contract with The Centre For Organizational Effectiveness. The Board is being asked to approve a 1-year contract (they expect it to be the 1st of 3) with the Centre for training its executives and managers, and those who aspire to be executives and managers. The Centre is an offshoot of the City of San Diego’s training program. Some of its execs left the City and started the Centre. For many years its focus was on communities in the San Diego area. The Centre is actually a joint powers authority of the City of San Diego and the San Diego Water Authority. Some of the faculty are well known local government professionals.

A sample Class is described below:

Executive Academy

A three-day interactive leadership program for top-level executives. The content was developed from critical incident interviews with executives and a review of best practices in executive programs across the country. Sessions focus on:

- Engagement skills
- Influencing skills
- Systems thinking
- Visionary leadership
- Building community partnerships
- Orchestrating change

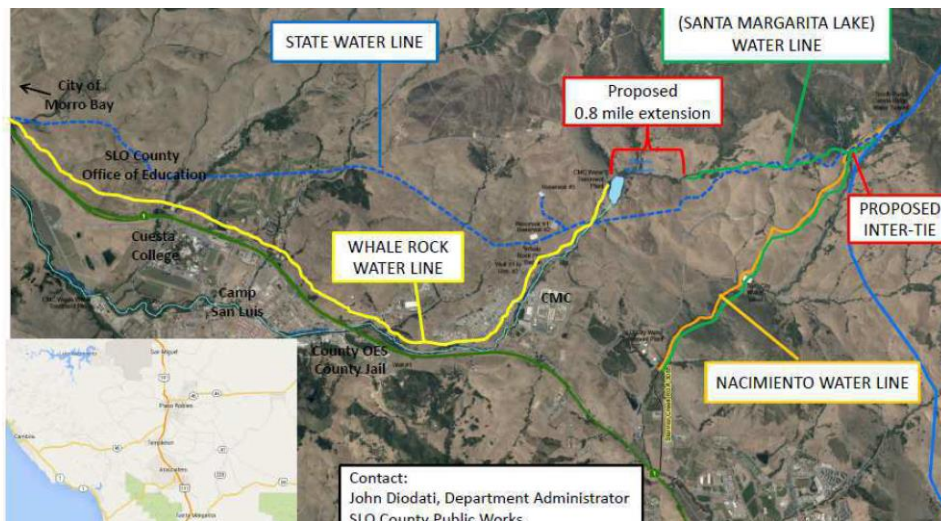
- Values
- Life planning
- Dialogue practice on key public-sector issues
- Well-known guest speakers who will discuss such topics as media strategies, competitive government, and technology

Wonder if they will make some of the Board members attend?

Item 21- Drought Update. This is an extensive report on current conditions and actions which the County has taken to forestall various water districts and other users from running out of water. It also contains information on recent actions of the State and Federal Governments. There are many educational program and forums which are educating people on how to save water, particularly for irrigation of yards.

The largest effort is to construct an inter-tie between the Nacimiento pipeline and the Santa Margarita Lake pipeline to supply the State Prison, County Jail, County service yard, Cuesta College, the National Guard, and the City of Morro Bay. This may be necessary if there is insufficient State water, which is the normal supply of these entities.

More North County Water For the South Coast? While this is an emergency and the ability to move water around is important, a long-range question arises about the use of North County water to supply the coast, given the Paso Basin Water moratorium. It was originally speculated that some of the Nacimiento surplus water (the contractor cities and water districts can't use it all yet) could be sold on a temporary basis for Paso Basin recharge. What if the County determines to send the water down from the City of Morro Bay to Los Osos to counter the saltwater intrusion as septic system recharge dries up and another source is needed to stem the saltwater migration? Could such a shift become permanent and leave the Paso Basin without this resource?



Inter-Tie Project and Water line Extension

Item 21- Sewer Sludge Ordinance Reestablishment. This item is a hearing for the re-establishment of the County’s ordinance limiting the amount of bio-solids that can be spread on fields. The County has been operating under an interim ordinance, which it extends each year. This year the Health Department forgot to renew the ordinance and it expired. Thus the County will have to pass an ordinance de novo. Year after year, the Board has postponed the adoption of a permanent ordinance because it would cost \$200,000 to conduct the required Environmental Impact Report. The write-up states in part:

Due to unforeseen delays, the Health Agency did not return to your Board with an item to set the hearing to extend the existing Land Application of Treated Sewage Sludge/Biosolids interim ordinance to March 2017, and thus the interim ordinance expired on March 9, 2014. Staff is now returning to your Board with a recommendation to adopt the revisions to Chapter 8.13 of the County Code to continue the provisions and restrictions that were put in place in the Land Application of Treated Sewage Sludge/Biosolids interim ordinance.

A Question: If adoption of a permanent ordinance requires an EIR and the prior interim ordinance expired, why is it that the adoption of a new ordinance does not require an EIR? This is not the renewal of the interim ordinance. It expired. The write-up narrative states that the Board can pass it without an EIR because it “does not have an adverse effect on the environment.”

The original interim ordinance was sent to the Environmental Division of the Planning Department for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. The CEQA review process was completed, in which it was determined that the ordinance could not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and a Negative Declaration was issued. The department will use the Negative Declaration (No. ED03-149) issued for the original interim ordinance as the environmental document for this biosolids interim ordinance.

This seems like a contradiction. An interim ordinance does not have an environmental impact but a permanent ordinance requires a \$200,000 EIR?

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, May 8, 2014 (Cancelled)

For whatever reason, the meeting has been cancelled. Perhaps some Board members do not want any controversial Plan and ordinance revisions to surface until after the June 3, 2014 Supervisorial election.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments Meeting of Wednesday, May 7, 2014 (Cancelled)

A notice on the SLOCOG website states that the next meeting will be June 4, 2014. Perhaps some Board members wish to also forestall any controversial action in this venue prior to the June 3, 2024 Supervisorial election.

SAVE MAY 5-6, 2014

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRC) Expert Panel Meetings of May 5-6, 2014 (Scheduled in SLO)

It would appear that the SWRC is considering adding even further regulations related to irrigation water that percolates back into the ground or runs off fields. To this end an “expert panel” is convening at several locations around the State to take “invited” testimony. On May 5th-6th, the Panel will convene in SLO. It is not clear from the notice below who has been invited. In addition to COLAB, Agricultural organizations and concerned individuals should monitor this one.

Expert Panel Public Meeting #1

Monday May 5, 2014 – 9:00 AM (Convene Panel and Invited Testimony)
Tuesday May 6, 2014 – 8:30 AM (Invited Testimony and Public Comment)

Locations different for each day:

May 5: Irrigation and Training Research Center
California Polytechnic State University, SLO
1 Grand Ave, Building 08A, Room 022
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

May 6: The Monday Club
1815 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Expert Panel

Recommendation 14 of the State Water Board’s report to the Legislature was to convene a panel of experts to assess existing agricultural nitrate control programs and develop recommendations, as needed, to ensure that ongoing efforts are protective of groundwater supply quality. The State Water Board has contracted with the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC), a center established within the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department of the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo to assemble the expert panel of up to 10 persons. Composition of the panel will be posted on the ITRC website at <http://www.itrc.org/001/swrcb.htm>.

Role of Expert Panel

The role of Expert Panel Members is as follows:

- *Review the Water Boards’ Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.*
- *Evaluate ongoing agricultural control measures that address nitrate in groundwater and surface water.*
- *Evaluate and address other risks to water quality posed by agricultural practices.*
- *Address questions posed by the State Water Board in its order regarding the petitions of the Central Coast Water Board.*
- *Address questions developed by an Advisory Committee, other agencies and the public as approved by the State Water Board.*

- *Propose new agricultural control measures, if necessary.*
- *Hold meetings with the Advisory Committee as necessary.*
- *Conduct three public meetings to take public comment.*
- *Prepare Final Report on findings and summary of project discoveries and recommendations.*

Meeting Agendas

Panel Director: Dr. Stuart Styles

State Water Board: Darrin Polhemus

The Expert Panel consists of eight (8) members from varying backgrounds:

- 1. Dr. Charles Burt (Panel Chairman) – Irrigation Specialist/Ag Engineer*
- 2. Dr. Robert Hutmacher – Soil Scientist*
- 3. Till Angerman – Hydrogeologist*
- 4. Bill Brush – Certified Crop Advisor*
- 5. Daniel Munk – UC Cooperative Extension*
- 6. James duBois – Grower, Central Coast Region*
- 7. Mark McKean – Grower, Central Valley Region*
- 8. Dr. Lowell Zelinski – Agronomist*