



Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting

Friday, January 22, 2016

Time: 10:30 a.m to 12 p.m

Meeting Location:

Fresno Council of Governments

Sequoia Room


2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201


Fresno, CA 93721


Members Attending:

MEMBER	MPO/COG	TITLE	JURISDICTION
Amarpreet Dhaliwal	Fresno COG	Mayor	City of San Joaquin
Allen Ishida	TCAG	Supervisor	Tulare County
Rudy Mendoza	TCAG	Mayor	City of Woodlake
Mike Villalta	MCAG	Mayor	City of Los Banos
Daron McDaniel	MCAG	Supervisor	Merced County
Gary Yep	Fresno COG	Mayor Pro Tem	City of Kerman
Mark Cartwright	KCAG	Vice Mayor	City of Corcoran
Doug Verboon	KCAG	Supervisor	Kings County
Elbert Holman	SJ COG	Councilmember	City of Stockton
Chuck Winn	SJ COG	Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Vito Chiesa	StanCOG	Supervisor	Stanislaus County
Cheryl Wegman (phone)	Kern COG	Mayor	City of Wasco
Bill O'Brien (phone)	StanCOG	Supervisor	Stanislaus County

See Appendix A for List of Others Attending

 (559) 266-6222

 (559) 314-6015

 555 East Weber Ave.
Stockton, CA 95202

 <http://sjvcogs.org/>

Chair
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal
City of San Joaquin

Vice-Chair
Supervisor Bill O'Brien
Stanislaus County

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments

Tulare County
Association of
Governments

Fresno
Council of
Governments

Kern
Council of
Governments

Kings County
Association of
Governments

Madera County
Transportation
Commission

Merced County
Association of
Governments

Stanislaus
Council of
Governments

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS – MAYOR AMAPREET DHALIWAL

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 11th, 2015 Regional Policy Council Meeting

There was a motion to approve the December 11, 2015 Regional Policy Council Meeting Minutes, on the condition that the minutes reference “Mayor Gary Yep City of Kerman” amend the title to “Mayor Pro Tem”, strike title of Mayor Molina to correctly read “Councilmember Albert Holman”, and error in the language in which fair “chair” should read fair “share”.

First Motion: Mr. Rudy Mendoza
Second Motion: Mr. Mark Cartwright
No Nays
Motioned Carried

C. DISCUSSION/ ACTION ITEMS

1. Panel discussion on the water needs in the San Joaquin Valley followed by an action to establish a formal policy position by the Regional Policy Council

Moderator:

Chair Amarpreet Dhaliwal

Panelist:

1. Condition and Issues of Water Supply in the San Joaquin Valley

Mario Santoyo

Mario Santoyo, Executive Director of the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJWVIA), gave background to the conditions and issues of water supply in the San Joaquin Valley. The presentation was provided in a Powerpoint format and covered snowpack levels, water levels at reservoirs, delta pumping, ground water, above ground water storage, the water bond – Proposition 1, and Temperance Flat. As a result, Mr. Santoyo made a request for the Policy Council to consider taking a position when going to Washington DC in support of the following: 1) Congressional construction authorization for Temperance Flat Project, 2) Financial assistance to the SJWVIA to secure partnership agreements and funding from non-federal sources, 3) Federal appropriations to initiate construction related activities. A question arose for suggestions for the Sacramento platform. Mr. Santoyo advocated informing our state legislators to keep communication open between the water commission and the governor. There was a request for comparison as to where we stand with Temperance Flats versus Sites Reservoir. Mr. Santoyo explained that Sites formed a JPA in 2010 giving them more lead time to get the work done. The SJWVIA was only formed last month. An application needs to be completed by the end of this year, as they are looking to release funds on March 2017, so any messaging has to be done sooner rather than later. Other discussion ensued.

Supervisor Allen Ishida stressed the difficulty and length of time of bringing surface water issues to the forefront. Supervisor Ishida noted the now defunct Friant Authority, and noted that the new JPA (SJWVIA) is critical to move forward. He noted that cities rely on surface water deliveries. He reiterated that broad support is need for Temperance Flats. Chair Dhaliwal supported these comments.

2. Surface Water Deliveries

Johnny Amaral

Johnny Amaral, Deputy General Manager, Westlands Water District, highlighted the importance of surface water deliveries. Mr. Amaral stressed concerns with the notable rain this season, could mask the reality of

surface water delivery issues in the summer. Mr. Amaral noted the significance of above ground water storage and understanding of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) effective 2020, which will limit the amount of water drawn from the ground. Mr. Amaral suggested a sound policy to lobby to congress to bring normalcy to delta water delivery.

3. Water Situation in Tulare County

Allen Ishida

Supervisor Ishida, Tulare County, reported the growing concerns surrounding the lack of surface water deliveries, the sustainability of cities without surface water, and an unwarranted drilling competition from both the cities and agriculture. Supervisor Ishida made two suggestions 1) additional flood water storage and 2) surface water facilities, Temperance Flat being the viable solution to recharge groundwater for levels to increase. Chair Dhaliwal gave additional background to the on going issues in the City of Porterville. Mayor Rudy Mendoza reminded the Policy Council not to lose sight of why the Policy Council came together and how important water is to the economic development of communities and cities.

4. Ground Water Sustainability Act

Assemblymember Adam Gray

Assemblymember Adam Gray, reviewed the water bond and highlighted the Valley stand in pursuit of increasing the bond from \$1 billion to \$2.75 billion in water storage. Assemblymember Gray stressed the recommendation made by Mario Santoyo in voicing to the federal government and making sure there is some action. He commended the unity of the Regional Policy Council for convening the discussion, with the understanding of the amount of work needed with ground water sustainability. He noted over two years his legislation been working on AB 1242 recognizing the connection between surface water deliveries and ground water recharge. As a result, Assemblymember Gray underlined several issues: 1) vast over prompting of ground water 2) no realistic plan to recharge that ground water. He recommended to the Policy Council to adopt support for enhancing coordination, make an ask for the federal government, amend the ground water sustainability act, and figure out a rational plan that includes mitigation to connect surface delivery to ground water as well as a recharge plan. His bill, AB 1242 calls for increases in surface water delivery. He cautioned that Sites might get funding ahead of Temperance. Supervisor Verboon agreed with the recommendations by Assemblymember Gray but also noted the vast amount of surface water deliveries to bigger cities, from corporate farmers who then pump ground water, contributing to the issue. Mayor Villalta, Los Banos, commented and asked for water safety and quality be added to the plan. Chair Dhaliwal agreed to the comments made and made reference to the importance of water quality.

5. Update on Prop 1A

Erica Mello

Erica Mello, Office of Congressman Valadao, reported on Senator Feinstein's water bill was introduced as of January 21, 2016. Ms. Mello also noted that Congressman Valadao's office had a similar bill and is optimistic a conference can occur and that final legislation will support Temperance Flat. Ms. Mello advised the Policy Council to start working on the application process (for Temperance).

Assemblymember Gray made follow-up comments to Mayor Villalta's approach on the water quality and praises the efforts taken to tackle that issue. He noted that the Council be very pragmatic, very realistic, and look for holistic solutions to work with the State. Mayor Mendoza commended on Assemblymember Gray's support, but he encouraged leadership from state officials to help with the Policy Councils' efforts.

a. Policy Notes

Robert Phipps

Robert Phipps, Administrative Director with Kern Council of Governments, noted and summarized key policy points to consider taking to the state and legislative platforms.

- 1) Federal platform, pursue congressional support for construction, funding, and appropriations for Temperance Flat.

- 2) State platform, seek support from state legislators, obtain letters supporting construction of Temperance Flat, and amending the Ground Water Sustainability Act (for greater recharge).

Mark Cartwright suggested adding delivery of safe drinking water. Mr. Phipps noted the recommendation for the conference committee to continue resolving the difference between Congressman Valadao and Senator Feinstein's bills. Mr. Phipps suggested a letter to the representatives would be appropriate related to support of additional water storage. Mario Santoyo agreed and stressed the importance of letters supporting Temperance Flat. There was additional discussion of the time frame and cost of other three storage projects, Sites Reservoir, Los Vaqueros and Temperance Flat. Additional discussion ensued regarding the Ground Water Sustainability Act. Mr. Santoyo provided some background detailing the trade-offs between surface and ground water deliveries and how this stabilizes our water table.

Councilmember Holman suggested narrowing down the most important issues that would strengthen the campaign. He noted that in the north valley (Stockton area), delta water is available. Supervisor Verboon emphasized the wording in the letter to note the importance of recharging ground water in the Central Valley and its potential negative impact statewide without any resolution. He noted that southern CA needs to understand how important this is to us and that if we fail, they fail. Supervisor Winn suggested a defined plan to present to the state legislators. It is apparent the main concern is coming to a consensus to develop a plan to take to both the state and federal platforms. Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County, suggested a broader plan to support all projects in California pertaining to ground and surface water storage, and to work with other regions focusing on solutions. Additional discussion ensued.

Mr. Phipps revised the key policy points noted earlier:

- 1) Federal Level – pursue congressional support for construction, obtain funding, and request appropriations for Temperance Flat. Express a broad support for water storage, additional water storage, generally throughout California. In addition, support of operational improvements, support the conference committee to resolve the Feinstein and Valadao bills in their present form.
- 2) State Level – seek support from state legislators to provide letters supporting construction of Temperance Flat, express the Council's support for additional water storage throughout California, amending the Ground Water Sustainability Act for better recharge ability for beneficial use. Providing available funding to localities for safe drinking water.

Discussion ensued whether to include naming Temperance Flat specifically, as well as supporting all other water storage projects in California. Assemblymember Gray suggested the Policy Council support all water storage projects in line with the comments made by Supervisor Chiesa. Supervisor Ishida noted that Temperance also helps with our below ground water storage issues. Supervisor Chiesa again stressed his support for all water storage projects. Supervisor Ishida noted the need to name Temperance. Assemblymember Gray noted support for AB 1242, which includes most of the points referenced, inclusive of additional surface water storage without naming any specific projects. Mr. Santoyo noted a 2000 study to narrow down the CalFed project list, which included all three projects (Vaquero, Sites and Temperance).

There was a motion to adopt the key talking points that Mr. Phipps previously stated including specifically naming Temperance Flat project in addition to general emphasis on increasing water storage. Supervisor Winn noted their (north Valley) support of this motion with the exception of the lack of support for the Valadao bill from his county (San Joaquin).

First Motion:	Mr. Rudy Mendoza
Second Motion:	Mr. Daron McDaniel
No Nays	

Motion Carried

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:04 P.M.

Next Regular Regional Policy Council Meeting: Friday, June 17, 2016

Appendix A: List of Others Attending

In Attendance:	
Individual(s)	Organizations
Patricia Taylor	MCTC
Steve Dabbs	MCAG
Margie Kirn	MCAG
Ben Kimball	TCAG
Ted Smalley	TCAG
Terri King	KCAG
Brenda Veenendaal	Fresno COG
Robert Phipps	Kern COG
Gary Yep	Fresno COG
Tony Boren	Fresno COG
Rosa Park	Stan COG
Erica Mello	Rep. David Valadao
Mario Santoyo	SJVIA
Adam Gray	Assemblymember
Mike Lynch	Assemblymember Gray's Office
Johnny Amaral	Westlands Water District
Andy Chesley	SJ COG
Melissa Garza	Fresno COG
Michael Sigala	Valley Wide Cord., Sigala Inc.
Rudy Serrato	Sigala Inc.
Becky Napier (phone)	Kern COG