

RAYMOND BASIN MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING OF THE PUMPING AND STORAGE COMMITTEE COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Date: July 9, 2015

Members Present: T. Tait (Chair); D. Ahlen (A), City of Alhambra; B. Boman (A), City of Pasadena; C. Burt, Kinneloa Irrigation District; B. Carrera, San Gabriel County Water District; M. Echt (A), Huntington Library and Art Gallery; B. Hayward, Lincoln Avenue Water Company; B. Inman, City of Sierra Madre; J. Prior (A), San Gabriel County Water District; J. Reynoso (A), City of Sierra Madre

Staff Present: K. Gardner, E. Deurmeier, and S. Johnson

Presentation of Draft Scope and Budget Regarding a Study of the Santa Anita Subarea

Mr. Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers, distributed copies of a draft Scope and Budget for a Study of the Santa Anita Subarea (Draft Study). He stated that the Draft Study focuses on water flow, quality, and other issues in the East Raymond Basin and is meant to provide information to the group, and solicit their feedback, in order for the Board to make the ultimate decision on how to proceed. Mr. Johnson added that, ideally, the study will be conducted with an ad hoc group following its progress and reporting back to the Board throughout the duration of the study. He referred to the third page of the draft study which listed six items that he believed the scope should consider. He added that the scope was developed so that it was not specific to Stetson Engineers but could be provided to other outside entities for bidding. Director Hayward inquired as to who would be responsible for financing the study and expressed concern that there may be no definitive end in sight regarding further Basin studies. Discussion followed.

There was discussion about the viability and effectiveness of expanding the current Army Corps of Engineers' (ACE) study to include components from this Draft Study, or whether it would be more beneficial to move forward with a separate Santa Anita Subarea study. The Committee determined that they would like to hear an update from a representative from the ACE. Ms. Kelly Gardner stated that she would attempt to schedule a representative from ACE to either come to the Board or Committee meeting. The Committee agreed to further review the Draft Study and submit written comments to Ms. Kelly Gardner within two weeks.

Update on Salt and Nutrient Management Plan

Mr. Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers, gave a brief update on the status of the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP), stating that, most recently, a draft was been submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in Spring 2015. RWQCB extended the deadline, which was initially May 2015, to May 2016 in order for the SNMP to go through the necessary CEQA process. Staff is now coordinating this process with the RWQCB and a new draft is expected in early Spring 2016.

Other

Ms. Kelly Gardner noted that the City of Sierra Madre and City of Arcadia had submitted a joint letter to the Executive Officer, Tony Zampello. The letter states that both parties have met and agreed to reconvene the Sierra Madre Arcadia Aquifer Recovery Team (SMAART). Ms. Gardner stated that she has added this item to the next Board agenda for Board approval to reconvene SMAART. She added that the letter also requests that the Board schedule a review of the Army Corps of Engineers study and consider expanding its scope to include further study of the Santa Anita Subarea.

Ms. Gardner stated she was contacted by a well company who notified her that a company in the La Cañada area was telling residents that they can help them to get around the Governor's drought restrictions by drilling wells. The Committee discussed the restrictions that residents and well companies would still face by adhering to the Raymond Basin Well Guidelines and associated beneficial use pumping restrictions.

Mr. Johnson stated that he had recently read an article referring to the threat of future mudslides in the current Lake Fire area. There was brief discussion about the most recent El Niño data and potential for Winter rain.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Pumping & Storage Committee is scheduled for August 6, 2015, at 2:30 PM.