



MARIPOSA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Roads – Parks & Recreation – Facilities – Airport
Engineering – Surveying – Transportation – Utility Operations
Fleet Maintenance – Solid Waste - Cemeteries

TEAM, SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP

4639 Ben Hur Road
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-5356 office
(209) 966-2828 fax
mariposacounty.org

WATER AGENCY ADVISORY BOARD

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES November 16, 2023

A. 3:00 pm Called to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John McCamman	Chair	Present	3:00 pm
Art Baggett	Vice Chair	Present	3:00 pm
Sonny Palmer	Member	Present	3:00 pm
Michael Martin	Member	Present	3:00 pm
Mike Guenther	Member	Present	3:00 pm
Mike Rowney	Member	Present	3:00 pm
Matt Hespenheide	PWD County Engineer	Present	3:00 pm
Susan Wages	MPUD	Present	3:00 pm
Danette Toso	Supervisor District III	Present	3:00 pm
Steve Dahlem	County Counsel	excused	
Kevin Briggs	County Counsel	Present	3:00 pm

B. Introductions

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C. Public Comment

None

D. Approval of Minutes

October 26, 2023, (M) Mike Guenther (S) Michael Martin

E. Action Items

None

F. Discussion Items

1. Conference call from the Department of Water Resources (DRW) regarding the County's obligation under SB552 tasked by the Mariposa County Supervisors to the Water Agency Advisory Board.

Sarah Ko and Julie Mattox. Julie explained that SB552 was recreated from the droughts of 2012 & 2016. In 2018 the Department of Water Resources was tasked with addressing private wells and state smalls to identify a water shortage plan to submit to legislature. Small water suppliers need to develop their own water shortage plan. Counties were to oversee domestic wells and small service areas with 10-15 customers. The bill is to create a task force to develop a resilience plan. 15 or more water connections do not need to be included in the plan. Schools are not included. 15-1,000 connections are included. The National Park Service is not included. Short term and long-term plans are required for wells and smalls. Water hauling or joining wells together. By June of 2025 each county must have a plan for smalls and domestic wells. There is an assistance program and grant available to help small systems through DWR. Self help can be mentioned as part of the plan, but they are for low income only. Deadline for the grant that is available is December 29, 2023. Stantech is contracted through DWR help with plans. A Task Force should include state and local government, local water suppliers, and residents. Joining with neighboring counties for the task force is allowed. Matt suggests bringing in OES, IRWM, and county fire. Meeting set for second week on November 16, 2023, at 3:00 pm to discuss the task force and plan (M) Michael Martin (S) Art Baggett.

2. Discussion with Blackwater Consulting Engineers regarding Draft Settlement Water Allocation Scoping Study.

John McCamman – asked if Blackwater could do a task order to line out a plan, Nick Zaninovich agrees to come up with a plan. He will look at what other counties are doing as well.

The report from the RFP was reviewed during the last meeting, there was no projects specifically listed. Geography, population in areas, and rock are all issues for a project. The project must be consumptive use which a hatchery would not but could be used for irrigation for beneficial use.

Nick from Blackwater Engineering advises there funding still left in the agreement to look at further options to explore. Groundwater recharge would be difficult because of the amount of rock. Nick offers to bring in a Geologist for topical possibilities. There is a suggestion to reach out to Merced County Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA). Hydro power and agricultural would be difficult to attain.

Matt Hespeneide would like to table possible uses that are no longer feasible, remove Bean Creek because of lack of water, a water treatment plant in North County would involve extensive piping due to the population being so spread out.

Matt will meet with NRCS to eliminate projects. Matt would like to keep Maxwell Creek for a water supply option. Industrial use was mentioned, Fremont mine for example because they do not have sufficient water at this time to mine. The agency agreed they would not surrender a project in order and take money from the settlement.

3. Continued discussion for the review of MID settlement payments.

Kevin refers to memo that was sent to the County and has nothing further to add. Escrow account is not an interest-bearing account and John wants to verify the lack of interest being received. John asks Kevin Briggs from County Counsel to confirm and report back to the Water Agency.

G. Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for November 16, 2023 at 3:00 pm

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm by John McCamman

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Dordan
Executive Assistant