

NID/PCWA WATER PLANNING COMMITTEE
of representatives of the Boards of Directors of the
Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Scott Miller, Division III
Jim Bachman, Division IV

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
Alex Ferreira, District 2
Ben Mavy, District 5

Agenda
Thursday, July 22, 2010
9:00 a.m.
Placer County Water Agency
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA

- A. Call to order and introductions
- B. Agenda review and changes
- C. Approve Committee meeting minutes of April 22, 2010.
- D. General Matters
 - 1. Discuss status of NOAA multi-party forum and efforts to reintroduce salmonid species into the Yuba River above Englebright Dam.
 - 2. Discuss South Sutter Water District's proposal to build a new reservoir at Garden Bar on the Bear River.
 - 3. Discuss status of hydroelectric relicensing and water supply matters for PCWA, NID and PG&E including Yuba Watershed Forum.
 - 4. Discuss NID Regional Water Supply Project.
 - 5. Discuss water service planning along the Highway 49 corridor.
 - 6. Discuss Western Placer Creeks and Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba (CABY) Watershed Group.
 - 7. Report on State and Federal legislation or proposed regulatory actions
- E. Committee discussion on matters not on the agenda
- F. Public Comment
- G. Set next meeting date, time and place
- H. Adjournment

July 22, 2010
NID/PCWA Water
Planning Committee

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Agenda Item C

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PCWA Committee Members Present: Alex Ferreira, District 2; Ben Mavy, District 5

NID Committee Members Present: Jim Bachman, Division IV

Staff Members Present:

Ron Nelson, NID General Manager
Tim Crough, NID Assistant General Manager
Brian Powell, NID Engineer
Gary King, NID Chief Engineer
Don Wight, NID Operations Manager
Einar Maisch, PCWA Director of Strategic Affairs
Brian Martin, PCWA Director of Technical Services
Mike Nichol, PCWA Director of Field Services
Andy Fecko, PCWA Resource Development Administrator

Meeting Summary
Thursday, April 22, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Nevada Irrigation District
1036 West Main Street
Grass Valley, CA

A. Call to order and introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Director Mavy.

B. Agenda review and changes

C. Approve Committee meeting minutes of January 28, 2010.

Motion by Director Ferreira to approve the January 28, 2010 minutes; motion seconded by Director Bachman and unanimously passed.

D. General Matters

1. Status of hydroelectric relicensing and water supply matters for PCWA, NID and PG&E
Andy Fecko reported that PCWA will be submitting a draft application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in mid September. The application will contain 10 exhibits including environmental and design drawings. Negotiations with other agencies will close in July 2010. The final application will be submitted February 2011.

Ron Nelson reported that NID plans to submit a draft application in late fall. Currently, studies are being conducted, and a majority of the 41 studies are completed. Mr. Nelson stated that NID would like to meet with PG&E to discuss the sale of energy.

2. NID Regional Water Supply Project

Gary King distributed a draft summary of the NID Regional Water Supply Project – Water Treatment Plant Alternative Analysis and a map. The result of the analysis is that the Ophir Project Alternative (OPA) and the Regional Water Supply Project Alternative (RWSP) are equally viable alternatives. The next step is for NID, PCWA and the City of Lincoln to review phasing needs with both alternatives.

Bruce Burnworth, City of Lincoln City Engineer, stated that he has been with the City six weeks and reported that there will be a City Water Committee meeting on May 4, 2010 with the City Council. He pointed out that the economy has changed and that small areas are working together to fund projects, rather than large developments being built. Also, the City is proposing to implement conservation measures to reduce peak water use between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Spencer Short, Mayor, City of Lincoln, asked if the City of Lincoln would be guaranteed capacity if the Ophir alternative is selected. He encouraged NID and PCWA to examine both alternatives. Einar Maisch stated that the expectation would be that financing partners would be dedicated capacity.

Mr. Short asked if PCWA is contributing financially to the studies. Mr. Maisch stated that he would recommend to PCWA's board that PCWA participate in the phasing study.

Mr. Short asked what the Ophir alternative would do to NID's soft service area. Gary King stated that these issues are thoroughly addressed in the entire report.

Mr. Short asked if NID and PCWA are taking into account the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP). Mr. Maisch indicated that the PCCP would not limit growth where growth can occur.

Mr. King stated that NID and PCWA are focused on growth paying its way.

3. Water service planning along the Highway 49 Corridor

Brian Martin stated that NID serves one side of Highway 49 and PCWA serves the other. It would be beneficial for both agencies to work together to review opportunities to serve water efficiently. He realizes that there is a potential for growth in this area, and it would be well worth it to work together.

Gary King agreed and stated NID and PCWA should also meet with Placer County on this matter.

4. Western Placer Streams and Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) Watershed Group

Katie Burdick, Executive Director of CABY, reported that CABY is working with agencies on fish screen flow issues, and are meeting on a monthly basis. There have been 10 fish screen installations and various fish barrier removals. CABY is in the process of preparing a package to obtain Proposition 84 funds.

Mr. Nelson stated that during the FERC process, NID felt that there is no nexus to the Western Placer Streams from a hydro standpoint. However, there is a nexus from a water supply standpoint. He stated that CABY provides a forum for issues to be discussed on an environmental and operational level that is constructive outside of the FERC proceedings.

5. State and Federal legislation or proposed regulatory actions

Andy Fecko reported that legislation was passed in 2008 requiring owners of reservoirs to develop a plan to 1) assess risk of invasive mussels and 2) take steps to minimize risks of the mussels. SMUD has completed a plan that has been accepted by the State. PCWA will be developing a similar plan, and will share this information with NID.

E. Committee discussion on matters not on the agenda

Mr. Nelson announced that Don Wight, NID Operations Manager, will be retiring.

F. Public Comment

No member of the public commented.

G. Set next meeting date, time and place

July 15, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at PCWA

H. Adjournment

10:30 a.m.

NID NEWS

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June 23, 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GRASS VALLEY - Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District on Wednesday (June 23) said they would like to see more information on a current proposal by the South Sutter Water District (SSWD) to build a new reservoir at Garden Bar on the Bear River.

Over the years, NID has been aware of several proposals for a reservoir at the site but none of the earlier attempts has gone very far, said NID Assistant General Manager Tim Crough.

"In recent months, we've been aware of the proposal by South Sutter Water District and we've made several overtures for more information," Crough said. "We hope to have South Sutter come and give a presentation to the Board of Directors in the near future."

While the reservoir would be situated below most NID service areas, district officials said it could have impacts on NID water rights and water operations. Crough said the reservoir site is outside of NID boundaries and that NID would not be supplying water for the project.

Meanwhile, leaders of land trusts in both Nevada and Placer counties are expressing concerns over the proposal. In a presentation to the NID board, Nevada County Land Trust board member Joe Byrne asked for help in asking South Sutter to publicly disclose its plans and lift "the shroud of secrecy" from its proposal.

Byrne said the Nevada and Placer county land trusts have major investments in conservation easements on both sides of the river at the reservoir site.

He said 2100 acres in Nevada County and 6500 acres in Placer County have been protected and that uncertainty over the reservoir is affecting the land trust's ongoing work in the area.

Byrne said the estimated \$500 million Garden Bar project is being studied with financial participation from water purveyors in Napa County and in Southern California, who may be interested in future water supplies. He said it is doubtful a small district such as SSWD could afford such an undertaking.

Located below NID's Combie Reservoir and above SSWD's Camp Far West, the Garden Bar site could hold an estimated 300,000 acre-feet of water, which is more than NID stores (280,380 acre-feet) in all 10 of its reservoirs.

Based in Trowbridge, Sutter County, South Sutter Water District encompasses a 64,000-acre area in south Sutter and western Placer counties. Most of the irrigation water supplied by the district is for rice farming.

In other business, NID directors:

- extended cattle grazing leases on district land in the mountains at English Meadow and Canyon Creek. The leases, which had been open-ended, were limited to two years while NID and the U.S. Forest Service look into the environmental impacts of cattle grazing on high mountain watershed lands.

- held a retirement presentation for Joe Flury, an equipment operator with NID's Maintenance Department, who retires June 30 from a 27-year career with the district. Flury resides with his family in Penn Valley.

- canceled the next regularly-scheduled board meeting, which would have been on July 14.

The next regular meeting of the NID Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on July 28 at the NID Business Center in Grass Valley. NID board meetings are open to the public.