

Countywide Water Coordination Committee

MINUTES MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2018

Chair Pine called the meeting to order at 7:35 am at the San Mateo City Hall.

Attendance sheet is attached.

1. Public Comments on items not on the agenda.

None.

2. Approval of minutes from the November 15, 2017 meeting.

Motion: Member Gauthier moved to approve the November 15, 2017 minutes as presented; Chair Pine seconded; Motion carried unanimously.

3. Update and discussion on “Water Summit” planning.

Chair Pine updated the committee on the current planning process for organizing a “Water Summit” planned for March 30, 2018 at Cañada College showcasing the breadth of countywide efforts to address water related issues, including flooding, drought and sea level rise. Chair Pine confirmed the date and location, and mentioned that Congresswoman Jackie Speier’s attendance was still uncertain.

Committee members reviewed the draft agenda and proposed possibilities for the members of the committee to participate in hosting the event. Committee members Vaterlaus and Gauthier volunteered to help introduce panel members for each panel discussion and member Addiego volunteered to co-present the introduction to countywide efforts with Chair Pine.

C/CAG staff shared slides of a tour of the facilities at Cañada College to propose a possible arrangement for the different parts of the program. Committee members suggested “table talks” as a good alternative to the concept of “breakout sessions,” given that attendees will be visiting individual tables for brief discussions, rather than sitting down for a presentation or workshop. Committee members also discussed the need for a more appropriate title for the event that would accurately characterize the event in terms of work being done by the agencies in San Mateo County. Finally, Chair Pine raised the idea of having focus talks in addition to the table talks, where larger topics such as funding and governance could be discussed in more detail with staff leading established efforts.

4. Receive presentation on the San Mateo Plain Subbasin groundwater assessment.

Charles Ice from the San Mateo County Environmental Health System presented on the San Mateo Plain Groundwater Assessment, a three-phase project currently in Phase 3, which has set out to develop a groundwater basin numerical model to fill data gaps and evaluate the overall water budget of the San Mateo Plain Sub-basin. This work is supportive of the potential for future increases in groundwater pumping on the peninsula and to comply with the Sustainable Ground Water Management Act (SGMA) requirements if the threshold for pumping is reached. Compliance with

SGMA would include the establishment of a basin management plan and a designated sustainable groundwater management agency to ensure the long-term sustainability of the basin. Currently, the San Mateo Plain Sub-basin is designated as a “Very Low” priority according to the California Department of Water, but that could change in the future. Though the basin is considered balanced and full based on the modeling in this project, past overdrafting of the aquifer has shown the potential for significant change in water balance and the length of time that it can take for recovery after heavy pumping. The third phase of the project includes conducting scenario evaluations in anticipation of future climate change and altered management of the basin. The proposed scenarios include assessment of baseline conditions compared with future climate impacts, urban demand for indirect potable reuse, and implementation of groundwater recharge projects. Another output of this project is the integration of data across the other sub-basins in the region to create a regionwide numerical model of the aquifers. The project is scheduled for completion in April 2018.

5. Member comments and announcements (information item).

None.

7. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am. Next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2018.