



Groundwater Quality Evaluation  
Committee for the  
Beaumont/Cherry Valley Area.

Minutes

Location: San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
1210 Beaumont Ave., Beaumont, CA 92223  
October 16, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Item	Discussion	Action
	Mr. Cash welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1. Committee Members Roll Call	Present: John Covington, John Watkins, Behrooz Mortazavi, Mark Norton, Joe Zoba, Joe Aceto, Bruce Cash, Nancy Hall, Luwana Ryan  Absent: Cindy Li (excused), Dr. Hal Marlow, Lori Smith (excused), Brian DeForge, Sarah Eberhardt, Carl Workman (excused)	
2. Approval of Minutes from 9/25/08	Joe Zoba stated that he was absent from the meeting and asked that the minutes reflect that.  The minutes were approved with the requested change.	Mr. Zoba will be recorded as being absent.
3. Presentation: Charles Butcher, General Manager for the Beaumont/Cherry Valley Water District	Mr. Cash introduced Mr. Charles Butcher who is the General Manager for the Beaumont/Cherry Valley Water District.  Mr. Butcher discussed the "District's ability to provide water within the service area."  Presentation Q & A:	

	<p>Q. Nancy Hall – Is it true that the Beaumont/Cherry Valley Water District has not yet purchased the Water Treatment Plant from the city of Beaumont?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – It is not their intent to purchase the treatment plant. They are currently working with the city of Beaumont and the State Water Resources Board on a transfer agreement to supply recycled water. Fish and water are involved in this project as well.</p> <p>Q. Behrooz Mortazavi – The plan is for 8 mgd of water to be recycled. What portion of that will go into the recharge basin?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – Currently we do not have enough water to go through the recharge basin. Under normal conditions, it will only go there during the winter months. For wells that are highly contaminated with nitrates, the idea is to pump the excess water from those plants, send it to the recharge ponds, from there the high nitrate water is sent to the extraction wells and then sent to the park, where it is run through the wetlands and then introduced to the recharge basin. The plan is to take the surplus water in the winter time and use it to clean up the higher nitrate water from other wells, save it in recycled water wells and use it in the summer.</p> <p>Q. Mr. Mortazavi – Is this recycled water high in nitrates?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – No. It only averages between 2 and 5.</p> <p>Q. Is the pollution control project modeled into the Wildermuth study?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher - No, it's not.</p> <p>Q. Do you think there would be value in doing that?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher - As we get further into the project that may be a possibility but right now this is just a concept.</p>	
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	<p>Q. There was a letter from the Regional Water Quality Control board in June requesting that the models be re-run under a complete build-out of 7,800 parcels up to 2,100, under the assumption that ordinance 871 is still in place and that the de-nitrification septic tanks are in place. It was requested that this should be done within 3 months of receipt of the letter. Has this been done?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – this has been turned over to Wildermuth, Inc. and they are working with the board.</p> <p>Q. Pursuant to the Wildermuth report in March of 2007, has your agency taken any specific action with respect to that report?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – Only that they approved the report in a joint meeting with the city of Beaumont.</p> <p>Q. Has your agency appropriated any dollars for well-head treatment with respect to nitrate treatment since the Wildermuth report?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – No</p> <p>Q. Does the FY 2008/2009 budget for your agency appropriate any dollars for that purpose?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher - In 2008 wells 25, 26 and 29 were completed, which gives redundant reserves in case we have to shut down in case of a plume.</p> <p>Q. Nancy Hall – What is entailed in well-head treatment?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – Well-head treatment is a process that when you pump the water it goes through exchange units and removes the nitrates from the water.</p>	
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	<p>Q. In December 2007, a few months after the Wildermuth report was completed, they submitted a “response to comments about the report.” Has this document been adopted by your agency?</p> <p>A Mr. Butcher – It has not been adopted, but it was reviewed.</p> <p>Q. Tuesday night, October 14, 2008, the city of Banning took an action. It says that the City of Banning entered into an agreement with the Beaumont/Cherry Valley Water District to construct 3 new water wells jointly with a 50/50 cost. Some of these wells are at risk due to the migration of the plume. Why drill in the same location? Why not identify a new location if you’re going to spend the capital cost to drill a new well?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – All three wells are outside of the plume areas. Well 25 will not be within the plume area until the year 2100, which gives us a 90 year time span to pump (if the model is correct).</p> <p>Q. Pursuant to the Wildermuth report, has your agency taken any official action asking the Regional Water Board to impose any restrictions beyond those imposed by the county of Riverside?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – No. This has not been discussed with our consultants. There are more model runs and more discussion about whether to do anything before the next election in 2010.</p> <p>Q. Luwana Ryan – In reference to the Pollution Control Project, what are the ramifications of removing that amount of water from the Edgar Canyon basin and transporting it to the Beaumont storage unit? What does that do to the availability of water to be pumped in Edgar Canyon, even for a drought?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – There are a series of faults that cross the Edgar Canyon system. The idea is to pump recycled water during the winter and extract it later to keep it from flowing into the Beaumont basin. Our goal is not to dry up the Edgar Canyon basin.</p>	
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	<p>Q. John Covington – How much water is being recharged through the state water project this year?</p> <p>A. Mr. Butcher – The total since 2006 is 10,000 acre feet.</p> <p>Mr. Cash distributed 3 documents that were as reference for some of the questions about the presentation given by the Beaumont/Cherry Valley Water District They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A letter dated December 5, 2007 from Wildermuth Environmental, Inc. to San Diego Water Shed Management Authority.</li> <li>2) A letter dated June 9, 2008 from the Regional Water Quality Control Board sent to the Beaumont/Cherry Valley Water District.</li> <li>3) City Council consent item and staff report dated October 14, 2008, referencing well #'s 24, 25, &amp; 26.</li> </ol> <p>A motion was given to include these documents as permanent into the meeting record and to include them on the web site. The motion was accepted and seconded.</p>	<p>These items will be included in the permanent record and on the web site.</p>
<p>4. Review of Presentations given to the Committee</p>	<p>Mr. Cash asked if there was any feedback from the committee in reference to the 3 previous presentations given to the committee. The presentations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) United States Geological Service Agencies presentation titled” Research &amp; Activities in the Area” given by Peter Martin.</li> <li>2) California Department of Public Health titled “Activities &amp; Water Quality Issues in the Area” by Steve Williams.</li> <li>3) Wildermuth Environmental, Inc. titled “Water Quality Impact from On-site Waste Disposal Systems in Cherry Valley” by Mark Wildermuth. The PowerPoint file for this presentation was received today (10/16/08) and will be made available on the web site.</li> </ol> <p>There was no feedback on the previous presentations.</p>	

<p>5. Correspondence received</p>	<p>Mr. Watkins informed the committee that there were 3 correspondences received this past month that will be placed on the web site. They are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) E-mail dated 10/2/08, from Steven Rhodes to Brian DeForge – Response to His Qualifications.</li> <li>2) E-mail dated 10/3/08, from Cindy Li to BCV Water Quality Committee Members – Response to e-mail from Steven Rhodes</li> <li>3) E-mail dated 10/3/08, from Supervisor Marion Ashley to BCV Water Quality Committee Members</li> </ol>	<p>These items will be added to the web site.</p>
<p>6. Future Presentations/ Agenda Items</p>	<p>A committee member suggested that since Ordinance 871 was based on this issue, that someone from Riverside County Environmental Health and also someone from the Regional Water Quality Control Board speak to the committee to discuss their reasons for their findings.</p> <p>Mr. Watkins reminded the committee that both of these organizations are represented on the technical side of this committee and that the Environmental Health Department had the Public Health Engineer review the Wildermuth Report findings and agreed with the report.</p> <p>Mr. Cash agreed that it would be helpful to have someone from the Regional Water Quality Control Board speak to the committee to help us understand the scope of their review and the basis for their findings which is included in the letter dated March 11, 2008. Although the letter came from a member of the technical committee, there may be others at the Water Board who would like to offer their view on this as well, especially since the Executive Director of the Water Board saw it necessary to send a letter dated June 9, 2008 to the Beaumont/Cherry Valley Water District.</p> <p>Mr. Watkins informed the committee that Mr. Jeff Davis, General Manager for the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency, whom the committee requested speak to the committee, is available to speak at the November meeting. He suggested that both agencies be invited to speak in November.</p>	

	<p>Nancy Hall requested that we look at some of the alternatives to installing sewers right now. Judging from the models that we have seen, it appears that any problems that may exist will not affect the water for several years into the future. There may be an element of time here that would allow us to look at what can be done to prevent the future problems while staging the monies to achieve the end result.</p> <p>Mr. Cash suggested that if the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency were to speak at next month's meeting, they would be the perfect agency to suggest alternatives with respect to state funding and other programs that may act to mitigate the issues that are before us. He requested a motion to have the SGP Water agency available at next months' meeting. A motion was made and seconded.</p> <p>Mr. Cash asked, other than the two agencies that will be invited to speak at the November meeting, are there any other agencies that the committee would be interested in hearing from as part of this committees' work?</p> <p>There were no further comments.</p>	
<p>7. Committee Member Comments</p>	<p>Luwana Ryan – Has concerns about the voting members of the committee's participation. This is a 7 member panel and since we began meeting, one of the members has not been present for any of the presentations and another one has only been present at one. Any voting done by the committee should be done only after hearing all the information that is given. Perhaps members of the public who have been here for all of the meetings can act as alternates.</p> <p>Mr. Cash asked Mr. Watkins if he could get direction from Supervisor Marion Ashley's office.</p> <p>Mark Norton asked about a question that was raised from the August meeting when Wildermuth gave their presentation. He wanted to know the specific locations of the wells from which the soil samples were taken in Cherry Valley as well as what properties are adjacent to the soil sample locations.</p>	

	<p>Mr. Watkins suggested that any time a committee member has a question about any of the presentations given, they can e-mail either he or Lori Smith and we will ensure that your questions are answered.</p> <p>Mr. Cash suggested that an e-mail be sent from the Environmental Health staff to committee members that would explain that a letter is being drafted to Wildermuth and that we are requesting input from the committee about what questions we would like to ask Wildermuth.</p> <p>Mark Norton asked, “what is it that the committee will be voting on?”</p> <p>Mr. Watkins explained that the expectations of the Board of Supervisors is that we give recommendations on how to proceed and what direction we want to go in based on review from technical experts as well as community experts who can determine whether additional studies are needed. Voting would be based on the recommendations of the committee, including the experts. However, the technical side of the committee would have no say in the voting process. Technical experts are here solely to offer advice and to answer questions.</p> <p>How will deliberations take place?</p> <p>Mr. Cash answered, once all information is heard the chair will ask the committee how they would like to deliberate the findings.</p>	
8. Public Comments	If they sewer Cherry Valley in the next few years, will the plume still spread as large as the models indicate? Will sewerage Cherry Valley stop the plume?	
9. Next Meeting Date	<p>Mr. Watkins suggested we start the meeting earlier than 7:00 at the November meeting to allow sufficient time for the speakers.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Beaumont/Cherry Valley Groundwater Quality Evaluation Committee meeting will take place on November 13, at 6:00 p.m.</p>	
10. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.	