

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



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FCGMA STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) **Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)** was held at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, **February 20, 2007** in the **GSA Training Room**, at the Ventura County Government Center, General Services Building (behind the loading dock) at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California.

- A. **Call to Order** – SAG Chairman Hubner called the meeting to order at 2:08 P.M.
- B. **Introductions** – None (20 people present per signup sheet passed around the room)
- C. **Public Comments** - None
- D. **Attending Board Member Comments** – None (only Alternate Director McIntyre present)
- E. **Approval of Minutes** - Minutes from the January 24, 2008 Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) meeting were distributed for review. No comments – approved by general consent.
- F. **Report from Technical Advisory Group** – A summary of the February 11, 2008 TAG meeting was given by TAG Chair Dr. Steve Bachman, who related the main topics of discussion were the TAP, the Mobile Irrigation Lab. and the scheduled 5% cutback alternatives.
- G. **Irrigation Efficiency Discussion** – U.C. Farm Advisor Dr. Ben Faber showed slides and described how plants and associated acreage lose approximately 1” of water per week simply by evapotranspiration because all plants need to transpire in order to grow. He explained the most important factors in irrigation and plant survival are solar radiation, wind, humidity, temperature and soil moisture (in that order). Crop yield (tons per acre) increases in direct proportion to evapotranspiration (inches), so water application and water loss are critical to efficient farming.

The attendees agreed the Mobile Irrigation Lab would be a good way to save water, especially when coupled with education and training in irrigation efficiency, weather station use, and soil moisture charts – all of which help determine watering schedules and how much water volume to apply per irrigation cycle. Inland areas are typically warmer, generally have greater wind issues, and have less atmospheric moisture, so these areas need more irrigation or acre-inches of applied water than coastal areas. Dr. Faber also pointed out that although use of crop coefficients can help to control water use, they are most effective on woody plants like avocado trees, etc. and may not help as much with controlling water use for row crops and other farm water uses.

Recommended Action: Refer research on irrigation efficiency, crop coefficients, and distribution uniformity back to the TAG for further development of ideas.

- H. Water Certification Process** – Chair Hubner introduced the concept of an alternative to the FCGMA scheduled 5% cutbacks in Historical Allocation by distributing a written version of a “Water Certification Process”. He posed the question, “Would an investment in water savings be equivalent to actual new water”. The general consensus was, yes, this alternative could achieve the same intent and goals of an allocation reduction, but perhaps in a more proactive and more effective way. He then challenged the attendees to come up with ideas or means to offset the next scheduled loss of Historical allocation, and asked that comments on a water certification process be submitted within the next two weeks so the item can be agendized at the next regular FCGMA Board meeting set for March 26, 2008.

Recommended Action: SAG members to submit comments by March 5, 2008 on the proposed Water Certification process.

- I. Revision of FCGMA Resolution No. 97-02** – Gerard Kapuscik presented a briefing on the issue, scope, and changes needed to make this existing resolution more exact, more comprehensive, and more effective. He handed out maps which showed the various water purveyors that had the capability or means to export water outside of the FCGMA. The need for a better set of rules and limitations on potential water exports was what led to a re-write of Resolution No. 97-02.

Recommended Action: The general consensus of the SAG was to bring this item back for more discussion before the issue goes to the FCGMA Board.

- J. Next Strategic Advisory Group Meeting Agenda** – The next SAG meeting was scheduled for March 27, 2008. Possible agenda topics included: 1) Refinement of the TAP idea; 2) A deeper look into the restriction and language within a proposed re-write of Resolution No. 97-02.

- K. Adjourn Strategic Advisory Group Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.