

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



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FCGMA TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) MEETING MINUTES January 12, 2009

A meeting of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) **Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** was held at 9:45 A.M. on Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Pacific Conference Room at the Ventura County Government Center, Courts Bldg. (inside main cafeteria) at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California.

- A. **Call to Order** – Vice Chair David Panaro called the meeting to order at 9:50 A.M. (TAG Chair Steve Bachman did not attend).
- B. **Public Comments** – (11 people present) Farmer and Del Norte MWC Board member Ron DeBoni mentioned he had questioned the drop in overall Eto and Allowed Water to FCGMA weather station contractor David Peek recently and was told the lower numbers were caused primarily by reduced solar radiation. Although precipitation-only data suggests less water was needed in 2006 and 2007, farmers have not seemed to reduce water application. In fact, the rate of water application does not seem to relate well to the weather station data. One reason suggested may be that specific crop water use may not have changed much because some crops require a leaching cycle, especially if chloride has built up in the soil. There was brief discussion about whether or not the irrigation efficiency allocation calculations include (within the allowed water category) water for leaching. FCGMA staff indicated that the allowed water based on the irrigation efficiency allocations is generous and may accommodate water for leaching.
- C. **Attending Board Member Comments** – None (Alternate Director McIntyre, and Director Kelley were present)
- D. **Approval of Minutes** – The December 8, 2008 TAG Minutes were approved as presented with no changes and no comments.
- E. **Summary from last SAG Meeting** – Rick Viergutz gave a quick synopsis of the last SAG meeting.
- F. **Agricultural Water Use** – Groundwater Manager Rick Viergutz presented findings from staff research into crop water use within the FCGMA. Both overall and specific basin examples were discussed. Various TAG members expressed concern that Calleguas would need to increase pumping of the ELP, and Camrosa would be forced to divert more Conejo Creek flows out of the Agency due to greater demand and overall water price increases. Such shifts involving other water sources would strain groundwater reserves in future years. The TAG feedback on the

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presentation was positive. The TAG asked staff to look at the entire Agency Boundary water use balance for discussion.

G. Next Technical Advisory Group Meeting Agenda – Suggested topics for the next meeting;

1. Following a suggestion from the TAG, FCGMA staff will provide updated information related to the change in crop type, acreage, and *total applied water use* over time for the sum of the land within the agency boundary (as opposed to basin specific).
2. Discuss possible inclusion or adoption of safe yield volumes for each basin.
3. Shift to Mgmt. Plan specific strategies with concentration on ELP, SLP, and WLP basins to get them into a water balance situation.
4. A pre-summary on the strawberry irrigation trials study funded by UWCD and conducted by the Ventura County U.C. Farms Advisor's Office.

The next TAG meeting is scheduled for Monday February 9, 2009 from **9:45 to 11:45 A.M. in the Pacific Conference Room** (adjacent to Hall of Justice Cafeteria).

H. Adjourn Technical Advisory Group Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.