

# FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY



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## FCGMA TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) MEETING MINUTES March 9, 2009

A meeting of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) **Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** was held at 9:45 A.M. on Monday, March 9, 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 9:55 A.M. (TAG Chair Steve Bachman could not attend).
- B. **Public Comments** – None (8 people present)
- C. **Attending Board Member Comments** – None (no Directors or Alternates attending)
- D. **Approval of Minutes** – The January 12, 2009 TAG Minutes were approved as presented with no changes and no comments.
- E. **Summary from last SAG Meeting** – The last SAG meeting scheduled for February 26, 2009 was cancelled.
- F. **Strawberry Irrigation Trials** – Dr. Ben Faber from the Ventura County U.C. Cooperative Extension Service presented an informative talk and slideshow on investigations involving drip tape for strawberry fields. Current practices that employ impervious plastic sheeting and overhead sprinklers cause runoff during the initial planting stage. Dr. Faber explained that up to 80 percent of the water used to grow strawberries is consumed at the transplant stage, and most is lost to runoff. Dr. Faber reported that the drip tape trials were not on a large enough scale to fully develop data indicating the potential of using this method of irrigation on a larger scale. Both setup costs and irrigation methods affect whether the berry farmer can get a viable crop. Before drip tape can replace sprinklers, it must be shown and demonstrated that money can be saved and crop yield will not suffer. The UWCD money slated for a test plot was diverted or postponed, so approximately \$25,000 would be necessary to conduct a 5-acre berry irrigation trial/study using drip tape.
- G. **Agricultural Water Use** – Rick Viergutz gave an update on the FCGMA staff investigation and study into possible ways to improve Irrigation Efficiency. The TAG members encouraged additional time and study into the I.E. situation and asked to hear more as work progresses.

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**H. Future Technical Advisory Group Meeting Agenda Items** – Suggested topics for future meetings;

1. More technical information related to changes in crop type, acreage, and *total applied water use* over time, etc. as the I.E. allowance currently works. Weather station calculations should be the next focus of study.
2. Discuss possible inclusion of standby or backup wells as needing flowmeters (no exemptions).
3. Allocations based on percent (some for farms and some for urban)?
4. Credits.
5. Technical aspects involved with recycled water – all demand above allocation should be supplemented with recycled water?

The next TAG meeting is scheduled for Monday April 13, 2009 from **9:45 to 11:45 A.M. in the Pacific Conference Room** (adjacent to Hall of Justice Cafeteria).

**I. Adjourn Technical Advisory Group Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.