

# North Tulare County Regional Water Alliance Working Group Meeting Notes

Cutler-Orosi School District Conference Office  
12623 Avenue 416 Orosi, CA 93647

Saturday, April 30, 2016 (meeting #9)

8:30:00 - 1:00 PM

## Welcome and Updates:

**Approval of meeting notes from:** April 2, 2016 meeting notes approved.

## Public Input:

Argelia Flores shared that the Cutler-Orosi Girls' soccer team is fundraising to travel to Florida for a national championship.

Jesus Quevedo shared his concern with wanting some flexibility in the JPA for periodic updates—every 5 to 10 years for example, so that there is an opportunity to address things that might come up proactively instead of retroactively.

## Leadership: Governance

### Financial Capacity of the Systems

RCAC presented financial information with all the components/cost centers of a project. There are 3 major costs:

1. Capital costs of construction of the infrastructure
2. Cost of purchasing the water from Alta Irrigation District
3. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs of the treatment plant and the JPA entity

The calculations of the cost to the users are based on Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) not the cost per connection. Some connections may have multiple houses or apartments (dwellings) connected to one meter.

We looked at the 2 ways to decide on the cost to the users:

Clearly the cost of bringing safe drinking water to a small system is more expensive than to a larger system. Dividing the cost among a smaller number makes that number high for the residents of that small communities. Deciding how to pay for the project is a key decision that the group will be taking to their communities. They will decide:

- A- Whether the small communities pay more (like a train ticket) or
- B- Costs are shared so no matter where you live you pay the same unit rate for water (like a postage stamp).

The Keller Wegley study shows the train ride option but the train ride might not be affordable or sustainable for all of the smaller communities so for them the postage stamp needs to be considered. The Working Group asked to present both scenarios to the communities at the all stakeholders meeting June 28.

In addition to sharing these surface water treatment plant numbers with the communities at the stakeholder meeting, we also need to discuss the future and alternatives on what staying on ground water might mean with additional quality and quantity regulations (123-TCP, SGMA etc.)

### **JPA Review**

We are still waiting for legal counsel to review the JPA. However, the JPA was separated into 3 documents:

- (1) The JPA to form the agency that will build and own, operate and maintain, a sustainable water supply project for their region
- (2) Bylaws to guide the Agency Board of Directors duties and responsibilities, and an
- (3) Interagency Agreement to guide project implementation

Before we move to project implementation the governance structure has to be in place. And the governance structure will be done through a JPA.

There was an additional discussion on the composition of the board 7 members? 5 members? No agreement was reached.

Option: 5 member board: 1 county rep representing Yettem and Seville, 1 Monson/Sultana combined, 1 Cutler, 1 Orosi, 1 East Orosi. Equal vote.

Option: 7 member board: 1 county rep for Yettem/Seville, 1 Sultana/Monson, 2 Cutler, 2 Orosi, 1 E. Orosi. Cutler and Orosi have two votes. They will be a majority with 4 votes.

Each community should have an alternate board member

### **Drinking Water Source and Infrastructure –**

The Working Group mapped out a Project Implementation Plan outlining the steps that would take to a project construction. Along with it we estimated a time frame from 4/30/16 to approximately 2022 when we expect to have the project in construction.

3 big things we need to tackle:

- 1) Cost allocation method and cost for each community – known that the costs are preliminary and actual numbers will need be taken back to the communities for input. And that Prop 218 has to be completed at that time.
- 2) Board representation – knowing that it depends on who participates in the JPA –
- 3) The planning process following state guidelines

As we discussed before, the existing preliminary study has been very helpful and it is one of the tools that has brought the region together. However, the JPA Agency will need to do its own study to update

numbers and to meet funding agency requirements. Since much of the information is already in place that study should not take a long time to complete.

The first step is to form the governance structure, the Agency that would seek planning funds to complete all the pre-construction steps including hiring an engineering consultant to complete the engineering report that would study several options and work with the Agency on a recommended project which will then be taken to the SWB for approval. Once approved then it will moved to implementation and eventually construction.

In a timeline that may take 6 years to get the construction, change is bound to happen. The benefit to the parties is that as rules and/or cost change the JPA parties have time to get back to the communities and seek input and support for the project.

## **Communications**

### **Website:**

<http://www.rcac.org/environmental/regionalization/ntc-water-alliance/>

## **Community Outreach Efforts: Scheduling**

Monson/Sultana with regular board meeting: 5/5/16

### **Community polling: how is it going to be done?**

Ryan Jensen is working on a format for the agenda and an informational brochure to provide to the community with information to help them decide on the polling.

## **Action Items, Assignments & Working Group Meetings:**

5/21: Have counsel here and have system lawyers to review the JPA; continue to work on the project planning process.

Orange Cove engineer would like to present their pipeline planning project to the group—working group gave the ok for them to come for the 5/21 meeting.

6/16: Work session to finalize JPA and to prepare and plan for All Stakeholder's meeting - 6-8pm same location different room.

6/28: All stakeholder's meeting at 6 PM —advertise and bring food—present groundwater model and/or video.

7/9/16 - after all stakeholders meeting

8/13/16

## **List of Participants in this session:**

1. Alex Marroquín, Orosi PUD
2. Anthony Rubalcaba, Orosi PUD
3. Argelia Flores, Seville
4. Armando Porras, Cutler PUD
5. Chad Widman, Orosi

6. Charlie Davidian, Yetttem
7. David Gonzales, East Orosi
8. Fernie Rubalcaba, Cutler PUD
9. Javier Hernandez, CutlerPUD
10. Jesus Quevedo, Cutler
11. Jose F. Guerrero, Cutler PUD
12. Katie Icho, East Orosi CSD
13. Lucy Rodriguez, Orosi PUD
14. Mara Venturea-Serrano, Sultana
15. Maria Magaña, Seville
16. Michael Prado Sr., Sultana CSD
17. Robert Rodriguez, Cutler PUD
18. Rubén Becerra, Seville
19. Steve Cascia, Yetttem

**From Agencies:**

Ben Ruiz , Tulare County  
Paul Boyer, Self Help Enterprises  
Chris Kapheim, AID

**Facilitators:**

Blanca Surgeon, RCAC  
Olga Morales, RCAC  
Sarah Buck, RCAC  
David Okita, Community Water Center  
Ryan Jensen, Community Water Center

**Attachments:**

- Project Process Map Draft April 30, 2016