

MINUTES OF THE
TULARE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 26, 2013

Attendees:

Commissioners present: Dan Vink, Chairman; Dale West, Vice-Chairman; Dale Brogan; Mark Larsen, Steve Martin and Fergus Morrissey.

Commissioner absent: Walter Bricker.

County representation: Mike Bond and Alfredo Reynoso-Haro with Resource Management Agency (RMA.)

Visitors: Carol & Peter Clum, Shane Smith with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWCD), and Denise Akins with County Administrative Office.

Agenda Items:

Item 1., Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM.

Item 2., Minutes of October 26, 2012 meeting:

A motion by Mark Larsen to approve the minutes was seconded by Dale West and approved by unanimous vote.

Item 3., Public comment period:

Carole Clum provided a handout on a system designed to predict Pacific storms affecting California. Ms. Clum also inquired about the number of basins Tulare County has constructed to handle floodwaters and the Flood Control District's compliance with 2007 Flood Legislation.

Item 4., Staff report on Flood Control District matters.

A. Introduction of Fergus Morrissey appointed by the Board of Supervisors to be Flood Control Commission Member 7 who's term will expire on September 1, 2016.

B. Report on the status of the flood control projects.

RMA staff made a PowerPoint presentation on the progress on the Juvenile Detention Facility-Cottonwood Creek (JDF Complex), Seville-Sontag Ditch, and Yettlem-Button Ditch flood control projects. The presentation covered the environmental process to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to address the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and covered the recent meetings with CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and US Army Corps of Engineers.

The JDF Complex project is proposed having multiple phases, with Cottonwood Creek re-aligned to follow its natural location. The land owners upstream and

downstream of the JDF Complex were contacted and made aware of the proposed project.

The Seville-Sontag Ditch project is proposed having two culverts connecting the Sontag Ditch and the Stone Corral Irrigation District drainage system adjacent to Avenue 384 (state highway 201), upstream of the Seville community.

The Yettem-Button Ditch project is in concept stage with alternatives under consideration to managed flood waters upstream of the Yettem community.

Grant funding through the Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Authority is being pursued.

Commissioner Larsen inquired about the priorities of the three projects, and staff confirmed that the primary focus is on the EIR, permits and design tasks for the JDF Complex, followed by the Seville-Sontag Ditch project, followed by the Yettem-Button Ditch project.

Commissioner Brogan asked for clarification on the CEQA process in regards to preparing an EIR for all three projects as opposed to an EIR for each project. It is staff's determination that a programmatic EIR will be more cost effective.

Commissioner Larsen suggested a low flow channel at the center of the proposed Cottonwood Creek stream bed to facilitate access for maintenance and to enhance habitat. Staff confirmed this feature will be included in the final design.

Chairman Vink suggested that grants related to prison system protection may be a possible source of funding.

Item 5. Other Business: None

Item 6. Set next Flood Control Commission meeting.

Item 7., Next Flood Control Commission meeting was set for Friday, June 28, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the main conference room at RMA's office.

Item 8., Adjourn meeting. At 8:55 a.m., a motion by Vice-Chairman West to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Larsen.