

Minutes: May 21, 2014 meeting of the
TWIN OAKS VALLEY COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP

Agenda Item 1: - Roll Call and Advisory Role Statement

Farrell called the meeting to order. Present: Sandra Farrell (Chair), Gil Jemmott (Co-Vice Chair), Karen Binns (Co-Vice chair), Tom Kumura. Eric Chapman was out on military assignment.

Agenda Item 2: - Review of Minutes Farrell moved for approval of the minutes and Binns seconded.
Motion passes 4-0-0

Agenda Item 3: Public Communications: Binns announced the upcoming Twin Oaks Valley Property Owners annual meeting and picnic would be held June 1st from 2-4 pm at Walnut Grove Park. Farrell received a communication from Mike Hunsaker regarding fires hazards and land use planning. A resident requested the group take a position on fluoridated water. Farrell replied she would check with the County to see if it was a land use matter and if so could put it on a future agenda.

Presentation by San Diego County Water Authority, (SDCWA): Drought and Water

Availability: Gina Molise, Senior Public Affairs Representative and Tim Bombardier, Senior Water Resources Specialist from the SDCWA described their process and how they are organized. Water sources with major supplies coming from the Colorado River. However, 20% of our supply comes from the State Water Project, water from Northern California, managed by the Metropolitan Water District. Another 20% of our water comes from local supplies such as reservoir, ground water, and recycled water. The Poseidon Desalination won't come on line till 2015.

Bombardier showed a graphic showing comparisons of this drought cycle compared to the last and we entered this one with 35% water, making this drought potentially more significant. Reservoirs that were at 100% full three years ago were dramatically low beginning January, far ahead of the summer months, when water use is even higher. Because the Colorado River had more water coming into it than previously we were able to avoid severe water restrictions earlier this year.

Bombardier said SDCWA had started the year with 2.3 million acre feet of water storage. To get through this year, the Metropolitan Water District who supplies us our water from northern California, are going to have to draw 1 million acre feet. As a result, starting 2015, there will only be 1 million acre feet in reserves. Due to concerned about high water use this summer, they are considering mandatory cut backs. Because we are more diversified, with water coming from various sources, we are in a better position than many areas in northern California.

Action by the SDCWA we are currently in stage 1 is **Drought Alert**, meaning voluntary conservation. The next stage requires up to 20% mandatory conservation, which was what was done during the last drought, in 2010-2011. Some agricultural communities would have a 35% required reduction. The next stage, **Drought Critical**, requires up to 50% reduction. Finally, **Drought Emergency** stage, would have a minimum 40% required reduction in water use. To calculate the reduction SDCWA will look at the usage from 2013 and 2014 to arrive at the baseline water usage and apply the percent reduction to that.

Kumura asked when SDCWA would look at restricting new building. Bombardier replied that they don't have that authority but do evaluate water impacts if service areas, normally outside

their jurisdiction were to be added to their service area. Kumura asked how they accounted for water needs of project that had more density than what the General Plan showed. Bombardier explained that new developments can get conditional permits. The SDCWA confirms they have enough water in their forecast to service that development. To date they have not had a problem meeting demand and they work closely with SANDAG to confirm that the projected water SDCWA see as available, meets the projected density via each city's and the County's General Plan. SANDAG and SDCWA have allowed for a cushion in their calculations to cover a certain number of projects that could be denser than what is shown in the General Plan. He said most of the petitions for increased in density that they calculated in to this "Accelerated Projects" cushion are located in the City of San Diego. SDCWA has worked with local leaders to make sure new development going in would use less water. In 2013 with about 3 million people the County is using slightly less water than it used in 2010 with 2.5 million people.

Tony Eason asked what happened to the planning for water availability and existing water needs if the drought continues. Bombardier replied that the impact and mitigation measures would show up in later General plans once the planning gets updated. Some plans are updated every 4 years so maybe 2018 it would show up.

Farrell noted that for many people they had already implemented conservation measures due to the cost doubling of water in the past few years. She said she has already implemented every water conserving method she knew of. Kumura said that people were frustrated because they had done everything to conserve water but the rates still went up. Jemmott has had to cut back his trees. Farrell added that her neighbors, who relied on their avocado groves for a portion of their retirement income, had to let trees die. Before they did that they shut off everything else because the grove was their income. Farrell asked where would those people find another 20% water conservation? Molise replied that the majority of people could cut back. Binns said people were letting groves and landscape die and they are becoming a fire hazard. She felt here needed to be a balance or the measures to save water would increase fire risk to the community. Borevitz who had a commercial grove on his 11-acre property said he paid \$1800 per acre foot for water so he pulled out many of his trees. He had been told in his conversations with a water district not to expect there will ever be more water or that rates would ever go down. Bombardier said the reason why they are working asking for voluntary efforts now is to avoid what almost happen during the last drought. Had there not been a "miracle March" rainfall the County would have had to implement a 50% water cut back.

Bombardier said they have agreement to buy water from Imperial County, made additional storage facilities, and other methods. Kumura asked if the water from the Poseidon Desalination plant would be a backup supply. Bombardier replied no, the desalinized water was part of the baseline supply and if they found they had a year where less water was needed, they would cut back on buying water from Metropolis Water District (MWD). He added that even though the water from the MWD is less expensive than from the Poseidon plant, over time It would be more cost effective because the energy cost to bring water south through MWD's system would become more expensive. Borevitz asked why SDCWA didn't take the lead in the desalination plant project. Bombardier responded that SDCWA tried to but the people who ended up getting the project got a 100-year lease on the land where the plant was built, shutting SDCWA out. They did look at other sites but none was feasible. "It was kind of shot-gun marriage", Bombardier said. We signed a long term purchase agreement with the people of Poseidon. Rick Gittings said there are studies to see if desalination can be built at Camp Pendleton with double the capacity of Poseidon. In addition, Bombardier noted SDCWA also had a 60year water agreement with Imperial Irrigation for 200,000 acre feet of water by 2021. **No Action Taken**

Update San Diego Water Authority (SDCWA) Microwave Tower at the Water Treatment Plant

located off North Twin Oaks Valley Road: Gary Eaton, Director of Systems Operations and Maintenance for the San Diego County Water Authority reported that they have looked a three other alternatives for the location of the tower. One of the locations would not work and they are still evaluating the others. The SDWA would return once they have looked at all options for alternative sites. **No Action Taken**

Update on Proposed Changes to Beekeeping Ordinance: Farrell reported on the concerns by other planning groups. No Action Taken

GROUP BUSINESS

1. Binns reported she needed to find out if County Council had reviewed the documents for the room rental at the school.
2. Farrell said that Antman's and Peterson's application had been submitted.
3. Farrell said they would not have a quorum unless the Board of Supervisor approved at least one of the applications by next meeting so she didn't think there would be a meeting in June.

Farrell adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Farrell, Acting Secretary