



OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

"The Pass of the Oaks"

MINUTES OF THE NORTH COUNTY COUNCIL

SALINAS DAM EXPANSION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT JULY 17, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was hosted by the City of El Paso de Robles at 7:00 p.m. on the above date, in the Library/City Hall Conference Center. Mayor Duane Picanco chaired the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

City of Atascadero: Councilmembers Carden (absent), Clay, Lerno (absent), Luna (absent), and Mayor Johnson (absent).

Atascadero Mutual Water Co.: Roger Vierra and Ken Weathers.

City of Paso Robles: Councilmembers Baron, Iversen (absent), Macklin, Swanson, and Mayor Picanco. (Councilmember Iversen took his seat at 8:25 p.m.)

SLO Board of Supervisors: Supervisors Ovitt and Ryan

Templeton Community Services District: Boardmembers Beere, Bergman, Engels, Vreeken, and President Gannon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments received for items not on the agenda.

PRESENTATION

Bob Roos, a member of the North County Task Force, gave an overhead presentation on the Salinas Dam Project, focussing on the downstream flow impacts.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Picanco invited public comment throughout the meeting. Those speaking in opposition were summarized as follows:

Pete Carillo, Eric Greening, Rush Koleman, Pat Mackie, Bob Roos, Herman Schwartz, Fred Strong, and Debbie Sullivan. Concerns addressed were 1) legal issues pertaining to due diligence; 2) deficiencies in the downstream flow reduction and the ramifications of acreage and crop loss; 3) flood risk; 4) and flaws were noted in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) regarding the methodology used to calculate water flow. Recommendations were suggested to 1) obtain an attorney to review the EIR and research the North County's legal rights to the water; 2) citizens encouraged to send objections in writing to the City of San Luis Obispo; and 3) for the agencies to join forces and establish a joint agreement for the purpose of filing objections.

Mayor Picanco invited discussion from the North County Council

Harry Ovitt, County Supervisor, gave a brief overview of a number of issues that were discussed in meetings he attended concerning the Salinas Dam Expansion and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Addressed were safety issues, due diligence, and alternate recommendations. Supervisor Ovitt noted that individuals or entities have forty-five (45) days to respond to the draft EIR (deadline is July 25th) at which time the City of San Luis Obispo will have the option to certify the EIR or to further research the project. He encouraged the public to comment during the certification hearing.

Mike Ryan, County Supervisor, added that a lawsuit may be pursued following certification.

Bill Engels, Vice President of Templeton Community Services District, indicated that a licensed geologist was brought on board to look at the EIR and was in agreement with the figures Bob Roos presented.

Walt Macklin, Paso Robles Councilmember, commented on the importance of water for jobs and the prosperity for the future.

Lee Swanson, Paso Robles Councilmember suggested establishing a joint agreement between the agencies to pull legal sources in filing objections with the City of San Luis Obispo.

Supervisor Ovitt was in agreement with Councilmember Swanson suggesting each entity bring forth a resolution to consolidate legal staffing as a single consorted effort, including the sharing of legal costs.

Supervisor Ryan indicated that the time factor for the Revised Draft EIR has been adequate and recommended the North County join forces to submit objections.

Ken Weathers, Atascadero Mutual Water Company, indicated that a resolution may still be in effect with Atascadero, Templeton, and Paso Robles and suggested the possibility be explored.

Jerry Clay, Atascadero Councilmember, invited the public to their regular City Council Meeting July 22, 1997 to offer comments regarding the Salinas Dam. He expressed his concern with due diligence and the abundance of trees in the river.

Duane Picanco, Mayor of Paso Robles, indicated that replenishing the sand in the Salinas River had an important economical impact in the county and was not properly addressed in the EIR.

ACTION

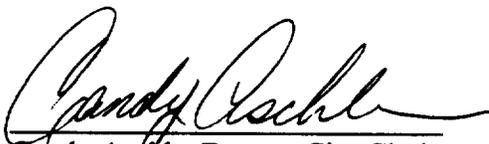
Following discussion, a motion was made by Boardmember Engels, seconded by Councilmember Clay, and passed unanimously to **authorize Mayor Duane Picanco to submit a letter on behalf of the North County Council commenting on the Draft EIR for the Proposed Salinas Reservoir Expansion Project.** Supervisor Ryan abstained.

There was a consensus that each **City Council may individually submit comments on the Revised Draft EIR.**

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Macklin, seconded by Councilmember Swanson, and passed unanimously to adjourn to each of the respective agency meetings. Atascadero went on record stating that they did not have a quorum to take action.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Candy Aschle, Deputy City Clerk
City of El Paso de Robles

(minutes approved 08/05/97)