

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Tony Carstens · Agency Director

Planning Department

Ron Goldman · Planning Director

ANZA GROUNDWATER STUDY TECHNICAL MEETING

December 14, 2006

Meeting Notes

Mr. Jerry Jolliffe, Deputy Director, Riverside County Planning Department, stated that he wanted to talk about development applications prior to the beginning of the meeting. He stated that the previous Planning Department practice of transmitting new development applications to the Anza Municipal Advisory Council (AVMAC), which had been suspended, would now be resumed immediately, as directed by Riverside County Supervisor Stone's office. All new cases, not just parcel maps, would be transmitted to the AVMAC for review and comment. Projects more intense than parcel maps would require evidence of adequate water supply through the CEQA process before they could proceed toward approval.

Mr. Jolliffe called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m.

Mr. Jolliffe asked everyone to sign in and provide any changes in address or phone numbers on the sign-in list. He also asked everyone to evaluate the draft meeting notes from the November 28, 2006 meeting and make any changes necessary for correction. Everyone concurred that no changes were needed. Jerry stated that the notes would stay the same and would be made available on the Planning Department's webpage very soon.

Mr. Jolliffe stated that the future groundwater study technical committee meetings are to be combined with, and handled under the auspices of, the AVMAC meetings. Today will be the last separate technical committee meeting. He suggested that the AVMAC add to their agenda any specific items relating to the groundwater study, such as progress reports, when there is new information available and reports need to be presented and discussed at the AVMAC meetings. This would include, among other things, for example, whether Mr. Peter Martin, United States Geological survey (USGS), had any updates to report on the progress of the study, or whether he needed information from the community to assist with a current or future phase of the study.

Mr. Jolliffe mentioned having the AVMAC meetings start an hour earlier (from their usual start time of 7:00 p.m.) in order to allow enough time for discussion regarding the groundwater study. He also informed the group that County Counsel and others have been working hard on the funding arrangements for the groundwater study. Supervisor Stone's staff and the Riverside County Executive Office have reported that there are no funds

currently available from County sources to contribute toward the study. There have been suggestions made to pursue grants to assist with funding this project.

Mr. Bob Dyson has stated that he is prepared to provide a letter of credit to help fund this project. The USGS cannot accept funds directly from a private party; however, they can accept funding from public agencies, such as the County. County Counsel has put together a draft agreement for the County to set up an account to accept funding from Mr. Dyson's bank, based on a letter of credit to be established by the bank. The County is also working on an agreement with the USGS for dispersing the funds to them on a progress basis as work on the study occurs. So, in essence, the funds would go from Mr. Dyson into an account with the County, and then managed and dispersed by the County to the USGS. Mr. Dyson stated that this is not a gift and he will expect reimbursement.

Everyone is encouraged to continue locating other funding sources for the project, but Mr. Jolliffe noted that inasmuch as there is an urgency to get the project started soon, since it will take approximately 3 to 4 years to complete, it is important to begin the project with whatever funding source(s) have been identified as being available. He emphasized that the funding issue is a very complex one, and it is imperative that a resolution be found very soon to allow the study to begin. Mr. Jolliffe stated that he is working on organizing all of the ideas that people have had about finding different funding possibilities. He stated he would then work with the appropriate County officials to figure out what the best strategy would be for the funding program.

Mr. Dyson stated that considering that the County is going to benefit from the project, the County should be able to come up with some money since the letter of credit funding is not a donation or gift and monies required for this funding needed to be paid back. A recommendation by Mr. Dyson is that any future developments be charged an assessment fee of approximately \$500 for the drilling of wells to pay back this debt.

Mr. Lloyd Mize stated that a federal grant should be acquired for the funding, and that he would also be willing to pay his fair share of paying back the money for the development he is proposing. He stated that it might be difficult to estimate what each person's fair share would be.

Mr. Dyson stated that (partial) federal funding is being provided from the USGS. He also stated that the state should be involved in funding because multiple federal funds are not allowed.

AVMAC member Ms. Nancy Swanson recommended that a financial person/grant writer be nominated as a candidate to attend these meetings and figure out what the best strategy would be to help with writing grant applications for additional funding. She mentioned that a lot of ideas have been thrown around, but someone needs to figure out which one is best suited to present for implementation.

AVMAC Chairwoman Ms. Elena Mafla said that she had a conversation with Mr. Peter Martin of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and he suggested that if we get funding figured out by February 2007, we may be able to take advantage of the October 2006 deadline given by the USGS for 2007 funding. According to Mr. Martin, the funding issue needed to be resolved soon so that we would not lose the opportunity for 2008 USGS project funding.

Mr. Jolliffe told Mr. Dyson that a draft agreement has been prepared, is expected to be completed soon, and when it is, it would be forwarded to Mr. Dyson for his review. This was expected to occur by the middle of January 2007. Mr. Dyson stated that he had not heard about this agreement and would be very interested to see it; he would feel much more comfortable with a written agreement. He is willing to extend this letter of credit with good conscience, but wants something in place to assure the monies will be paid back.

Community resident Ms. Jackie Spanley stated that she didn't understand where all the taxes that have been paid by the residents of Anza have gone to, considering Anza hasn't asked anything of the County in the way of spending on our area. Mr. Jolliffe stated that he would do his part and talk to the right people to keep the project moving forward.

Mr. Dyson stated that this study is bigger than just a water study for Anza, and that it can become a model for the state and possibly the country in future developments. Mr. Dyson felt that this would be a great opportunity for Anza to get on the map to show the importance of water conservation and water quality. He stated that the county could approve the project at their next Board of Supervisors meeting in January and just state that, "pending funding". He also mentioned that Ms. Tina Grande with the County Executive Office was researching how to manage this study, since this isn't a typical situation for the county. He stated that he could attest that the issue wasn't being dropped and that work was being done by County officials.

Mr. Dyson asked about the Tribal lawsuit. A Tribal representative, Mr. Maurice Chacon, stated that the court case would be heard on January 22, 2007, and the tribes had requested to be included in the case.

Mr. Jolliffe adjourned the meeting at about 2:15 p.m.

Filename: Anza Groundwater Study Meeting Minutes.doc
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\jward\Desktop
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\jward\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
Subject:
Author: David Mares
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 1/9/2007 10:24:00 AM
Change Number: 9
Last Saved On: 2/13/2007 4:01:00 PM
Last Saved By: jward
Total Editing Time: 0 Minutes
Last Printed On: 2/13/2007 4:01:00 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 1,362 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 6,608 (approx.)