

WRA Legislative Advocacy – ACTIVITY REPORT

To: Nick Chiulos, Assistant CAO
From: Robert Johnson, WRA Deputy GM
Date: November 5, 2015

Advance Notification of Upcoming Meetings (who, where, when, purpose of meeting)

1. There will be a follow-on meeting in Sacramento with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff to continue discussion of possible solutions to the White Bass issue for the Interlake Tunnel Project. WRA is in the process of scheduling a meeting in late November – early December.

Report on meetings this reporting period

1. There were weekly Interlake Tunnel coordination meetings.

Report on any other activities undertaken on behalf of WRA:

1. WRA was informed of grant awards on the following grant opportunities:
 - a. DWR – Flood Warning System upgrade – received \$312,124
 - b. CA Coastal Conservancy – Salinas River Stream Maintenance – received \$275,000
 - c. USBR – Salinas and Carmel Basin Study – received \$950,000 (to be used for technical studies)
2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).
 - a. A Facilitator has been selected – and has been conducting interviews.
 - b. Portions of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin now reclassified as critical, moving the Groundwater Sustainability Plan deadline from 2022 to 2020.
 - c. A meeting with the Consortium is scheduled for November 13 to discuss the results of the interviews, and how to proceed.
3. Interlake Tunnel Project progress:
 - a. White Bass Solution Development
 - i. Meet with CDFW on October 12, 2015 – discussed options
 1. CDFW and WRA agreed that WRA should reevaluate the deep water intake and fish screen structure to develop a cost-effective solution that considers the science of white bass habitat. Development is under way and may be completed by November 13, 2015.
 2. CDFW requested a document that incorporates the benefits of the interlake tunnel project to an integrated Salinas River approach, including conservation, water supply, water quality and the related ecological, environmental and economic benefits. That document is being finalized and should be completed by November 13, 2015.
 - b. Sustained Project Funding needs to be identified.
 - i. The schedule for funding approval and contract awards is as follows:
 1. Third Funding Agreement (\$1.9 million) – County Board of Supervisors – Nov 17
 2. Design and Environmental contract award –WRA Board – Dec 7
 3. Design and Environmental contract award - WRA Board of Supervisors – Dec 15

UPCOMING

CONFERENCE CALLS	WRA ACTIVITY REPORT DEADLINES	LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SUBMIT REPORTS TO: Nick Chiulos chiulosn@co.monterey.ca.us; Annette D'Adamo dadamo@co.monterey.ca.us; Karina Bokanovich BokanovichKT@co.monterey.ca.us