Monterey County

1441 Schilling Place
Saffron Room
Salinas, CA 93901

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

10:00 AM

IMPORTANT COVID-19 NOTICE ON PAGE 2-4
AVISO IMPORTANTE SOBRE COVID-19 EN LA PAGINA 2-4

Water Resources Agency Planning Committee

Deidre Sullivan, Chair
Ken Ekelund
Mark Gonzalez
Matthew Simis

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING COVID 19 AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

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1. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:
https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/95511982423

OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:
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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
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+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
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+1 301 715 8592 US

Enter this Meeting ID number: 955 1198 2423, PASSWORD: 884853 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you.
You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment, if joined by computer audio, please Raise your Hand; and by phone, please push *9 on your keypad.

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Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment

Committee Member Comments

Consent Calendar

1. Approve the Action Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on September 7 , 2022.

Attachments: Draft Planning Minutes September 7, 2022

Staff Reports

2. Consider receiving an update on the status of the Salinas River Habitat Conservation Plan

Attachments: Board Report

3. Strategic Planning Update

Attachments: Dec 22 draft Agenda

Calendar

4. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items

Adjournment

Monterey County

Board Report

Legistar File Number: WRAPL 22-029

Item No.1

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

October 05, 2022

Introduced: 9/27/2022
Version: 1

Current Status: Draft
Matter Type: WRA Planning Item

Approve the Action Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on September 7 , 2022.

Monterey County

1441 Schilling Place
Saffron Room
Salinas, CA 93901

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

10:00 AM

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Water Resources Agency Planning Committee

Deidre Sullivan, Chair
Ken Ekelund
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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mark Gonzalez, Matthew Simis
Absent: None

Public Comment

None

Committee Member Comments

None

Consent Calendar

Upon Motion by Ken Ekelund and Second by Matthew Simis the Committee approved the Consent Calendar.

Ayes: Deidre Sullivan, Ken EKelund, Mark Gonzalez, Matthew Simis
Noes: None
Absent: None

1. Approve the Action Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on July 6, 2022.

Attachments: Draft Planning Minutes July 6, 2022

Staff Reports

Public Comment: Marc Kelley

2. Habitat Conservation Plan Update

3. Receive update on Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies and provide direction to staff.

Calendar

4. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Introduced: 9/27/2022 **Current Status:** Agenda Ready

Version: 1 **Matter Type:** WRA Planning Item

Consider receiving an update on the status of the Salinas River Habitat Conservation Plan

RECOMMENDATION:
It is recommended that the Planning Committee:

Receive an update on the status of the Salinas River Habitat Conservation Plan.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:
As the result of a formal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Biological Opinion (BO) for the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP) in 2007. The BO incorporated the 2005 Salinas Valley Water Project Flow Prescription for Steelhead Trout in the Salinas River (Flow Prescription) which provided SVWP operational requirements to reduce potential impacts of project operations on steelhead. On February 20, 2019 NMFS notified the Agency that the 2007 BO and associated incidental take statement was being withdrawn.

In 2018, prior to the withdrawal of the BO, the Agency began the process of developing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under Section 10 of the ESA. Funded through a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy, the 2019 Salinas River Long-Term Management Plan was developed to document historical and current conditions in the lower Salinas River watershed, identify long-term management goals, and serve as a foundational document for the HCP.
Beginning in April 2020, the Agency was awarded a series of grants to fund HCP development. Delays in executing grant funding agreements slowed the progress of HCP development but by April 2022 three grant agreements were in place providing reimbursable grant funding of $2.75M.
While waiting on the grant agreements, the Agency and consultants ICF and FISHBIO continued to perform technical studies and surveys with limited Agency funds to help define the activities, species, and locations that will be covered by the HCP. Once all three grant agreements were in place Agency staff and consultants drafted a revised work plan and timeline that incorporated the specific tasks and funding associated with the grants. The timeline for HCP development is influenced by a number of factors including the timing and availability of grant funding, occurrence of hydrologic conditions required for species surveys and fish passage analysis, participation of State and Federal Agencies in the development and review process, and public and stakeholder participation. Based on the current timeline, the administrative drafts of the HCP are estimated to be completed in 2025 with the final HCP and associated permits completed in 2027.
Accomplishments to date include:

- Adoption of the HCP Charter between the Agency, NMFS, USFWS

- Completion of the Gabilan/Tembladero watershed assessment
- Completion of least Bell's vireo surveys
- Completion of a Salinas River Lagoon wetland delineation
- Assessment of habitat and fish passage barriers in the Arroyo Seco
- A report on striped bass in the Salinas basin
- Completion of Salinas Lagoon surveys for steelhead and tidewater goby
- Development of draft HCP chapters 1-3

Current priorities include:

- Development of a Low-Effect HCP for emergency sandbar management
- A critical riffle analysis to determine fish passage needs in the lower Salinas and Arroyo Seco rivers
- Dam passage feasibility study

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:
MCWRA meets regularly with staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss core components of the HCP.

FINANCING:
The grant funding agreements will make available a total of two million dollars in reimbursable Federal funds and $750,000 in reimbursable State funds.

The 2019 Section 6 grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provides $1,000,000 in grant funds and will require $375,860 of in-kind funding to be provided through Agency staff time and Agency-funded consultant expenses. A significant portion of the in-kind funding for the 2019 grant was accrued through staff and consultant work performed while waiting on the completion of the grant agreement.

The 2021 Section 6 grant from USFWS provides $1,000,000 in grant funds and will require $459,096 of in-kind funding. In-kind funding will be met through a combination of work performed using State funds provided by an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant and staff hours.

The Agency was awarded $750,000 in State of California Proposition 1 grant funding through the IRWM Program that will assist with identifying flow requirements for steelhead passage in the Salinas River and identify reservoir operational scenarios necessary to meet the identified passage requirements. A portion of this State grant funded work will be applied as non-Federal in-kind funding in the amount of $375,000 toward the 2021 Section 6 Grant.

The approved FY23 Agency budget contains staff time and reimbursable funds for HCP development within Agency Fund 116. The remaining reimbursable and in-kind funds under this grant will be identified in future Agency budgets.

Prepared by: Jason Demers, Associate Water Resources Engineer, (831) 755-4860
Approved by: Brent Buche, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Introduced: 9/27/2022 **Current Status:** Agenda Ready

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Prepared by: Jason Demers, Associate Water Resources Engineer, (831) 755-4860
Approved by: Brent Buche, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Monterey County

Board Report

Legistar File Number: WRAPL 22-031

Item No.3

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

October 05, 2022

Introduced: 9/27/2022

Version: 1

Current Status: Draft

Matter Type: WRA Planning Item

Strategic Planning Update

- **9:00 Board Chair calls meeting to order**
- **9:10 Welcome and Introductions**
- **9:20 – 9:30 Celebrate Success**
- **9:30 – 10:30 Review Progress Program/Project**
  - Agency org chart/overview (5 min)
  - Review Programs/Projects
    - 3-5 selected for closer look
- *10:30 – 10:45 BREAK*
- **10:45-11:45 Strategies Years 1-3**
  - Update on Progress
    - Are goals Id's still priority
    - How do we accomplish goals given current constraints?
    - Do we need to reprioritize year 1-3?
- *11:45-12:45 LUNCH*
- **12:45- 1:30 Breakout session: BIG PICTURE- What does success look like in 5 years**
- *1:30 – 1:45 BREAK*
- **1:45 – 3:45 Budget Discussion**
  - Budget info focus on 3 funds?
  - Disconnect between budget and goals
  - Funding Deferred Maintenance
  - New ways to fund agency
- **3:45 – 4:00 Final thoughts**
- **Public comment**
- **Board Chair adjourns meeting**

DRAFT

Monterey County

Board Report

Legistar File Number: WRAPL 22-032

Item No.4

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

October 05, 2022

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Version: 1

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Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items