

**LAS POSAS USERS GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
October 28th, 2009**

The Las Posas Users Group met at 8:30 A.M. on Wednesday, October 28th, 2009 in the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas MWD) Boardroom located at 2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, California.

Call to Order – Don Kendall, Calleguas MWD, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The attached sign-in sheet lists those in attendance.

1. Public Comments – Steve Bachman, United Water Conservation District, informed the group that the State Water Resources Control Board approved the revisions to the Santa Clara River chloride TMDL. The revisions facilitate the Alternative Water Resources Management Plan developed as an alternative to a more costly brineline running from Santa Clarita to the ocean.
2. Review of Meeting Notes for August 26th, 2009 and September 23rd, 2009 – The draft meeting notes for August 26th, 2009 and September 23rd, 2009 were accepted as presented.
3. Review of Schedule – Henry Graumlich, Calleguas Municipal Water District, opened the group's discussion regarding the schedule for completing the basin specific management plan. In reviewing the progress to date, Mr. Graumlich noted that the Users Group's work on issues specific to the Las Posas Basins had identified issues (e.g. basin boundary delineation) with consequences for the overall groundwater management agency (GMA). While the group has made significant progress in coming to a common understanding of the basin and its issues, the basin specific management plan will not be completed by the December 2009 expiration of Emergency Ordinance D. The group discussed the importance of providing its recommendations to the Fox Canyon GMA Board of Directors as quickly as possible and dismissed a recommendation for a year extension. The group acknowledged that the GMA's Board deliberations may extend the time necessary to incorporate the basin specific management plan into the GMA's ordinance code. The group consensus was to request a six-month extension of the GMA's Emergency Ordinance D to facilitate the completion of the basin-specific management plan. Bryan Bondy, United Water Conservation District / Fox Canyon GMA will forward the group's request for consideration on the GMA agenda.
4. The Calleguas Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project in the Context of Basin Management – Dr. Kendall gave a presentation on the Las Posas Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. The presentation covered the basic concept of using groundwater storage in conjunction with imported water to increase water supply reliability. The 1994 Northridge earthquake highlighted

the vulnerability of the imported water transmission system and the need for a redundant local supply. The ASR facilities include eighteen injection/extraction wells in the East Las Posas basin and transmission facilities connecting the wellfield to Calleguas's distribution system. Water is stored in the ASR project by direct injection and by "in-lieu deliveries." When imported water is provided to groundwater pumpers such as the County Waterworks District No. 19 in-lieu of its own groundwater pumping, Calleguas acquires groundwater storage credits. Most of the ASR water has been stored through such in-lieu deliveries. The group requested a simplified balance sheet of ASR injections, in-lieu deliveries, and withdrawals as a future discussion item.

Dr. Kendall discussed how the statewide drought and environmental constraints to pumping State Water Project (SWP) from the Delta has affected the ASR project. With less water overall and a SWP Delta pumping window constrained to the summer months, there is less opportunity to move water into ASR storage during the winter months when SWP flows typically exceed demands. Dr. Kendall expressed his support for the legislative package aimed at trying to improve the Delta. In particular, the Two Gates project would provide a solution to protect fish, water quality, and facilitate operation of the SWP. The project would construct moveable gates at two key locations in the central Delta. By temporarily opening and closing the gates, smelt and other sensitive aquatic species will be protected while allowing water to move through the Delta for pumping into the State Water Project.

5. Technical Update: Draft Conceptual Approach to Modeling Water Budget – Mr. Bondy discussed the complications involved in developing a water budget for the Las Posas Basins. Due to the assumptions that would need to be made to account for all variables, the end result would typically have a substantial margin of error. Basin yield is defined as the quantity of sustainable pumping that can be done without causing adverse impacts. Previous estimates of the groundwater overdraft in the East Las Posas basin were approximately 5,000 acrefeet annually pumped more than recharge. Determining basin yield is further complicated by the gradual increase in surface flows from Simi Valley and the related filling of basins influenced by surface flows. The flows from Simi Valley provide an important component of the overall water entering the South and East Las Posas basins even if they have been accompanied by degrading water quality. That flow could change depending on Simi Valley's interest in expanding its recycled water program. The basin specific management plan will need to address how Simi Valley can meet the Salts TMDL while still making the best use of the water discharged to the Arroyo Simi. With the reclamation of brackish groundwater, the basin yield could be increased. In the end, we will probably come up with a working number for basin yield that will need to be administered with an adaptive management approach.

6. Discussion Regarding Fox Canyon GMA Agenda Items – The group reviewed the GMA Board of Directors' agenda for the meeting of October 28th, 2009, with special attention to the proposal to seek modification of the California Water Code to extend the GMA's statutory authority beyond its current boundary definitions. The group expressed surprise that the issue had not been discussed in more detail at the Strategic Advisory Group.
7. Discussion of Pumping Concerns and Issues – Esper Petersen discussed his observations of Calleguas Creek surface flows during the Guiberson Fire on September 23rd, 2009. Mr. Petersen farms a parcel adjacent to Calleguas Creek in the Somis area where the surface flows currently disappear into the creekbed. During the day of the fire, surface flows on the creek retreated approximately one-half mile upstream. Within four to five days, surface flows returned to their previous downstream extent. Mr. Petersen wondered whether the increased irrigation to protect property from the advancing fire would have been sufficient to cause the change in surface flows. While the connection between surface flows and groundwater is well established, Mr. Petersen's observation suggests a potentially more direct and far-reaching influence than had previously been modeled.
8. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date – Potential future agenda items included a tour of ASR facilities, further information on the Two Gates project, the ASR "balance sheet" of stored and produced water, and further discussion of basin yield.

The next meeting of the Las Posas Users Group is scheduled for 8:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009 in the Calleguas MWD Boardroom located at 2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, California. [The meeting scheduled for November was canceled.] The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Henry Graumlich, Calleguas MWD