

**California Avocado Commission  
Southern California Agricultural Water Team  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 11, 2008**

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***Mission: "To ensure that California avocado growers have reliable and affordable water supplies and to preserve and enhance the recognition of the environmental, societal, and economic value of agriculture to South California water agencies so that pricing and reliability of water service to agriculture will reflect those unique and important values."***

A meeting of the Southern California Agricultural Water Team (SCAWT), a sub-committee of CAC Industry Affairs, was held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at the Pala Mesa Resort in Fallbrook, California, with the following people present:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kenneth Roth, Chairman  
Laura Eggering  
Len Francis  
Randy Haskell  
Malcolm Matheson  
Don Reeder (via teleconf.)  
Charley Wolk

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**CAC STAFF**

Tom Bellamore  
Wayne Brydon

**OFFICIALLY PRESENT**

Michael Hurley, Malcolm Pirnie (MP)  
Ed Means, MP

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Gary Arant,  
Valley Center Water District (WD)  
Ohannes Karaoghlanian  
Eric Larson, San Diego Farm Bureau  
Maria Price  
George McManigle  
Robert K. Leonard  
Ben Holtz  
Gerald Walson  
Chuck Sneed, Rainbow Municipal WD  
Bruce Egge  
Susan Egge  
Bill Stephens, Rancho CA WD

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ken Roth called the Southern California Agricultural Water Team (SCAWT) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked that all in attendance introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

The following motion was made:

***MOTION: The Southern California Agricultural Water Team approves the August 13, 2008 SCAWT Minutes as presented. (Eggering/Haskell) MSC***

### Introductions

Chairman Roth welcomed Chuck Sneed from Rainbow Municipal Water District and Bill Stephens from Rancho CA Water District. Roth stated that the goals for today's meeting were to approve a broad framework for an Agriculture Conservation Program with MWD and conceptual ideas for water reduction contracts with MWD, similar to those in place with PVID.

### Water Supply Update

Ed Means gave an overview of the water supply and storage conditions. The initial SWP allocation for MWD stands at 15%, which yields 300,000 AF and approximately 850,000 to 1 million AF are expected from MWD's Colorado River supplies. Another 1.1 million AF should be available from WSDM actions. Total MWD demands of 2.2 million AF are expected. To date, statewide precipitation is about 85% of average and reservoir storage is at 70% of average.

### Letter to MWD

Francis moved and Eggering seconded to send a letter to MWD regarding the implementation of mandatory water reductions of 10% for municipal and industrial customers. Wolk moved to table the motion, without receiving a second. Discussion ensued with divided opinion about the appropriateness of sending such a letter. Arant expressed concern that the letter could appear to question the credibility of MWD staff. Francis proposed a modified motion wherein a draft letter requesting that MWD implement a 10% cut to M&I users under its Water Shortage Allocation Plan would first be sent to SCAWT for review. Holtz suggested the compromise approach of informing the public about the dire water supply situation. Larson noted that politics on this issue are thick at the MWD board and the call for 10% reductions could lead to 20% reductions, which would then impact agricultural customers. Eggering proposed using the draft letter for internal purposes only, i.e. for talking points in discussions with MWD. Wolk called for the question and a roll call vote.

**MOTION:** *The Southern California Agricultural Water Team agrees to draft a document for use with MWD recommending implementation of reductions for M&I customers, to be prepared in talking-point format for verbal presentation to MWD. (Francis/Eggering) For: Eggering, Francis, Matheson; Against: Roth, Haskell, Wolk; Abstention: Reeder. Motion fails.*

### Agricultural Conservation Program Elements

Means introduced the goals and elements of a proposed Ag Conservation Program with MWD, to include: 1) Grower Outreach, Education and Demonstration Projects; 2) On-Grove Irrigation Retrofit Program; and 3) Regional Assessment of Recycled Water. Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of first opting out of the IAWP in order to be eligible for conservation funds, the relationship between the MWD program and the federal EQUIP program, and on-farm projects, including the use of brine lines, ozone, reverse osmosis and nanotechnology. Maria Price mentioned using water rates to curb M&I consumption, and Larson noted that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will be

funding projects such as a brine removal plant. Roth suggested having a small group of industry representatives go to MWD to present and negotiate the program concepts. Also discussed was the idea of giving preference or first priority to those growers who opted out of the IAWP in year one.

#### Contracts for Water Reduction

Means described the framework for water use reduction contracts between growers, member agencies, and MWD, similar to those in place with the PVID. Growers would agree to reduce water use for one-year upon call from MWD. MWD would make a limited number of reduction calls over a given period of time. A contract template would be developed by the end of 2009. This element of the program would be available to all growers (including those who do not opt out of the IAWP). Larson mentioned that the broader ag conservation program would likely have a practical applications focus and could be designed as a "cafeteria" approach. Roth called for SCAWT approval to advance the program concepts to MWD.

**MOTION:** *The Southern California Agricultural Water Team agrees to have an industry team (Roth, Reeder, Bellamore, Means) present the program concepts and negotiate an Agricultural Conservation Program with MWD, with every effort being made to give priority to those growers who opt out of the IAWP. (Wolk/ Matheson) Motion passes unanimously.*

#### Other Business

Eggering mentioned a lack of information on the discharge waivers in San Diego County and the possibility of Rainbow and Fallbrook MWDs forming monitoring groups.

The Chairman asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

*A copy of the SCAWT Presentation, dated December 11, 2008 is attached in its entirety to the permanent copy of these Minutes and identified as EXHIBIT A.*

*The handout Partnership in Agricultural Water Conservation is attached in its entirety to the permanent copy of these Minutes and identified as EXHIBIT B.*

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next SCAWT meeting will be called as needed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Roth adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ken Roth, Chairman