

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

Special Board Meeting
Minutes of May 8, 2006
Canyon Lake Middle School
33005 Canyon Hills Road
Lake Elsinore, CA 92532

Draft

1. Chair Beswick called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Board Members Present

Board Members Absent

Carole Beswick, Chair
William Ruh
Seymour Van Gundy
Mary Cramer
Deborah Neev

John Withers, Vice-Chair

Staff Members Present

Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer
Jorge Leon, Regional Board Counsel
Kurt V. Berchtold, Assistant Executive Officer
Michael Adackapara, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer
Jun Martirez, Chief of Permitting
Steve Mayville, Chief of Enforcement
Hope Smythe, Chief of Basin Planning (Inland Waters)
Susan Beeson, Sanitary Engineering Associate
Michael Perez, Water Resource Control Engineer
Kevin Heinemann, Staff Information Systems Analyst
Felipa Carrillo, Executive Assistant

State Board Representative

None present.

Public Attendance

Martin Gibson, Mayor, Canyon Lake
June Schmieder-Ramirez
Mark Moskowits
Julie Henderson
Daniel Cormier
Pam Dupsloff
Teresa & Tommy Morgan
Spence Scarcello
Tim Roso
Irene Hoffmann
Leah McGee
Eli Pavoni
Mark Lebarge
Kathy Hartog

Mike Bertetto
Ken Dunagan
James Sheppard
William Layman
Marlowe Schaffner
Mike Bradshaw
Maria Dominguez
Bob Kosha
Mark Haggberg
Charlie Brockman
Damian Meins

Carole Beswick began the meeting by welcoming everyone and indicating the importance of the issues associated with the septic tank problems in the Quail Valley area. She reminded everyone that this was a "workshop" and that the Board would make no decisions this evening.

Jorge Leon explained that the records from today's public workshop would be part of the legal record for the action related to the Basin Plan amendment.

Steve Mayville, Chief of Enforcement, briefly outlined the presentation for the evening. He provided a brief report on Staff's activity to date. He indicated that Charlie Brockman from Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) would describe their studies related to the efforts to sewer Quail Valley sewer project, as well as discuss financing issues.

Mr. Mayville indicated that Quail Valley is located upstream from Canyon Lake and that the overflows for Canyon Lake are conveyed downstream to Lake Elsinore. He said that one of the Canyon Lake's beneficial uses is municipal supply. He stated that there is an estimated 1100 septic tanks in Quail Valley and approximately 3900 buildable lots (small lots). He said that for the most part, domestic sanitary wastes from Quail Valley are disposed of to septic tank subsurface disposal systems.

Mr. Mayville provided the Board with a brief description of a septic system layout. He said that even though there are problems in Quail Valley with septic systems, they could be an effective method for sewage disposal when their use is balanced against a number of environmental factors. Mr. Mayville indicated that these environmental factors in Quail Valley were not suitable for septic system use.

Charlie Brockman, from the Eastern Municipal Water District, described efforts undertaken to extend sewers to the Quail Valley area. He indicated that the Quail Valley sewer project would be very costly. EMWD has been looking for possible funding sources. Prop 50 grant funds have been denied; but would continue to pursue other funding sources. They are also considering having an assessment district or a pre-assessment district, since developing a design is also expensive.

Mr. Mayville noted that the recommendations of EMWD appear to be the most viable alternative to address the serious septic system failures in Quail Valley. He concluded his presentation by indicating that staff's proposed solution is the Basin Plan amendment prohibiting the use of septic systems in Quail Valley.

The Mayor of Canyon Lake, Mark Gibson, indicated that he was pleased that the Regional Board was moving forward with the Basin Plan amendment to prohibit the use of septic systems in Quail Valley. He also indicated that the sewer system in Quail Valley should be at a cost, which is reasonable and affordable to the property owners of Quail Valley and that low interest loans and grants should continue to be looked at.

Carole Beswick, Chair, responded by reiterating the Board's commitment to address this problem.

A number of residents from the area expressed their concerns to the Board. These concerns included:

1. Cost to the individual homeowners for eliminating the septic systems.
2. Delays in constructing the sewers.
3. Inability to develop the lots in the absence of sewer systems.
4. Difficulty in getting approval for alternate systems.
5. Rendering some of the lots useless if sewer is not provided to all areas of Quail Valley.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to the next meeting in August of 2006 at which time the Board is expected to consider the Basin Plan amendment.

Respectfully submitted:

GERARD J. THIBEAULT
Executive Officer

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