

MEMBER UNITS EXHIBIT NUMBER 67

MINUTES

CITY OF LOMPOC - CACHUMA PROJECT MEMBERS NEGOTIATIONS TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

March 16, 1995
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: (See attached sign-in list.)

The meeting was convened at 9:15 a.m.

1. Changes to the Agenda None. Barry Hecht was introduced as a technical consultant to the Cachuma Conservation and Release Board.
2. Approval of Minutes of November 28, 1994 Meeting The minutes were approved as submitted.
3. Discussion of Conceptual Proposal from David Schuster Mr. Schuster summarized the conceptual proposal to pump poor quality groundwater for disposal, which he had distributed in early February 1995. He clarified that the proposal had not yet been approved by the Lompoc City Council. He said that the City of Lompoc expects to finalize the proposal and submit it to the Cachuma Project members by June 15, 1995. Mr. Mack asked how the proposed pumping plan would increase the yield of Cachuma. Mr. Schuster responded that the shifting of releases to wet years would provide additional storage space in Cachuma. Mr. Mack said that he thought releases were being done that way now due to the difficulty of getting water below the Narrows during dry periods. Mr. Foreman, representing the Cachuma Project Authority, noted that a change in Cachuma operations was not a requirement to provide the anticipated benefits of the pumping program. There was discussion as to whether a change in release schedule would require a change in the State Board order governing Cachuma operations. Mr. Shahroody said he thought it would, because of possible effects of the reduced groundwater level on the percolation curve used to calculate BNA credits.

Mr. Paul noted that there would be significant environmental issues associated with such a pumping proposal. He asked whether there was potential to reverse the degradation of the ground water quality, and whether it may be possible to improve groundwater quality without a change in the yield of the basin. Mr. Schuster responded affirmatively to both questions. Mr. Keefe noted that there would have to be consideration of the effects on other parts of the basin and that some of the pumping would have to take place outside the City of Lompoc's jurisdiction. It was asked whether the parent district has authority to regulate pumping and to implement the proposed pumping scheme. A groundwater management district (per AB 3030) or a benefits assessment district were noted as possible mechanisms to regulate pumping and collect funds to pay for the project.

Mr. Mack inquired whether there are cost estimates for the wells and the distribution system. Mr. Durbin said there were no estimates yet but that the formal proposal in June 1995 would include cost estimates. He gave an order of magnitude estimate of \$15-20 million as the total present worth of capital and operating costs for a period of approximately 40 years. He estimated that 5,000 acre feet per year would be pumped.

There was discussion as to whether Lompoc would still be interested in doing the project if it is determined that the Cachuma Project impact (and, therefore, the level of participation in costs) is relatively small. Mr. Schuster indicated that in approximately two weeks, he and Mr. Durbin expect to distribute their analysis of the extent of the impact of the Cachuma Project on the Lompoc basin. There was discussion of the fact that the "assignment" issue that had initiated the negotiations is now a dead issue, though the parties are still interested in continuing discussions in order to resolve regional issues.

4. Discussion of Model and Model Documentation Mr. Durbin summarized the documentation he had distributed. He noted that the report contains only documentation of the model, not analysis of alternative scenarios. He suggested that review of the model be conducted by a small group of participants. In response to a question, Mr. Durbin indicated that water quality is measured by TDS only and that stream flows above the Narrows are essentially the same as those used in the Santa Ynez River Model. Mr. Mack asked whether Mr. Durbin's model could be added on to the river model. Mr. Durbin said yes, but only to address quantity issues, since the river model does not address water quality. Mr. Durbin indicated that his model includes analysis of water quality by depths.

Mr. Durbin suggested that a coordinated written request for additional information be developed by the interested parties. He acknowledged that it is his intent for the model to be available for use by everyone, though requested serious inquiries only, due to the effort involved. Hardware requirements include 250 MB storage space for the basic model, minimum 4 MB main memory, a Pentium chip, and a tape drive.

Mr. Paul asked whether a solution that solves the TDS problem would solve all other problems as well. Mr. Durbin said he thinks so. Mr. Keefe and Mr. Hecht said there may be additional considerations regarding sulfate and nitrate. Mr. Durbin emphasized that there is only one version of the model. Different analyses are done by providing different input assumptions, which will have to be identified as a part of any report. He said that the model should be general enough to evaluate virtually all known/possible alternatives; e.g. exchange of water, drains, change in irrigation practices, and reclaimed water. Mr. Durbin ended his comments by repeating that by April 1, 1995 he and Mr. Schuster expected to provide their analysis of the historical and future impact of the Cachuma Project on the Lompoc groundwater basin, and that by June 15, 1995 the City of Lompoc will submit a formal proposal regarding the groundwater pumping plan.

5. Future Activities Mr. Mack identified three tracks for ongoing work:

- A. April 1 and June 15 submittals from Lompoc
- B. Continuation of the work of the Management Alternatives Subcommittee
- C. Review of the documentation of the Durbin model

Mr. Schuster noted that there was a need to reconcile the level of commitment from various participants (e.g. the City of Lompoc, agricultural interests, etc.) since this will temper the activities of the Management Alternatives Subcommittee. A three-week time frame was established for the initial review of Mr. Durbin's model and the preparation of a request for additional information about the model.

6. Other Business None

7. Date of Next Meeting The next meeting of the Technical Committees was set for 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 8, 1995, in Santa Barbara.

8. Public Comment None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

