

ESTE SAC MINUTES – MAY 23, 2018

Perry's office at Golden State Water.

Reviewed recent communication with Watermaster re: Brown Act. The Judgment does not specifically require SACs to follow the Brown Act – however best to meet its intent - post agendas for 72 hours – invite the public – produce minutes to be sent to Watermaster.

Committee decided not to elect/appoint a Chair. or Sec. (not a requirement) – just follow the agenda as a group. Decide each meeting who writes the minutes.

Perry suggested and committee agreed the Watermaster should include on its web site info. re: all the SACs – list of members and contacts – info. re: issues, etc. (He presented this at the evening's Watermaster meeting and it will be posted).

Need to ask question at Watermaster meeting re: agenda item removing 20 acre' from Este's groundwater storage account. (Was asked at Watermaster meeting and clarified).

Discussed status of ESTE recharge basin supposedly in progress – non parties pumping outside the Judgment – difficulty obtaining permanent water rights unless sold with the land – possible solution for those pumping more than 10 ac'/year to buy State water from MWA and recharge into ESTE. High-end tree crops should be able to pay for it. Concern about future overdraft from all the new pumping – possible additional ramp-down – impact on parties/stipulators who lost 20% of their FPA and have been paying Watermaster Admin. and Bio Fund fees since the mid 90's - and who have not created additional overdraft since the basin has been stable since the Judgment.

Richard discussed status of his and Rural Water's work on small water systems – need for water rights – grants – etc. Problems with ag use within FPA's allowed in the SWS's not set-up for commercial water use other than "Domestic Use". Justifications with the Watermaster when SWS's have uses that are not allowed within their districts.

We discussed the multitude of new orchards in ESTE – use and misuse of green waste mulch and bio solids – status of enforcement and citations by County Dept. of Health Services (Environmental Health Services) which requires permits for applications of bio solids and is the enforcement agency for State requirements re: mulch and bio solids.

Some of us will try to attend the July 19 EPA workshop at MWA.

Perry discussed R-cubed issues – MWA being a pumper w/o water rights but is pumping for R-cubed parties where the production is metered and reported.

We will continue advocating the issues listed on our 2015 Position Statement provided to the Watermaster. It prompted (finally) work on our recharge basin and some monitoring and enforcement activity re: new ag. pumping w/o water rights – working with the new farmers to obtain them. New orchards are being established that the Watermaster is likely not aware of. We will review with Watermaster aerial photos taken this summer and compare them with past ones to determine who has or does not have sufficient rights to irrigate specific crops on the amount of acreage – plus do a drive-around with staff. We need to know status of enforcement – who is getting rights or not – and determine how much water is required to sustain mature jujube orchards, etc. (which could be @ 2.5 acre feet/acre – but still being explored). We are concerned that the Watermaster can't keep up with the new pumpers – especially those that are aware of the requirement for rights but operating “catch me if you can”. Some realtors are not informing clients of the Judgment – thus not practicing their “full disclosure” requirements.

Chuck Bell – acting Sec.