

Final Minutes of the
San Joaquin River Management Program
Action Team Meeting
January 31, 2001

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Modesto, California

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

The San Joaquin River Management Program Action Team met in the office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Modesto, California. There were no comments on the Draft Minutes of the November 30, 2000 meeting.

Watershed Workshop

Kevin Faulkenberry updated the group on the status of the "Working at a Watershed Level" course held at CSU Fresno from January 22 to 26, 2001. Approximately 105 guests attended. Although the evaluations have not been collected and reviewed, the workshop received many positive comments from those who attended. Good planning, field trips, and scholarships contributed to the success of the workshop. Suggestions were made regarding the workshop from Action Team members such as, whether to have another one next year, length of the workshop (weeklong), and offering different course levels (beginning, intermediate, advanced). Due to the success of this workshop, the group decided to hold the same course again next year with details to be worked out in the coming months.

Goals and Objectives

A draft of SJRMP Goals, Principles, Management Guidelines and Actions was handed out at the meeting. Written comments from Claire Leflore and Roger Masuda were reviewed with the group. Suggestions and comments were taken from Action Team members on the draft. Landis explained that it is intended that a draft of this document should be completed for the next Advisory Council meeting to be held on April 6, 2001. The draft document, revised based on Action Team comments, is attached.

MOU/MOA

Landis passed out copies of an MOA on the Sacramento River Conservation Area and an MOU SJRMP Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring as guidelines for the SJRMP MOU/MOA. The group discussed the usefulness of the MOU and how it was a necessary step to becoming a recognized regional forum. It was decided that the document will help tie the members together and should include the Goals, Principles

and Actions. Landis volunteered to develop an initial draft of the document to be reviewed on March 2nd.

Other

Norman Crow, West Stanislaus Resource Conservation District, expressed thanks to the ACOE, USFWS, and DFG for their letters of support. Crow mentioned that the East and West Stanislaus Conservation District were granted the funds by the NRCS EQIP Grant for a Watershed Coordinator.

Next Action Team Meeting: March 2, 2001 at 1:00 p.m., this is a special meeting to discuss the MOU and Basic Principles.

San Joaquin River Management Program

Goals, Principles and Actions

Draft

February 12, 2001

Since 1990, the San Joaquin River Management Program has served as a forum for identifying, discussing, planning and supporting projects and programs that address water quality, water supply, flood protection, fisheries, recreation and wildlife on the San Joaquin River system. In 1995, the SJRMP Plan was completed. This plan identifies nearly 80 consensus-based actions that, if implemented, will benefit the San Joaquin River system and its many users. Recent funding and cooperative efforts like the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the Parks and Water Bonds (Propositions 12 and 13) have opened up new horizons and opportunities to implement these SJRMP actions along with innovative new projects that have been identified since 1995.

SJRMP is in a position to provide a regional forum in the San Joaquin Basin for local agencies, environmental groups and landowners to work directly with State and Federal agencies to develop ideas and to meet these challenges. Following the goals, principles and actions that will enable SJRMP to perform this role.

Goals

- Provide a regional, ecosystem-wide perspective for critical issues in the San Joaquin River watershed without the limitations imposed by political boundaries.
- Provide a regional grassroots forum consistent with CALFED to interface with other groups such as local governments, environmental organizations, water rights holders and landowners.
- Facilitate and promote planning and Implementation of projects and concepts consistent with SJRMP principals.

Principles

- Adhere to the original SJRMP mandate to use a consensus approach to assure that impacts resulting from actions are acceptable to other Interests.
- Participation is voluntary.
- Give full consideration to all interested parties' concerns.
- Maintain an open, credible, flexible and collaborative process.
- to generate buy-in for implementation of projects.
- Encourage continued local involvement.

Actions

Immediate

- Develop a Memorandum of Understand that identifies the roles of participants (leave open for adding signatures). Develop process to make decisions and set priorities.
- Identify existing functional groups.

Short Term

- Hire and fund a non-agency chair or coordinator.
- Identify watershed needs.
- Obtain authority to enter into contracts, receive funds, etc.
- Draft extending legislation.
- Develop annual and five year work plans.

Ongoing

- Establish and maintain a clearinghouse for projects.
- Catalog what has been accomplished and the status of projects and programs.
- Establish and maintain a library of relevant documents.
- Provide permitting and technical assistance to local project proponents.
- Provide balanced SJR Basin education and information.
- Promote dissemination and generation of new and accurate scientific data.

Long Term

- Establish topic or area based subcommittees as appropriate.

The group decided that some of the actions were actually responsibilities of a coordinator and are listed below:

SJRMP Coordinator Responsibilities

- Establish a subcommittee to conduct outreach to generate buy-in from stakeholders.
- Establish a membership list of committed parties that will be added to.
- Hold meetings on a schedule designed to encourage maximum participation.

**SJRMP ACTION TEAM MEETING
Of
January 31, 2001**

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