

MEETING REPORT  
DITCH COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009  
2:15 P.M.

Directors:               Ralph Retherford                               Public:     Ron Ringen  
                              Delbert Rotelli   Sally Shoettgen  
  Sasha Farkas

Staff:                    Pete Kampa  
                              Tom Scesa  
                              Kelly Klyn  
                              Jerry Whitehead

**Review Agreement Regarding Untreated Water Service – Springfield Ranch Road Mutual Water Association**

Kelly Klyn reported that at the end of the District's Matelot Ditch near Columbia, there is a privately owned pipeline serving property owners along North Airport Road. Although the pipeline is owned and maintained by the property owners, the District reads and maintains meters that are connected to the pipeline and serving the properties with raw water. Mr. Klyn explained that this arrangement was made years ago between the property owners and P.G.&E. Mr. Klyn indicated that in 2006, the District adopted a Memorandum of Understanding that specified responsibilities, etc. for the District and the property owners, who are members of the Springfield Ranch Road Mutual Association (SRRMA), noting that when the MOU was prepared, there were 15 customers receiving service from the pipeline which were identified on an exhibit map attached to the MOU. Today there are only 13 customers, and the SRRMA wishes to supplement the MOU to specify that two properties can connect to the pipeline without payment of the District's supply capacity charge. They also wish to have the ability to transfer water service from one property to another.

Sally Shoettgen, President Springfield Ranch Road Mutual Association responded to questions from Committee members and District staff.

***Staff recommendation: Approve Agreement.***

***Committee recommendation: Approval of Agreement Regarding Untreated Water Service for the Springfield Ranch Road Mutual Water Association and place on the consent calendar section of the September 8, 2009 agenda for Board review and consideration.***

**Review of Proposed Guniting of Sections of the Raw Water Ditch System**

Pete Kampa distributed an email from Director Balen stating that she believes that the ditch system should have best management practices irregardless of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy study. Mr. Kampa indicated that Director Balen is in favor of fixing leaks, however the cumulative adverse effects of guniting on the historic features, habitat, oaks die off, and fuel load has not been addressed.

Kelly Klyn reported that the proposed guniting of sections of the raw water ditch system are as follows:

Columbia Ditch – Approx. 325'	Table Mountain Ditch – Approx. 780'
Shaws Flat Ditch – Approx. 425'	Phoenix Ditch – Approx. 390'
Eureka Ditch – Approx. 440'	Eureka Ditch – Approx. 380'

Kelly Klyn explained that the proposed guniting on the various ditches will consist of placement of gunitite within existing ditch berms, noting that this is being proposed due to leaks reported by property owners and leaks noticed by District personnel. The proposed guniting will be placed within the berms of earthen ditches. Maps were prepared by EIP Associates for a Special Status Species Survey along the ditch system in spring of 2003, and for a Cultural Resource Report in 2002 by Shelly Davis-King. These maps were reviewed by staff with respect to the proposed guniting and no sensitive cultural or biological resources were identified at the proposed guniting sections.

District staff responded to questions from the Committee members.

***Staff recommendation: Approve the CEQA Notice of Exemption.***

***Committee recommendation: Approval of the CEQA Notice of Exemption for guniting sections of the raw water ditch system and place on the regular business section of the September 8, 2009 agenda for Board review and consideration.***

### **Continue Discussion of Potential Policy Principles Regarding the Ditch System**

Pete Kampa reported that at a previous Ditch Committee meeting and discussions with Director Balen, it was suggested that District staff initiate the development of standards or a policy statement regarding the ditch system and possible enforcement guidelines for clear set-backs for the ditches. Mr. Kampa indicated that he has been in contact with several foothill water agencies that have canals and ditches and inquired what type of policy they have in place dealing with maintenance, repair, improvements and ditch access. Mr. Kampa distributed and briefly reviewed copies from the various water agencies on their policy procedure regarding set back variances, encroachment permits, and policies relating to work around their individual canals and ditches.

Director Retherford suggested that District staff make a presentation at a Board workshop on what is reasonable with regards to a practical policy statement on the ditch system, noting that the Board would like to evaluate pros and cons.

Pete Kampa indicated that District staff proposes to prepare a policy identifying, through the Ditch Sustainability Project, a list of assigned values for the ditches, noting that areas that have been determined that no values exists then it would be acceptable for a developer to move forward with a proposed project.

***Committee recommendation: District staff was directed to schedule a workshop to make a presentation on what is reasonable with regards to a practical policy statement on the ditch system.***