

SVEWC Steering Committee Agenda – Draft 2

December 8, 2003 (10:30 am- 4:30 pm)

TNC Sacramento Valley Office, 500 Main Street, Chico

Meeting Objectives:

A. Stop the Napa Agreement Campaign

Note: The primary focus of meeting objectives A and B is to clarify what will be the SVEWC program of action over the next 12 months. We want to understand how this fits together on the big picture and what the SVEWC's role and action plan should be. Some of the questions below each item may not be answered at the Dec. 8 meeting but are there to help remind everyone of the questions that eventually need to be addressed.

1. OCAP sign on letter and next steps.

a. Is the letter ready to be sent? What is the best way to proceed? Should the SVEWC set up a meeting with USBR as part of the letter? What do EWC member organizations think of the sign-on letter and this approach to the OCAP problem?

b. What is the timeline for filing a lawsuit if USBR proceeds with a new OCAP without environmental review? Who will be the lead attorneys and how will they and their expenses be paid? Who will be the lead organization(s)?

c. How and when should the lawsuit be explained to the media? Should this occur with the sign-on letter, after a meeting with USBR, or at the time of the filing of a lawsuit (if needed)?

d. Who will be on a committee that advances the OCAP effort? Do we have a chair? Do they need to schedule a meeting/conference call now?

2. Environmental Water Account/South Delta Improvement Project (Mike Jackson)

a. Update from Dec.2 conference call. Summarize issues, next steps and recommendations.

b. What additional information does the SVEWC need to make decisions on what it should do regarding the EWA and SDIP? The SDIP EIR/S will be out for public comment soon. What should the SVEWC recommend to affiliate organizations and activists?

c. The EWA is intended to provide replacement water whenever the export pumps have to reduce how much they pump because of endangered species and other environmental factors. Should the SVEWC circulate a sign-on letter regarding the EWA? Should it oppose the EWA as a tool to be used in this manner? Should it support the EWA but only if certain requirements and restrictions on use are guaranteed?

3. CVP Contract Renewals (Steve Evans – lead)

a. Tie in a conference call on the speaker phone with David Behar/NRDC if they are unable to attend the meeting. Clarify what NRDC and other EWA member organizations are doing about contract renewals. How does the two year delay for when contract renewal needs to be signed

affect Reclamation's timeline for its EIS?

b. Update on possible negotiations with contractors. What is the role of the SVEWC and/or its member organizations? Will all sides attempt to agree on facts such as need for water, historic use of water, environmental need for water, potential for water use efficiency, and other issues?

c. What are the next steps that the SVEWC should undertake on CVP contract renewals? What should be told to the press and when? How should the issue be framed to be heard and understood by other stakeholders in the watershed?

4. Groundwater management (including the Sacramento Water Management Plan). (Lynn Barris and Kelly McDonald)

a. Will there be any legislative opportunities to improve groundwater management in the Sacramento watershed? (Jim Mercurio) Should the SVEWC attempt to advance legislation? What do EWC members think of groundwater legislation in 2004?

b. What should the position of the SVEWC be on the conjunctive groundwater management studies that are being undertaken throughout the watershed? Should the SVEWC push groundwater computer modeling standards, transparency, access to data and assumptions, etc?

c. Clarify the link between conjunctive use plans, the EWA, water transfers, and increased export plans. What is the timeline for how these elements come together? What should the SVEWC's position be on the integration of these plans?

d. Should the SVEWC send out the draft sign-on letter for watershed computer modeling and access to information that Kevin drafted?

5. New Surface Storage in Sacramento Valley

a. It is assumed that nothing new has developed on Sites Reservoir and that discussion on this can be postponed until January's SC meeting. (Is this correct?)

6. Napa Agreement (the exporters' campaign to integrate all of these efforts)

a. Update on any progress that has been made between delta interests and the exporters on elements of the Napa Agreement. If an agreement is reached, it will be much more difficult to stop the increased exports and transfers from the Sacramento Valley from proceeding. What are the key interests of the Delta water districts? How could their interests be met through collaboration with the environmental community as opposed to collaboration with the exporters?

b. What progress is being made in creating a vision for what the environmental community wants to occur in the Delta and in the San Joaquin and Sacramento River watersheds? Should the SVEWC promulgate a process for uniting the environmental community around common visions for improving these environments and meeting the needs of the other stakeholders?

c. What next steps should the SVEWC take in its campaign to stop the Napa Agreement from being enacted?

B. Other Environmental Issues

1. Return of water to the Trinity River.
 - a. Should the SVEWC be taking any action to help restore flows to the Trinity?

2. Water Quality Issues in the Sacramento Valley
 - a. Update from Carol Wright on her work with Barbara Vlamis and Bill Jennings to write up a paper showing where water quality and water supply issues link and where the SVEWC might make a difference in the water quality effort.

 - b. Update from Steve on his efforts to look into how the CVPIA might be used to mitigate for water quality problems. For example the water coming out of the GCID service area leads to major water pollution problems downstream in the Colusa Basin drain.

 - c. Update from Carol Wright on the Colusa Drain issues and her discussion with Jerry Meral on what he is planning to do on this issue. (Note to Carol: Should we attempt to bring Jerry into the meeting via a conference call?)

3. State legislation that the SVEWC might be interested in
 - a. Update from Jim Mercurio.

C. SVEWC Coordinator Position

1. Review and finalize draft coordinator job description. What should be done by a coordinator versus the Steering Committee and volunteers or consultants? Are we looking for a part or full time position? What salary range are we expecting to pay based on the preferred job description?

2. Establish a committee to recruit, interview, hire and evaluate the candidate at the end-of-probation period.

3. Determine what role, if any, there are for consultants, either on a temporary basis until a coordinator is hired, or as a compliment to the job description of the coordinator after they are hired? How should any consultants be hired?

D. Fundraising

1. Clarify protocol for contacting foundations for possible grants. Which foundations can be approached immediately? Who will coordinate (until the coordinator is hired) the process for contacting foundations?

2. Clarify what the grants proposal would fund and what their emphasis should be? Who will help write the grants and contact foundations?

3. What information is needed to determine if the SVEWC should pursue an individual giving program?

4. What should be done with the funds remaining in the Kenney Foundation grant? When will a

final report be written?

E. Process Issues

1. Review, change and agree upon proposal for how items get on the SVEWC Steering Committee agenda. See Kelly and Lynn's email from Wedn. December 2, 2003
2. Consider proposal to have the Steering Committee notes and agendas made public (not including legal and personnel issues) on the SVEWC website. This could be part of an overall proposal for the Sacramento Valley Watershed interest groups, media and community to have an open debate on principles, goals, and strategies for achieving them. This advances the SVEWC principle 10 for high flexibility and high disclosure. It could be a major part of how the SVEWC announces itself to the broader Sacramento Valley community.

F. Public Relations and Media Outreach

1. When and how should we explain the SVEWC to the press and to the other stakeholders within the Sacramento Valley and state? If this should occur soon, create a committee to work on a press release and a plan.
2. Clarify what should be placed on the website and/or sent to the master email list (e.g. steering committee agendas and notes, sign on letters, etc)

G. Schedule next meetings

- a. Executive Committee meeting
- b. Steering Committee meeting
- c. Other committees
- d. Plenary meeting

Draft Agenda

10:30	Welcome, introductions, groundrules and agenda review
10:40	Review overview from Steve Evans
11 am	OCAP
11:15	EWA/SDIP
11:30	CVP Contract Renewals
11:45	Groundwater management
12:10	Lunch break
12:50	Napa Agreement
1:15	Trinity flow update
1:20	Water Quality Update
2:35	Coordinator and consultant positions
3:00	Process Issues
3:30	Fundraising
4 pm	Public Relations and Media Outreach
4:25	Set next meetings including Spring plenary meeting
4:30	Adjourn