



Chapter 2 ~ Management Plan Activities

The committees summarized below are described in detail in the Hemet/San Jacinto Water Management Area 2004 Annual Report.

2.1. Policy Committee Activities

The Groundwater Policy Committee (PC) is comprised of two City Council or Board of Director members, the agency or city manager from the water agencies or cities, and three individuals representing the private groundwater producers. The PC is the decision-making body for the Management Plan and each entity participates and votes as a unit, and the decision-making process is based on consensus. No PC meetings were held during 2007.

2.2. Technical Committee Activities

The Technical Committee (TC) was formed by the PC to compile, share, interpret, evaluate, and reach agreement on data; to define problems; to address the PC's technical issues; and to make recommendations. The representative from LHMWD serves as the TC chairman. Meeting notes from the May 15, 2006 TC meeting are presented in Appendix A.

2.3. Consultants, Attorneys, and Managers Committee Activities

The Consultants, Attorneys, and Managers (CAM) Committee is made up of the water agencies' and cities' consultants, technical staff, attorneys and managers. The role of the committee is the development of contractual agreements, side agreements, and MOUs; evaluation of the financial impacts on the community; and providing administrative or policy recommendations to the PC. Meeting notes and topics of discussion from the ten CAM meetings held during 2007 are presented in Appendix B.

2.4. Agreements Initiated in 2007

During 2007, EMWD, LHMWD, the City of Hemet and the City of San Jacinto (the Cities) agreed and provided Letters of Participation indicating each would contribute funding for the San Jacinto River Integrated Watershed Management Plan. EMWD, LHMWD and the Cities also agreed to jointly fund an agreement executed with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for stream flow monitoring. A copy of the USGS agreement can be found in Appendix C.

2.4.1. Funding Participation in the San Jacinto River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

The participants in the Hemet/San Jacinto Water Management Plan provided Letters of Participation in March and April 2007 indicating their willingness to financially participate in the completion of the elements of the San Jacinto Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan not covered by the work done under the auspices of the San Jacinto Watershed Council. This includes the following: water supply, water storage, water recycling, and groundwater quality and quantity conditions. Task 1 is exclusively deals with the collection of data and information for the West San Jacinto Watershed and, consequently, the full cost for this task is being paid by EMWD. Tasks 2 and 3 relate to the Hemet/San Jacinto area and cost shares are based on each of the four agency's "base production percentages".

The San Jacinto River Watershed Council is a non-profit organization of community groups, tribal, farming, dairy, water agencies, government agencies, businesses, and all interested stakeholders working cooperatively to address problems in the San Jacinto watershed. Their goal is to provide educational, scientific, and technical assistance that will help sustain, restore, and enhance the natural resources of the San Jacinto River basin while promoting long-term social and economic vitality to the region.

2.4.2. USGS Joint Funding Agreement

In September 2007, EMWD entered into a Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for a cooperative water resources program for monitoring of a stream gauge on Bautista Creek near Hemet. The monitoring will be conducted from November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008. The \$6,175 program cost involves monitoring and equipment upgrades and are to be shared between EMWD, LHMWD, and the Cities of Hemet and San Jacinto as part of the Hemet/San Jacinto Watershed Monitoring effort.

2.5. Soboba Settlement Agreement

2.5.1. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Water Settlement Agreement

On June 7, 2006, after eleven years of negotiations, the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians (Tribe), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), EMWD, and LHMWD signed the *Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Water Settlement Agreement* at a 4:00 pm ceremony at The Country Club at Soboba Springs in San Jacinto. Tribal Chairman Robert Salgado, Jr., signed the settlement for the Tribe which has approximately 750 members.

2.5.2. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Settlement Act

On March 1, 2007, Congresswoman Mary Bono (CA-45) introduced *The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Settlement Act of 2007* which was co-sponsored by Congressmen Jerry Lewis (R, CA-41), Joe Baca (D, CA-43), and Dale Kildee (D, MI-5), and codifies the agreement between the Tribe, MWD, EMWD, and LHMWD.

Once approved by Congress and signed by the President, the Settlement Act will provide to the Tribe the rights to construct an aqueduct, an annual water supply of 9,000 acre-feet, 128 acres of land near Diamond Valley Lake for commercial development, and \$18 million from the local water districts for economic development. Additionally, the United States government will provide the Tribe with \$11 million for water development.

The agreement will terminate litigation against MWD and EMWD, which was filed by the Tribe in April 2000 (*Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians v. The Metropolitan Water District*

of Southern California). That lawsuit sought damages and injunctive relief for the continuing drainage of water from the Soboba Reservation into MWD's nearby San Jacinto Tunnel which was constructed in the 1930s.

The bill mandates, on average, an annual delivery of 7,500 acre-feet of water by MWD for the next 30 years to EMWD, LHMWD, and the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, as part of an effort to recharge the San Jacinto groundwater basin, fulfilling the Tribe's water rights and addressing chronic groundwater overdrafts.

As outlined in the Settlement Act, the cities and agencies will also receive \$10 million in federal funds to help recharge the aquifer with the imported water, up to 100 acres of Soboba Reservation land for endangered species habitat, and up to 4,900 acre-feet per year of Soboba water for 50 years to be used towards basin replenishment.

On March 8, 2007, the bill was referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. (Subcommittee hearing held on March 13, 2008)

Once ratified by the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, and signed by the President, the pact will bring to an end decades of conflict between the Tribe, the U.S. Government, MWD, and EMWD. Ratification is expected in 2008.