

March 4, 2015

Opening Remarks at First Community Meeting

The presentation that you will hear tonight is the result of an effort that started in 2010. At the October Board of directors meeting of that year, a thoughtful journey began - we were tasked to update the previous outdated basin management plan utilizing a process that would garner community support and whose aim was to find a solution to our overdraft and the subsequent salt water intrusion into our aquifers. Over the next 2 board meetings, the Ad Hoc Basin Management Plan Committee was created.

The Basin Management Committee members and staff combed through volumes of public comments, weighed immense quantities of technical data and when John Martinelli said 'We need to find the best bang for the buck', we adopted it as our mantra. So, tonight, because of that process, we are here to present our communities rendition of the best possible solution. After the initial look at 44 projects in 2011 by 21 community members encompassing 18 months of debate, the recommendation from the Basin Management Plan Committee moved to the Board of Directors and then, in 2013, to the Ad Hoc Funding Committee. The last and final test will be the protest hearing this summer. Approval will allow us to proceed with the suite of projects and programs to "pay it forward" - to secure this incredible valley and its ability to produce the finest produce and products in the world.

The Ad Hoc Funding Committee consisted of 15 community members. The committee was tasked with finding a solution to spread the costs of the new Basin Management Plan to water users in a fair, legal and efficient manner to bolster the water supply for the important community within the PVWMA's sphere of influence. **This was No small task!!** With a colorful history of discussion as a back drop, there was a lot to weigh before the Funding Committee's final recommendation was presented to the board. Utilizing agency reserves to even out the charges for water, the committee made its recommendation to the board, which was subsequently approved. We are here this evening to present what we have found to be a solution that is legally defensible, economically sound and fairly distributed among the basin's water users. Importantly, our BMP solution has been described as the right way to manage an aquifer by water professionals throughout the state and federal government and has aligned us with the Governor's sustainability requirements. Our BMP plan and the funding process has put us way ahead of other basins and we are well on our way to securing the water future of this important valley. There is much more to do, and we need this communities support at the upcoming protest hearing to secure our future.

With that, I will turn it over to the crossed T's and dotted I's of the organization Mary Bannister and Brian Lockwood

Dave Cavanaugh, Ad Hoc Funding Committee Chair, Santa Cruz County Appointee