

MEMBER UNITS EXHIBIT NUMBER 71

**Status Report on Lompoc Negotiations
Section 3(d) of SWRCB Decision 94-5**

Summary of Negotiations over time
Approved by the Technical Committees

Agreement to Negotiate

In the course of attempts to resolve lead responsibility for negotiations and environmental review of the Cachuma Project Contract Renewal, the Cachuma Project Authority (CPA), which is a joint powers authority composed of the six water purveyors who use water from the Cachuma Project, entered into a contract with the City of Lompoc. This contract is entitled "Contract to Establish Negotiation Process Between City of Lompoc and Cachuma Project Authority." The purpose of the contract is to cause a negotiation between the City of Lompoc and the CPA which "addresses and resolves the City's (Lompoc) water quantity and quality concerns associated with the Cachuma Project's impacts, if any, on the Santa Ynez River." The contract set up Technical and Policy Committees, required Lompoc to define its water supply concerns within 60 days of the agreement execution, and stated that negotiations should be completed by February 7, 1994, unless the parties agree otherwise. The contract includes a provision which allows delegation of the negotiating responsibilities from the CPA Board to the CPA members. This delegation was done on September 27, 1993.

Meetings

Below is a list of the meetings that have been held under the auspices of this contract. There have also been meetings of Modeling and Water Management Alternative subcommittees.

- September 24, 1993 - "Pre-Initial Meeting" of the Technical Committees
- October 22, 1993 - "Initial" meeting of Technical Committees
- November 10, 1993 - Technical Committees
- November 29, 1993 - Technical Committees
- December 13, 1993 - Policy Committees

- May 20, 1994 - Technical Committees
- June 3, 1994 - Technical Committees
- June 15, 1994 - Policy Committees
- October 3, 1994 - Technical Committees
- November 7, 1994 - Technical Committees
- November 28, 1994 - Technical Committees
- December 19, 1994 - Policy Committees
- February 6, 1995 - Policy Committees
- March 16, 1995 - Technical Committees
- May 22, 1995 - Technical Committees

The initial meetings of the Technical Committees were exchanges of information and views on the water quantity and quality problems of the Lompoc Plain. As a result of these meetings, the Technical Committees proposed the creation of a Modeling Subcommittee to jointly oversee the preparation of an independent water quantity and quality evaluation of the Lompoc area. The goal of the proposal was to provide a readily available computer water model that would enable all of the interests along the Santa Ynez River to agree on technical aspects of the issue, and from there, establish consensus on how that water resource should be properly managed.

At the initial meeting, the subcommittee participants discussed the purposes and goals of the Modeling Subcommittee. It was agreed that the goals would include:

- Provision of a forum for facilitating the review and understanding of available information regarding the impacts of the Cachuma Reservoir on the groundwater supply and salinity in the Lompoc Plain.
- Development of a consensus, if possible, regarding the preferred approach for analyzing the water resources of the Lompoc Plain.

- Facilitation of the long-term development of models to be used in the management of water resources with the Santa Ynez River Basin.

The subcommittee consensus was to compare the estimates of groundwater recharge by Tim Durbin, Consultant for the City of Lompoc, to estimates that have been developed independently by Mr. Jon Ahlroth, Hydrologist for the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, and the USGS. The participants reached agreement on which information would need to be shared to accomplish the comparisons and the timing needed to accomplish the comparisons before the next scheduled meeting.

Modeling Subcommittee Progress

After formation, the Modeling Subcommittee reviewed the work of Mr. Durbin; Mr. Ahlroth updated the Santa Ynez River Model to include the years 1980 through 1991 (it actually goes through 1992 presently) so that its results are comparable to the results of the Durbin Model; Mr. Ahlroth developed a percolation model that produces results comparable to those of Mr. Durbin and considerable discussion occurred regarding these results. Based on the results of the modeling efforts and ensuing discussions, the following areas of agreement exist:

- The operations of the Cachuma Reservoir have had an impact on flows at the narrows in the range of 20,000-30,000 AFY.
- The operations of Cachuma Reservoir have had an impact on the amount of recharge from the Santa Ynez River in the Lompoc Plain.

There is no agreement on the magnitude of the effect on recharge, although the differences between estimates are not very large (1,300 AFY). The differences can be attributed to whether the conceptual model one uses includes substantial recharge downstream of Floradale Avenue Bridge in the "window" area and other areas below Floradale Avenue. See Table 1 for a comparison of the results of Mr. Durbin and Mr. Ahlroth. It appears that more work by Mr. Durbin (March 1995 Model Documentation) has narrowed the differences between Mr. Durbin's estimates and Mr. Ahlroth's.

Water Management Alternatives Subcommittee

After the initial progress report by the Water Modeling Subcommittee, the Technical Committees recommended that an additional subcommittee be established to investigate water management alternatives that might resolve Lompoc Plain water quality and quantity problems. The reason for this was the recognition that the technical issues regarding groundwater quality in the Lompoc Plain might be difficult and time consuming to resolve and that water management alternatives that are advantageous to both sides might be available. These alternatives perhaps could be pursued before or without coming to total or partial agreement on the reasons for groundwater problems in the Lompoc Plain. A study plan was produced by this subcommittee and distributed in late November 1994. Limited progress has been made with the study plan because of reasons discussed below.

Table 1. Modeling Results by Durbin and Ahlroth Period modelled is 1953 through 1991 Units are in acre feet per year (AFY) Based on work completed in June 1994			
	Durbin	Ahlroth	Difference
Historical Operation			
Flow at Narrows	67,800	66,600	1,200
Recharge	12,500	7,900	4,600
Without Cachuma			
Flow at Narrows	95,700	89,600	6,100
Recharge	14,800	8,900	5,900
Difference: Without Cachuma - Historical Operation			
Narrows Flow Difference	27,900	23,000	4,900
Recharge Difference	2,300	1,000	1,300

Proposals Offered

As initially noted, the Contract was entered into as part of a series of activities related to the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and Cachuma Project Members' positions on the renewal of the Cachuma Project Master Contract. The renewal process is due to be completed in May 1995. Late in 1994 (November-December), it was recognized by the negotiators that the work products they were attempting to complete would not be finished by that time. It was agreed by the participants that it would be worth the effort to attempt to present a proposal that might satisfy the City of Lompoc's concerns and allow the City to support the Cachuma Project Members' position in the discussions with the County Water Agency.

The Cachuma Project members made an offer in mid-December 1994 based principally on an exchange of State Project Water for the Cachuma Project Below Narrows Account water on a temporary basis until the technical issues could be agreed upon or until the hearing which is required under State Water Resources Control Board Order 94-5. This offer was made because Cachuma Project members believed it would provide an immediate water quality benefit, while the issue continued to be investigated by the negotiation participants. The offer was rejected by the Lompoc City Council.

At a subsequent (February 6, 1995) meeting of the Policy Committee, the Lompoc participants were asked to identify a proposal that would meet their needs. On February 10, 1995, a conceptual proposal by David Schuster, Consultant for the City of Lompoc, was distributed to Cachuma Project members. This proposal principally involved pumping of poor quality water from the shallow aquifers of the Lompoc Plain and discharging it to the ocean. The conceptual proposal was accompanied by analyses that showed potential benefits of this approach to the water quality in the producing aquifers of the Lompoc Plain. Cachuma Project Member participants wondered about the cost of the proposal, were skeptical of the practicality of the idea, but were willing to add it to the list of possible management solutions.

Spring 1995 Activities

The next meeting of the Technical Committees occurred on March 16, 1995. At that meeting, the participants discussed the shallow aquifer pumping proposal offered by the Lompoc negotiators, the documentation of the models used by the City of Lompoc consultants and delivered to the Cachuma Project members on the previous day, March 15, 1995, and discussed possible future activities. The City of Lompoc representatives promised to release a report on the historical impact of the Cachuma Project on the Lompoc ground water basin by April 1, 1995. The Lompoc representatives stated that they would release a report fully describing the shallow aquifer pumping proposal by June 15, 1995. The participants agreed that the review of the model documentation should move forward quickly. They set a tentative date for the next meeting for May 8, 1995 to discuss the results of that review, the review of the April 1 impacts document, and any other progress.

The following meeting of the Technical Committees occurred on May 22, 1995. The report promised on the impacts of the Cachuma Project on the Lompoc ground water basin by April 1, 1995, had not been released. Prior to the meeting, Barry Hecht (Balance Hydrologics) and Peter Pyle (Stetson Engineering), representing the commenting agencies, forwarded a number of comments on the model documentation to Mr. Durbin. Also, in the intervening time, Mr. Durbin had met with Peter Martin of the U.S. Geological Survey regarding corrections or refinements to the ground water flow and solute transport models for the the Lompoc Plain and ground water basin. These comments required changes to the models which may have significant changes to the results of any analyses. The participants discussed a process for completing changes to the models and agreed that review of the changes would take place with a smaller group very similar in composition to the original modeling subcommittee. This group was to meet outside of the Technical Committees' format.

Also at the meeting, the participants discussed the reasons for the nonrelease of the impacts report. The Lompoc participants stated that the report had been completed but they were unwilling to release the report because of concerns it might arouse in the

Lompoc area. The Cachuma Member Agency participants stated that a valid reason for nonrelease could have been forthcoming changes to the models that could substantially change the conclusions of the report. Lompoc participants confirmed that the former reason was the cause of nonrelease. Because of the changes to the models, the completion of the analysis of the shallow ground water pumping proposal would be delayed, as well. The next tentative meeting was scheduled for July 24, 1995.

Members of the Modeling Subcommittee met on July 7, 1995 to discuss their progress. The participants went through a substantial list of items that need to be accomplished. The subcommittee members also reviewed the inputs and assumptions of Mr. Durbin's "Above Narrows" module. Mr. Hecht and Mr. Pyle will be providing data and key simulative functions to help convert a basic "lumped parameter" model to an updated, more useful module. Mr. Durbin explained that the Lompoc City Council had authorized his work to complete these items by early October. Based on this information and because other items were not on the agenda, the scheduled July 24, 1995 meeting of the Technical Committees was postponed and will be rescheduled when progress on model updating makes a meeting worthwhile.