

**Lake Merced Task Force Water Committee
Meeting Minutes – 6/4/03**

Time/Place: 3:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M., PUC offices, 1155 Market, 11th Floor

Attendance:

Greg Bartow, Hydrogeologist, SF_PUC
Dick Allen, Co-Chair
John Plummer, Co-Chair
Tim Colen
Jerry Cadagan
David Dawdy
Mondy Lariz
Howard Strassner
Patrick Sweetland

Purpose of the meeting: General discussion, introducing Greg Bartow to the Committee. Greg has recently been retained as the hydrogeologist for the PUC. Greg comes to the PUC from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Committee took no formal actions. However, general agreement was reached on several issues.

Review of the Scalmanini report

The Committee has not been fully convinced that the lake level can be maintained with a “relatively small volume of water.” Experience with prior water additions indicated that increases in lake level following addition of as much as 2’ of water were observed to dissipate within a six-month period. Also, it was pointed out that the conclusions of the Scalmanini report, particularly with regard to the effect of lake level on water leakage, are in marked contrast to earlier reports, e.g., CH2M-Hill (1997), Merritt Smith Consulting (2001), and Katie Pilat, Leaving a Lake Legacy (2002). The Committee requested that the data supporting the Scalmanini reports of March 4 and March 27 be made available. Jerry Cadagan will follow up with Judge Cahill and the negotiating partners to see if that data can be released.

The Committee requested that we be provided a project plan for evaluating the response to proposed water additions at least one week prior to adding water to Lake Merced. Greg Bartow agreed to work with the Committee in the development of the plan. We are particularly concerned that as an attempt is made to validate very low leakage rates that variability in water loss due to other factors, e.g., evaporation rates as a function of ambient conditions, be accounted for as closely as possible.

Westside Basin modeling

Patrick Sweetland provided a copy of the Daly City AB303 report prepared by Gus Yates and John Fio. This report includes a MODFLOW model of the Westside Basin on CD, copies of which are available to anyone interested.

The Committee requested that the PUC take whatever action is needed to validate this model so that it can be incorporated into a generally accepted set of planning and evaluation tools. Further we requested that the Westside Basin Partners (Cities of Daly City, San Bruno South San Francisco (CalWater), and SFPUC) establish, and fund, a mechanism to maintain this model through various data acquisition and model update cycles.

Alternative sources of water to support Lake Merced

Greg Bartow reported that the PUC has concluded that the lake can be maintained at any targeted water level using one or more alternative sources of water. Four sources have been identified:

- Storm water via the Vista Grande Canal
- Ground water
- Recycled water
- System (Hetch-Hetchy) water

The PUC is currently investigating the impacts of these sources on variability of lake level, quantities of water needed, reliability of resource, water quality and public acceptance. The PUC will present a preliminary assessment of the sources at the July 9, 2003 LMTF Meeting.

The Committee requested that while these alternatives are being evaluated other approaches that may have potential not be taken off the table. Specifically, an approach to building a water mound in the shallow aquifer south of Lake Merced to further isolate the lake from the effect of pumping from the deep aquifer further south in the Westside Basin was described.

Next meeting

The Committee scheduled its next meeting for June 25, 3:00 P.M., in the PUC offices at 1155 Market, 11th Floor.

John Plummer
June 10, 2003