



**COUNTY OF PLACER  
FISH & GAME COMMISSION**

Ed King  
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner  
County Contact

**FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS**

<b>DISTRICT 1</b> Don Gould	<b>DISTRICT 2</b> Mark Fowler
<b>DISTRICT 3</b> Robert Haswell	<b>DISTRICT 4</b> Gary Flanagan
<b>DISTRICT 5</b> Kari Freidig	<b>DISTRICT 5</b> Ron Salter
<b>DISTRICT 5</b> Mickey Daniels	

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**PLACER COUNTY  
FISH & GAME COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2011**

**LOCATION: PLACER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ROOM  
Community Development Resource Agency, DeWitt Center, Auburn  
3091 County Center Drive (corner of Bell Road and Richardson Drive),**

The Placer County Fish & Game Commission is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in its public meetings. If you are hearing impaired, we have listening devices available. If you require additional disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Recording Secretary at (530) 889-7372. If requested, the agenda shall be provided in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. All requests must be received at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which you are requesting accommodation. Requests received after such time will be accommodated only if time permits.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Gary Flanagan, Chairman**
- II. ROLL CALL – Mark, Don, Mickey, Gary, Ron, Kari, Rob**
- III. APPROVAL OF Minutes FOR July 27, 2011.**

**Ron, Don seconded. All in favor. No opposed**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment***

**Muriel Davis, Penryn.** Ms. Davis asked the commission to review fish and wildlife impacts related to the Orchard at Penryn proposed development.

**V. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Budget Update – Ed King**

Expenditures to date for FY 11/12 total \$487.05, including \$216.66 in commissioner's fees, \$100.00 in secretary fees and \$170.39 in mileage reimbursement. Budgeted expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year total \$9882.95.

Revenues to date total \$68.01, including \$8.03 in fine monies and \$59.98 in interest. A total of \$1,200.00 was budgeted for the current fiscal year.

## **VI. AGENCY REPORTS**

### **A. Commission Updates**

Commissioner Salter reported on the Central Sierra Fish and Game commission that met in Placerville in August. This was only the second meeting of the group of loosely associated fish and game commissions. Discussed the MOU and decided they would have future meetings with agendas.

Commissioner Freidig reported about an article in the Auburn Journal describing the effects of a Facebook page that identifies businesses that do not bear proof their trash.

### **B. California Department of Fish & Game**

Warden Moore – Start of the busy time of the year. Compliance is high. Next weekend is X-Zone deer opener. The department wardens have been trained on the use of tasers.

There are no significant cases in Placer County. There are many people in the woods hunting right now.

### **C. Nevada Irrigation District**

Sue Sindt reported that NID is about to start to the retro fit of the gauging station at Auburn Ravine (it has been delayed). Water storage is above average.

### **D. Grant Proposal Update**

Application packets were sent out in early August to past recipients. The deadline is due October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Freidig requested the grant application be updated for 2012 so it may be completed online.

## **VII. PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED GARDEN BAR DAM ON THE BEAR RIVER - Brad Arnold, South Sutter Water District (SSWD) and Lyndel Melton, RMC Water and Environment**

Brad Arnold and Lyndel Melton gave a presentation to the commission on the preliminary study of construction of a dam on the Bear River at Garden Bar.

Nothing has been proposed now and they are in an evaluation phase.

Mr. Melton described:

- Reasons why SSWD is looking at this project
- Partners that are working with South Sutter Water District
- Objectives of the project
- Current supplies of water that SSWD uses
- Relicensing issues and supply from NID that would leave them with a shortfall
- The project has been around from the early 50's and been studied several times.
- Showed as series of four slides that showed different aerial views of the proposed new reservoir
- Showed the costs of each configuration and the water available from each configuration
- Opportunity to cooperate with partners

Next Steps: Confirm *desire to continue*

Commissioner Freidig asked who funded the study.

Lyndel: Each agency put up equal parts and that was \$200,000 each.

Commissioner Haswell asked about the water rights process and what primary and secondary water rights.

Lyndel: There are complex rules that govern moving water through the Sacramento Delta.

Commissioner Haswell indicated that the costs of the EIR would be between \$5 and \$8 million dollars. How will that be paid?

Lyndel: Need to address a broad range of issues to many different agencies and determine the funding. This will be a process in which they are looking for partners.

Commissioner Flanagan asked about how the groups would receive water from the Garden Bar Reservoir.

Lyndel: Garden Bar and Camp Far West would store water. When released from the reservoirs water would be distributed through the delta.

Commissioner Flanagan asked about the fluctuations in the reservoir. Wanted to know the yearly and daily level changes?

Lyndel: The fluctuations would be on an annual basis. This is not a pump storage project. This project would be a flow through reservoir.

Commissioner Friedig indicated she is concerned about the lands that would be inundated. \$9.5 million has been spent to restore the land. The historical sites will be lost. There is no recreational aspects in the report.

Lyndel: SSWD is concerned about the same issues and will address them if the project moves forward.

Commissioner Gould asked if the lake will be used for fishing and camping.

Lyndel: The reservoir will be operated like any other reservoir and will decline/increase like the other reservoirs. This is a preliminary report and they didn't get into those aspects. The Garden Bar Reservoir would be similar to the existing Camp Fire West Reservoir. Another side effect is that Camp Fire West would stay fuller throughout the summer.

Commissioner Fowler asked about NID plans for Lincoln expansion.

Lyndel: SSWD is aware of their plans.

Commissioner Haswell pointed out there are no agencies in Placer County that are on board with this project. Have you done any analysis on how fish and wildlife will be affected? And has SSWD looked at the fish and wildlife benefits to Placer County

Lyndel: No, they have not looked at that and it will be in the next part of the study.

Commissioner Flanagan asked, what would be the benefit to Placer County?

Lyndel: This project could benefit western Placer County in water storage and improved water availability.

Commissioner Gould asked if the Garden Bar Dam would generate hydroelectric power.

Lyndel: Yes, and the estimates included the estimates for power generation.

In Southern California, the cost per acre-foot is between \$1000 to \$4000.

Commissioner Fowler if the City of Roseville was involved?

Lyndel: No and they are interested in getting re-engaged.

Commissioner Flanagan asked why the Bay Area and Southern California districts are funding the investigation.

Lyndel: Basically, the local agencies don't have the water supply issues.

Commissioner Fowler asked how you mitigate the flooding of the areas in county. Can a water agency mitigate outside the county.

Lyndel: You have to investigate how to you compensate that for that loss. This has not be investigated or planned at this point.

**Public Comment:**

*Jeff Darlington from Placer Land Trust, Executive Director - 2767 acres will be covered by water. \$12.4 million have been invested to conserve lands in the Garden Bar area.*

Both the land trust and country are looking to provide hunting and fishing on the lands.

He indicates that third to half of the land owned by the land trust in the areawould be inundated by the water.

*Marty Coleman-Hunt – Nevada Land Trust and Bear Yuba Trust - On the Nevada county side of the river they have the same issues that Placer County trust have. Significant land trust properties will be flooded by a new reservoir.*

*Otis Wollan – former director for PCWA - This proposal is not about ag water. The Garden Bar Reservoir would be located between Coon Creek and Spenceville in the middle of the wildlife corridor and is prime Blue Oak woodland.*

*Terry Davis - Mother Load Chapter of the Sierra Club - Have special interest in the blue oak woodland. They oppose this dam.*

*Peter Van Zant – Sierra Watch - The southern groups are looking for water for new developments. There is no EIR currently planned. In the end, Placer County doesn't need the water. Placer and Nevada know the impacts and do not get any benefits. It is not necessary.*

*Olivia Diaz – Sierra Club* - The groups that want the water are desert communities. The places that are growing are going to always going to be starved for water.

*Jim Haagen-Smit* – Visited the Garden Bar area that has been preserved. Hopes that the public will be able to get into this area.

*Frank Rinella – Northern California Council of Federation of Fly Fishers - Director* - indicated his opposition to the plan.

*Ed Scofield – Chair of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors* – (speaks only for himself, not on behalf of the Nevada County BOS) - does not see any value in this project.

*Don Ravines – Sierra Foothill Audubon Society* – Garden Bar is one the most productive bird areas in the county.

*Jim Ricker* – has been involved in conservation. Seconded the opinions of the other speakers tonight.

*Jack Sanchez* – Wants people to take a look at the area.

*Mike Watson* – Manages the property on both sides of the river. He represents the owner of the land. He is willing to give tours of the property.

*Allen Eberhart* – Pointed out that as long as this reservoir proposal is under consideration, it will put a cloud over this whole area.

*Lisa Holderman* – Lives in the area and indicates that this area is important.

*Gary Estes – Protect American River Canyons*

Commissioner Haswell motioned that the Fish and Game Commission draft a letter to the Placer County Board of Supervisors opposing the construction of a dam on the Bear River at Garden Bar.

Commissioner Freidig seconded

All commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

## **VIII. PLACER COUNTY FISH & GAME COMMISSION OPERATING PROCEDURES – Approval of proposed Operating Procedures**

Commissioner Daniels is willing to accept the operating procedures if the Wildlife Shelter is added as an example.

Commissioner Salter motioned to approve the operating procedures with Daniels' additions.

Commissioner Gould seconded

All commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**IX. CENTRAL SIERRA ASSOCIATION OF FISH & GAME COMMISSIONERS**

Review and approval of the Placer County Fish & Game Commission's participation in the memorandum of understanding setting forth the governing and limiting actions of the Central Sierra Association of Fish & Game Commissioners

Commissioners discussed the MOU.

It is a board of sharing information, not one of action.

Commissioner Haswell motioned to adopt the MOU.

Commissioner Daniels seconded

All commissioners voted in favor of the motion

**X. STRATEGIC VISION COMMITTEE AND AB 2376**

Discussion of the California Natural Resources Agency's cabinet-level committee convened to develop a strategic vision for the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission

Commissioners discussed AB 2376, Hoover Report and Trainer report.

*Debbie Byrne – Chairperson, Yuba County Fish and Game Commission - informed the commission about the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Strategic Vision Committee.*

The website is <http://vision.ca.gov>

Commissioner Flanagan asked about the political nature of decisions the DFG makes.

Debbie indicated that decisions by DFG have to be scientific based.

Marilyn Jasper indicated that there is a public comment period.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT at 9:30**  
**Next meeting: October 26, 2011.**