



**COUNTY OF PLACER
FISH & GAME COMMISSION**

Ed King
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
County Contact

FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1 Don Gould	DISTRICT 2 Mark Fowler
DISTRICT 3 Vacant	DISTRICT 4 Gary Flanagan
DISTRICT 5 Kari Freidig	DISTRICT 5 Marc Wyatt
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

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**PLACER COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
MINUTES**

TIME/DATE: 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, March 23, 2016

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 – Kari Freidig

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Daniels, Flanagan, Fowler, Freidig
Absent: Gould, Wyatt

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR March 23, 2016 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 24, 2016

Agenda: Daniels/Fowler/MPUV
Minutes: Flanagan/Fowler/MPUV

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***

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Update – Ed King

Expenditures through February totaled \$2,366 including \$870 in commissioner's fees, \$895 in mileage reimbursement, \$270 for media services, and \$303 A-87 costs.

Court fines and penalty assessments through February totaled \$825. By comparison, in 2015, revenue through February totaled \$1,457, and in 2014, \$388.

As of today, the two restitution payments mentioned in February, totaling \$1,000, have finally been transferred into the Fish & Game Fund and are ready for use.

Fowler asked King for a status update on the 2016/2017 budget. King replied that next year's budget was submitted and includes the request for an additional \$2,000 for operating expenses.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Commission Updates

Daniels reported that Lake Tahoe is 0.2 feet below the rim.

Flanagan reported that he attended a field trip to Yolo Causeway, site of UC Davis' rice and salmon project. He stated that this is the fourth year of the project, in which salmon fry are released into flooded fallow rice fields; salmon experience two to three times the growth in a two-week period of fry raised elsewhere, and are so robust that they take only eight days to travel from the rice ranch to the Golden Gate Bridge. The process mimics the natural flooding of river floodplain that fish have evolved to experience. Funding may be available to rice farmers elsewhere who are willing to allow their fields to be used for the project.

Freidig asked whether fish would be able to find their way back if the fields weren't flooded in the future. Fowler stated that fish don't spawn in the fields; they're either collected at a hatchery or they spawn in gravel under the right water conditions. Flanagan pointed out that hatchery-spawned salmon have an immediate 30% mortality rate when placed into flooded rice fields, and the theory is that they starve waiting for food pellets to appear.

Flanagan explained that this process was not entrainment, which happens when fish follow the water flow into irrigation canals and get trapped when the water dries up and they can't get out. Flanagan stated that fish are deliberately placed in the flooded fields, and know to follow the water when the fields are drained into the river.

Freidig proposed to initiate having one Commissioner per meeting present highlights of issues happening in their district; each Commissioner would then only have to present once every seven meetings. Freidig hopes it would stimulate action items.

B. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee – Mark Fowler

The salmon fishing forecast is grim, and a shortened fishing season is possible. The season starts April 2nd and there's a two fish per day bag limit.

Comments regarding listing the tricolored blackbird as a threatened or endangered species are due June 1.

Recreational and commercial Dungeness crab fishing will be open March 26 south of the Sonoma-Mendocino county line. North of that line is still closed due to the presence of toxic algae.

CDFW reminds everyone that tax day is coming up, and at the bottom of CA Form 540 is the voluntary contributions section. Line 410 can be checked to donate to the California Sea Otter Fund, and line 403 is for the Rare and Endangered Species Fund. Checking the boxes will give you a tax deduction for the following year.

C. California Department of Fish & Wildlife – Lt. John Lawson

Lawson reported that turkey season was currently open for youth, and general season was opening this weekend.

Lawson reported on his observation of water levels. Raised levels are causing erosion, which turns the water murky, so fishing is difficult.

Fowler requested confirmation for times of day when turkey hunting is approved. Freidig asked if there were two turkey seasons per year. Lawson confirmed, stating that only bearded birds can be taken in spring, which usually are toms. Any sex can be hunted in fall. The general season runs for one month, ending May 1 for guns; archery ends two weeks later.

D. Nevada Irrigation District/PCWA

Ben Ransom, PCWA

March Update:

French Meadows is at 5,218' (81,000 AF)

Hell Hole is at 4,558' (129,500 AF)

Combined storage is about 108% of average

Snowpack in American River watershed about 110% of average

Forecasting reservoirs to fill

Folsom is at 433' (640,000 AF); Reclamation forecasting Folsom to fill in May

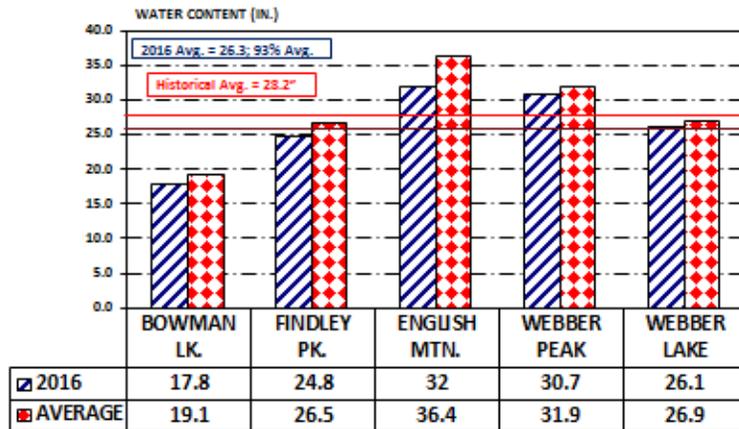
Sue Sindt, NID

The water supply picture has continued to improve with the above average precipitation in March. As of now the mandatory restrictions remain on our treated water customers with a target reduction of 33%. The State Board is going to revisit the regulation in April and hopefully will reduce the restriction at least for the Sacramento region that has seen great improvement. The District will be requesting to be placed in a lower tier based on improved local conditions.

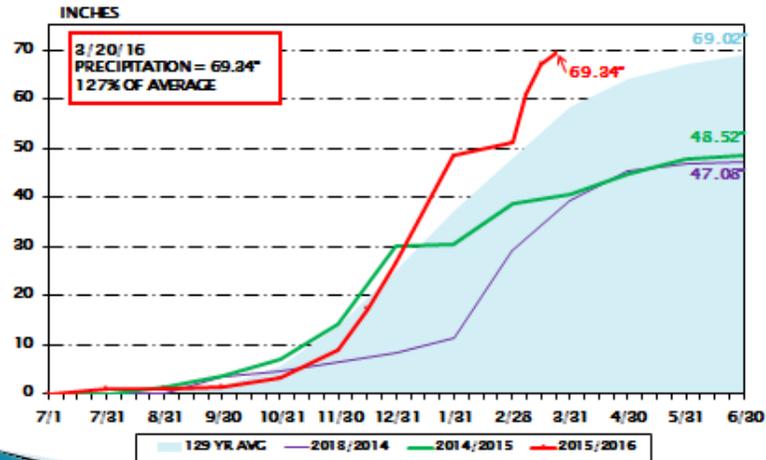
For the Agricultural customers NID expects to make full deliveries and have accepted applications for new services and requests for increases from existing customers.

There is always a possibility of water right curtailments, but they do not seem likely with the current conditions. Even if curtailed there could only be a minimal impact, since NID has adequate water in storage.

NID SNOW SURVEY March 1, 2016



BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NON-ACTION ITEMS

VII. Mitch Lockhart, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Status of American River Hatchery & 2016 Planting Schedule

Lockhart presented a PowerPoint display to explain what led to the 2015 American River Hatchery fish kill, the current forecast for the fishery, and status reports for Northern California reservoirs.

VIII. Adjournment

7:20 PM