

# Salinas Valley Water Coalition



P.O. Drawer 2670 • Greenfield, CA 93927  
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MARCH 2002

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER

The Salinas Valley Water Coalition is having their Annual Membership Dinner March 21<sup>st</sup> --- and **You Are Invited!**

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**No-Host Bar 6:00 PM**  
**Dinner 7:00 PM**  
**Gonzales American Legion Hall**  
**419 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Gonzales**

Please plan on joining us – bring a friend and **“Come Hear How the Valley is Working Together” – the cost allocation process and more.** As usual we have several raffle and door prizes, good cheer and fun! Please RSVP to Joann at 674-3783.

## COST ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency appointed a Cost Allocation Committee last year. The Cost Allocation Committee will be charged with developing a framework for identification of benefits and allocation of costs associated with the Salinas Valley Water Project, along with revising the water standby and availability charges for Zones 2 and 2A.

The Salinas Valley Water Coalition believes it is important that the restructuring of Zones 2/2A be accomplished and that the results be (1) based on good science, (2) be equitable, and (3) reflect understandable and proportional cost-benefit analysis.

The Committee has met on a monthly basis and will have its ninth, and hopefully final, meeting the end of this month. To date the Committee has ‘conceptually’ agreed to the following:

### Zone 2 and 2A

- **Recommend the formation of one “super” zone by combining Zones 2 and 2a in accordance with the Engineer’s Report and Map prepared for the Ad-Hoc Committee. The SVWC Board of Directors supports this recommendation based on the belief that the combining of the two zones will provide the Agency and the landowners with greater flexibility regarding the operation and maintenance of the two reservoirs, and will allow them to continue to be operated as a ‘system’.**
- **Recommend utilization of the ‘matrix’ developed by the Ad-Hoc Committee for the ‘super’ zone for distributing the benefits and associated costs of existing reservoir operation. The matrix uses a ratio of 1 to 4.7 for distributing the costs – with the Arroyo Seco sub-area being 1 and the Pressure sub-area being 4.7.**
- **Recommend distributing the benefits and associated costs to the sub-areas including a near-river and away-from-river category for the Upper Valley, Forebay and Pressure Areas. This recommendation is based on the belief that this is the best way to account for the flood control benefits.**

Come to the Coalition’s annual dinner and hear more about this and the Proposition 218 ballot process that will allow you to vote on how your property may be assessed.

## **MCWRA BOARD MEMBERS**

The Salinas Valley Water Coalition welcomes new Agency Board member, Mary Mecartney. We say good-bye to Liz Williams as a Board member and welcome her as a public member on the Agency's Finance Committee. This is a critical year for the Agency and it is important that they maintain a strong leadership role within the community. It is equally as important that the community maintains a strong leadership role and continues to work with the Agency and together so that we can implement a project that will solve the Valley's water problems.

**WE ALSO WELCOME OUR SOON-TO-BE NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR, 'BUTCH' LINDLEY!**

## **MONTEREY COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

The County's draft General Plan is a much-discussed topic these days. Please know that the Coalition Board and its Consultant are following the process carefully and completing an in-depth review of the document as it pertains to water issues. **Here are a couple of the statements we have found alarming:**

**“ Water: The Plan lays out a framework to manage water resources as one overall county effort, requiring that we live within the capacity of our resources. It limits existing**

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**and new uses to levels that will not further harm our groundwater aquifers. Until new water supplies are obtained (through importation or other means), water extraction from over-drafted aquifers is to be metered and carefully limited.”**

Many groups have voiced concern regarding the fast-track the General Plan process seems to be taking. It appears that the Planning Commission is listening and have many of the same concerns expressed by the public. The Planning Commission will hold its first public 'work meeting' on April 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm and then again at 6:00 PM that evening. Please plan on attending and voicing your concerns.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- ◆ **March 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 pm: SVWC Annual Dinner – Gonzales American Legion Hall**
- ◆ **March 25<sup>th</sup> , 9:00 am MCWRA BOD Budget workshop on Zone 2/2a;**
- ◆ **March 25<sup>th</sup> , 1:00 pm MCWRA BOD meeting**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE  
SALINAS VALLEY WATER  
COALITION!**

*Published by Salinas Valley Water Coalition  
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