



Mission statement of McKinleyville Community Services District:
“Provide McKinleyville with safe and reliable water, wastewater, lighting, open space, parks and recreation, and library services in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner.”

Supplemental Agenda Packet Items

- 1. Comments received for Items E.4 and E.5 regarding BMX Track.**
- 2. Possible Addition to the Agenda – Consider Approval of District becoming Signatory to Western Water letter to the 117th Congress**

April Sousa

From: Keith Hamm [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 8:22 PM
To: April Sousa; Pat Kaspari; John Corbett; Mary Burke; David Couch; Dennis Mayo; Shel Barsanti; mckinleyvillemac@gmail.com; smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us
Subject: PROPOSED BMX TRACK IN MCKINLEYVILLE

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To: Whom it May Concern:
From: Keith Hamm
RE: Proposed McKinleyville BMX Track

I am submitting comments concerning the proposed bmx track in McKinleyville. I have lived in the adjacent neighborhood for the past 20 years raising a family and contributing to our community. I would like to express concern for the perceived contribution this project will add to the community and the ambiguous reporting supporting this project as published in the Mad River Union dated January 26, 2020 and September 14, 2020. Both of which I provide links to.

In the January article, it is stated that "Orlandi said that local BMX riders have been without a track for about a year and a half since the closure of the track at Redwood Acres in Eureka. The fair decided to close the track so it could use the land for other uses."

I must refute this information per a discussion I had with a current Redwood Acres Fairgrounds representative, who said that "The BMX Club was charged a nominal fee for the use of that space and had difficulties paying and chose to leave." In the September article, Mr. Orlandi states that "The track would likely be open for public use except for during races sanctioned, and insured, by the American Bicycle Association." I am concerned by the word likely. Will this be conditional and/or would 'open to the public' mean the public is allowed to join the bmx club, pay regular dues, and be required to purchase sanctioned gear and bikes, as how it was operated at Redwood Acres?

In tracking the reported costs of this project, it has gone from 50K to over 100K. These costs seem to not include potential County requirements of paving, sidewalks and drainage. It is not stated but I am assuming that the proposed Washington st. access idea, was eliminated due to the drainage problems and lack of sidewalk that exist along that stretch of heavily used road. Which to me means that this problem will continue to exist and potentially be compounded with the development and we will still be left with a dangerously narrow, high traffic road with poor drainage and no sidewalk or bike lane.

My concerns center around misleading and or ambiguous statements that should concern the entire community. What happens if this completed project becomes unsustainable? Who incurs the costs then for an unsustainable or abandoned bmx track? If being open to the public means paying regular dues, then how accessible is that? The proposed playground is not conditional and as history has shown, if it's not conditional then the likelihood is minimal. If statements made by Mr. Orlandi, concerning his reasons for leaving Redwood Acres are false, then I would take extreme caution with any unsupported data, financial projections or proposed community benefits used to garner support for this project. As a note to the reported support referenced in the September article, "I personally think this is a great use of the property, McKinleyville resident Greg Orsini said during public comments." The author should have referred to Mr. Orsini as the General Manager of MCSD, not simply as McKinleyville resident. I have yet to see reported results of a community survey sent out by MCSD this past summer. While newspaper reports and committee minutes refer to very supportive feedback, I know for a fact that the survey results would reflect some genuine concerns not yet addressed.

In conclusion, I propose that the Board take a more serious look into the suitability, accessibility and sustainability of this project in this location.

<https://madriverrunion.com/new-mckinleyville-bmx-track-gets-big-buy-in/>
<https://madriverrunion.com/mckinleyville-gets-rolling-on-a-new-bmx-track/>

Respectfully,
Keith Hamm



[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

McKinleyville Community Services District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 6, 2020

TYPE OF ITEM: **ACTION**

ITEM: E.10 **Consider Approval of District becoming Signatory to Western Water letter to the 117th Congress**

PRESENTED BY: **Patrick Kaspari, General Manager**

TYPE OF ACTION: **Roll Call Vote**

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board review information provided, discuss, take Public Comment and approve becoming signatory to January 7, 2021 Western Water Letter to the 117th session of Congress.

Discussion:

A number of “Western farmers, ranchers, water providers, businesses and communities who provide the food our nation relies upon through use of millions of acres of productive land, as well as many of the local and regional public water agencies that supply water to over fifty million Western urban, suburban and rural residents” have prepared a letter to the 117 session of Congress (Attachment 1). The gist of the letter is to ask Congress to consider, as part of the economic stimulus measures to help the country recover from the negative impacts of COVID-19, the shortcomings of aging agricultural and rural water infrastructure in any future infrastructure or recovery package.

We heard about the letter on January 4, 2021. The intent is to deliver the letter on January 7th. MCSD Board approval to be a signatory would have to happen at the January 6th Board Meeting, which is why this agenda item was added to the January Board Agenda.

Alternatives:

Staff analysis consists of the following potential alternative

- Take No Action

Fiscal Analysis:

No impact unless Congress approves additional funding.

Environmental Requirements:

Not applicable

Exhibits/Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – January 7, 2021 Western Water Letter to Congress
- Attachment 2 – List of Signatories to Western Water Letter

January 7, 2021

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

As you consider further economic stimulus measures during the 117th session of Congress to help our country recover from the negative impacts of COVID-19, we urge that you address the shortcomings of our aging Western agricultural and rural water infrastructure in any future infrastructure or recovery package. We represent thousands of Western farmers, ranchers, water providers, businesses and communities who provide the food our nation relies upon through use of millions of acres of productive land, as well as many of the local and regional public water agencies that supply water to over fifty million Western urban, suburban and rural residents. Our organizations collectively believe that federal investment in a diversified water management portfolio is essential. Such a portfolio **MUST** be included as essential infrastructure in the next infrastructure or recovery package.

The American West's farmers and ranchers have responded to COVID-19 by developing new ways to grow the nation's food supply while protecting workers on the frontlines, and keeping the nation fed. But the COVID-19 crisis, as with all industries, has revealed weaknesses in agriculture that must be addressed. Our nation clearly needs a stable domestic food supply that both nourishes Americans and safeguards national security. Food security is an issue everyone should be taking more seriously. We cannot wait until the supermarket shelves are empty to take action to protect our ability to feed ourselves and much of the world.

Our nation's water suppliers are also critical service providers. Agricultural and municipal water providers have worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 crisis to provide uninterrupted water service and wastewater treatment for irrigation, major cities, at risk communities, and businesses.

To ensure that food can continue to be safely and affordably produced in the West, and that communities, large and small, continue to have access to the water critical to their economies and their health, our organizations believe that critical water supply and wastewater treatment reliability improvements must be included as a necessary part of any federal infrastructure investment. Providing a stable water future for the West will also strengthen our rural communities who often struggle to address water quantity and quality challenges. Beyond longer-term impacts to the West, these infrastructure projects would also bring vital construction jobs which will greatly benefit rural communities impacted by COVID-19 in their efforts to recover. Nationwide, we believe American jobs will also benefit as equipment and materials for these water projects will be provided by American firms.

It has never been more critical that our country prioritize the initial and continual investment in Western water infrastructure necessary to meet current and future demands. Existing water and wastewater infrastructure in the West is aging, as most of the federal water infrastructure projects that benefit our Western communities, from the largest cities to the smallest farms, were built more than 50 years ago. Now, they are in desperate need of rehabilitation and improvement.

In addition, as hydrological conditions in the West change and populations expand, the impacts from our failure to address aging water infrastructure has become increasingly acute, raising serious questions about the system's continued viability without immediate attention. By investing in improvements to water infrastructure and expanding useable supplies today, we believe the nation can prevent a breakdown in the water supply and irrigation systems across the landscape, which could avoid further shortening of supplies and the potential for increased conflict over water supplies.

Pressure is growing to 'solve' current urban and environmental water shortages by simply moving water away from Western irrigated agriculture. If this continues, we will see rising conflict between agricultural, rural, urban and environmental stakeholders, as well as a further decline in our national food security. A visionary bipartisan federal infrastructure package should seek to bolster our aging water infrastructure to keep water flowing to our nation's farms and ranches simultaneous to making improvements for cities and the environment.

Our organizations collectively believe that federal investment in water conservation, water recycling, watershed management, conveyance, desalination, water transfers, groundwater storage, and surface storage is urgently needed for a diversified water management portfolio and that such a portfolio MUST be included as essential infrastructure in the next infrastructure or recovery package. Specific recommended actions include:

- Water conservation, one of the most cost-effective actions that can positively affect water supply stability, needs to continue to be aggressively pursued in conjunction with new water storage and other actions.
- New funding will be needed to kick-start new water recycling, reuse and desalination projects currently being studied or that are ready for construction.
- Additional funding should support new reservoir facilities and operations at existing dams to address climate change risks.
- Programs that fund water conservation and management improvements, fish passage and recovery, and habitat restoration - all in support of water project operations in the Reclamation states of the West, are in need of additional funding to accelerate construction of this "ready-to-go" infrastructure. Bipartisan legislation, including the *Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act*, among others, lay out a comprehensive vision for how multiple objectives like this can be achieved.
- Environmentally and hydrologically sound investments in new water storage – both surface water and groundwater in order to adapt to a changing hydrology and develop usable and sustainable supplies to meet growing demands for water. We believe that water storage projects should be geared to local circumstances and needs. In some cases, storage projects will be above ground, in others they will be below ground. Additionally,

some will be traditional construction using American steel and concrete, while others will be ‘green’ natural infrastructure projects - all dependent on the wide variety of local needs in place across the West.

- The federal government must remain an active financial partner and expand its involvement in finding 21st century solutions to these water problems in the West. It can do so, either through direct funding to help meet these needs or by developing and expanding federal financing mechanisms (such as the EPA’s *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act*) that have a very low cost to the Treasury and to taxpayers. Future tax legislation should preserve tax-exempt financing and also restore the ability to issue tax-exempt advance refunding bonds.
- Additional federal funding for affordable long-term loans from the Bureau of Reclamation to local districts operating and maintaining federally-owned irrigation projects. These local entities are in need of affordable financing for immediate extraordinary repairs and rehabilitation on their federally-owned canals and water delivery structures as was highlighted in the bipartisan *Water Supply Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Utilization Act*. Most, if not all, of these major construction projects are ready to proceed if direct financing was made available. In short, water resource infrastructure investments should be made more attractive and affordable for the non-federal entities responsible for maintaining these critical facilities.
- Water quality challenges are also critical factors in many communities across the rural West. Many of these challenges can be positively impacted by the proposals above. As an example, an increase in water supply flowing to rural communities can help stabilize water needs. New supplies can be recharged into aquifers, which can help improve underlying water quality. This is especially important in rural areas where groundwater aquifers have been significantly depleted and water levels are critical. Often those communities are faced with the twin challenge of not having enough water for their needs and the water they have being of poor quality. Enhanced water supplies, environmental projects and new conveyance systems can help provide water as well as help recharge depleted aquifers, which in turn help improve rural communities’ water quantity and quality over time.
- Beyond monetary assistance, the federal government should also bring forward policy changes that help ensure that water projects are built in a timely fashion. Making funding available for projects is useless if projects take decades to be approved. In the past, Congress has, on a bipartisan basis, put forward significant efforts to improve the efficiency of environmental regulation and permitting processes for other types of infrastructure development. Water infrastructure should not be treated any differently and any infrastructure package should address this concern by streamlining the regulations and permitting processes for water projects. Commonsense process improvements were

included in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* and can be used as a model for success, as well as others, to ensure timely construction of projects.

- Finally, in order to respond to current and future water shortages, Congress must also encourage federal agencies to implement a more cooperative approach toward achieving multiple goals under existing environmental laws and regulations. And, where such approaches are currently in law, Congress should encourage these agencies to use any and all flexibilities under the law to act with the urgency and promptness that this crisis demands.

As you are already aware, water infrastructure investments not only provide immediate short-term economic benefits and create jobs – vital to a nation facing massive job loss – they are the foundation that the economy will need for the foreseeable future.

If and when additional infrastructure funding is discussed as part of a larger economic stimulus package, we need your help to ensure that federal dollars flow and timely improvements are constructed to our nation’s critical aging water infrastructure needs.

We look forward to working with you to address this critical need and national security interest.

Sincerely,

List of Organizations Supporting Western Water Letter (December 29, 2020)

A&B Irrigation District (IDAHO)
Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona
American AgCredit
American Agri-Women
Arnold Irrigation District (OREGON)
Arizona Cattle Feeders Association
Arizona Cotton Growers Association
Arizona Farm and Ranch Group
Arizona Farm Bureau
Association of California Water Agencies
Biggs-West Gridley Water District (CALIFORNIA)
Black Canyon Irrigation District (IDAHO)
Boise-Kuna Irrigation District (IDAHO)
Browns Valley Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
Butte Water District (CALIFORNIA)
California Agricultural Irrigation Association
California Alfalfa & Forage Association
California Apple Commission
California Avocado Commission
California Bean Shippers Association
California Blueberry Association
California Blueberry Commission
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Alliance
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association
California Farm Bureau
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Walnut Commission
California Warehouse Association
California Water Service
California Women for Agriculture
Carlsbad Irrigation District (NEW MEXICO)
Central California Irrigation District
Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District
Central Oregon Irrigation District
Central Valley Project Water Association (CALIFORNIA)
Charleston Drainage District (CALIFORNIA)
City of Shasta Lake (CALIFORNIA)
CoBank
Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Colorado River Water District (COLORADO)
Colorado Water Congress
Columbia Basin Development League (WASHINGTON)
Columbia Canal Company (CALIFORNIA)

Del Puerto Water District (CALIFORNIA)
Deschutes Basin Board of Control (OREGON)
Dolores Water Conservancy District (COLORADO)
Dunnigan Water District (CALIFORNIA)
Eagle Field Water District (CALIFORNIA)
East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (WASHINGTON)
Electrical District #3 of Pinal County (ARIZONA)
Elephant Butte Irrigation District (NEW MEXICO)
Family Farm Alliance
Farm Credit Council
Farmers Conservation Alliance (OREGON)
Farwell Irrigation District (NEBRASKA)
Far West Equipment Dealers Association
Fremont-Madison Irrigation District (IDAHO)
Fresno Madera Farm Credit, ACA (CALIFORNIA)
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (NORTH DAKOTA)
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties (CALIFORNIA)
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Idaho Farm Bureau
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute
Idaho Water Users Association
Imperial Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association (CALIFORNIA)
Kings River Conservation District (CALIFORNIA)
Kittitas County Farm Bureau (WASHINGTON)
Kittitas Reclamation District. (WASHINGTON)
Kittitas County Timothy Hay Growers & Suppliers (WASHINGTON)
Klamath Irrigation District (OREGON)
Klamath Water Users Association (CALIFORNIA / OREGON)
Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation & Drainage District (ARIZONA)
Mercy Springs Water District (CALIFORNIA)
Meridian Farms Water Company (CALIFORNIA)
Modesto Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
Montana Farm Bureau
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (CALIFORNIA)
National Onion Association
National Water Resources Association
Natomas Mutual Water Company (CALIFORNIA)
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
Nevada Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
New Magma Irrigation and Drainage District (ARIZONA)
New Mexico Chile Association
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
North Dakota Water Users Association
Northern California Water Association

North Side Canal Company (IDAHO)
North Unit Irrigation District (OREGON)
Ochoco Irrigation District (OREGON)
Olive Growers Council of California
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Potato Commission
Oregon Water Resources Congress
Orland Unit Water Users Association (CALIFORNIA)
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
Panoche Drainage District (CALIFORNIA)
Panoche Water District (CALIFORNIA)
Pioneer Irrigation District (IDAHO)
Portneuf Irrigating Company (IDAHO)
Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
Provident Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
Queen Creek Irrigation District (ARIZONA)
Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District (WASHINGTON)
Reclamation District No. 108 (CALIFORNIA)
Reclamation District 1500 (CALIFORNIA)
Richvale Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
River Garden Farms (CALIFORNIA)
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Roza Irrigation District (WASHINGTON)
Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control (WASHINGTON)
Sacramento River Settlement Contractors Corporation (CALIFORNIA)
San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District (ARIZONA)
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (CALIFORNIA)
San Juan Water District (CALIFORNIA)
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (CALIFORNIA)
San Luis Canal Company (CALIFORNIA)
Salt River Project (ARIZONA)
Sargent Irrigation District (NEBRASKA)
Solano Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (WASHINGTON)
Southwestern Water Conservation District (COLORADO)
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
South Valley Water Association (CALIFORNIA)
South Yuba Water District (CALIFORNIA)
Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (WASHINGTON)
Sutter Extension Water District (CALIFORNIA)
Sutter Mutual Water Company (CALIFORNIA)
Swalley Irrigation District (OREGON)
Tehama Colusa Canal Authority (CALIFORNIA)
Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (NEVADA)
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (CALIFORNIA)
Tulelake Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)

Tumalo Irrigation District (OREGON)
Turlock Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
United Water Conservation District (CALIFORNIA)
Utah Farm Bureau
Ventura County Agricultural Association (CALIFORNIA)
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington State Water Resources Association
Western Canal Water District (CALIFORNIA)
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Growers Association
Yosemite Farm Credit (CALIFORNIA)
Yuba Water Agency (CALIFORNIA)