

# Post Event Summary

## Event: DACIP Water Talks Ventura 111 – Piru

IRWM Region	Ventura County	Date and Time	March 10, 2020 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Community Engagement Partner	Friends of the Santa Clara River	Location	Piru Elementary School 3811 Center Street Piru, CA 93040
Event Facilitator Contact	Holly Wright	Community Member Attendance	Under 18 years old: (1-5) Over 18 years old: (11-20)
Event Facilitator Contact Email	hollyjessicawright@gmail.com	Water Service Provider Attendance	Unable to get in contact with California American Water representative.

Prior to the event, Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR) had done two afternoons of outreach. First outreach was the week before, putting up flyers and informing local store owners and businesses including the packing house, the school, and the boys and girls club. The same week FSCR made an announcement at the council meeting, which was also attended by Supervisor Kelly Long, the Superintendent of Fillmore School District, Ventura County Public Works, and United Water. On the Monday before the meeting FSCR went door to door and spoke to many homeowners so more of the community did know about the program than made it to the meeting.

Concerns about Coronavirus had also been risen ahead of the lockdown. FSCR did receive a few inquiries on our Friends of the Santa Clara office line to confirm that the event was still on.

Eleven community attendees signed in, all over 18. The demographic were homeowners over 31 who speak English as a first language. A translator was available but was not needed. Two members of the neighborhood council came, and community members who are active in council meetings. All said they came specifically because the subject matter was water.

There were three presenters as well as the general presentation:

Ewelina Mutkowska from Ventura County Stormwater Management explained the new stormwater management infrastructure in Piru and showed the permeable hardscape material model; Tony Emmert from United Water Conservation District and Executive Director of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency explained what United and GSA do and how our groundwater is managed; JoAnn Torres from Ventura County Public Health Dept described why there is advocacy for adding fluoride to tap water. Each presenter spoke for about 15 minutes each including questions.

There was interest in the Santa Clara River and its conservation. FSCR had a table and watershed map but did not make a specific presentation on the river. FSCR did have seed packets of local native plants that support pollinators and there was a lot of positive interest in topics around river conservation and why ecological protections is important for climate balance,

natural resource sustainability as well as for wildlife habitat and recreation. It is a subject that weaves into urban greening also as well as environmental health and education.

One community member whose family go back a generation at least in Piru said they were not concerned about water quality nor their mother who drinks tap water. However, two other attendees did not feel confident and felt very detached from the Water Service Provider. Most of the community were aware of the change in their Water Service Providers and were concerned that this would raise rates and make it even harder to get direct contact to customer service. FSCR encouraged them to keep a note of questions other community members have so they could be represented at the next meeting.

The neighborhood council leader said they would like to have a follow up Water Talk style meeting at a future council meeting.

This community does not have a municipal advisory committee, and this program has been worthwhile in providing this community a forum to address their water concerns.



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