

January 8, 2018  
Special Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Joe Tonascia, Vice President Sonny Flores and Directors John Tobias, Frank Bettencourt and Bob Huenemann. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel, Water Resources Technician Dustin Franco and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Tonascia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Tonascia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

With a motion by Vice President Flores and a second by Director Tobias, the Agenda was unanimously approved.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing, Annual Groundwater Report**

Mrs. Mauro verified the Proof of Publication.

**2. Public Hearing regarding 2017 Annual Groundwater Report**

Mr. Cattaneo introduced Iris Priestaf and Maureen Reilly from Todd Groundwater who will present the findings of the report via a PowerPoint Presentation.

**a. Presentation of Report**

Ms. Priestaf began with a review of the agenda for the presentation. 2017, at a glance, Ms. Priestaf stated was a wet year, with a 100% CVP allocation, which was critical. She is cautiously optimistic about the groundwater recovery. Ms. Priestaf reported total use for the basin was down slightly with about 55% of the supply provided by groundwater. Also, recycled water was actively used. The District's monitoring networks do need attention and that will be helpful as the District prepares their Groundwater Sustainability Plan, as a part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). She also reviewed water years dating back to 1976 to the present.

Ms. Reilly reported the overall water use was 36,000 AF. In reviewing the basins, she stated while 2015 was extremely dry, 2017 was extremely wet. Ms. Reilly added their recommendation would be to revise the water balance methodology for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Ms. Reilly then reviewed the in and out flows from 2006 through 2017.

President Tonascia asked, in a wet year, how long does it take to measure the water levels. Ms. Reilly stated it depends on many factors such as geology, soil and timing. Mr. Cattaneo added the location of well is also a factor.

Director Bettencourt asked how often the District checks the monitoring wells. Mr. Cattaneo stated the same time each year, in late September to early October.

Ms. Priestaf stated 2017 is a milestone year for the District as it became the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for San Benito County. Discussion ensued about how to add the Tres Pinos basin into our GSP. Also discussed was having an MOU with Santa Clara Valley Water District for basin boundary modifications.

Ms. Priestaf then gave an update on the State grant Todd Groundwater has applied for on the District's behalf. This grant is for SGMA planning. She stated the good news is that there is \$85.3 million available and \$86.4 million has been requested. Ms. Priestaf stated the schedule is for an announcement sometime in the spring for the results of the grant distribution. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan process was reviewed with the Board. Mr. Cattaneo added the District will have to establish fees/charges to operate as a GSA.

Ms. Priestaf stated the outlook for next year is that there is potential for some recovery of the groundwater basin. The uncertainty of CVP water will continue. It is recommended the District seeks ways to increase storage capacity for CVP water and also to enhance its ability to monitor the water in the basin which will assist staff with the management of the basin.

The recommendation for Zone 6, per Ms. Priestaf, is for the District to charge \$7.95 per acre foot for Agricultural water and \$24.25 per acre foot for M & I water. Also, the District should continue with groundwater production and replenishment and proceed with SGMA.

**b. Questions of Directors**

There were no further questions from the Directors.

**c. Open Public Hearing**

President Tonascia opened the Public Hearing.

There were no questions from the public.

**d. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date**

With no questions, President Tonascia closed the Public Hearing.

**3. Acceptance of 2017 Annual Groundwater Report**

**a. Consider Adoption of Statement of Findings and Recommendations**

With a motion by Director Bettencourt and a second by Director Tobias, the Board of Directors unanimously Adopted the Statement of Findings and Recommendations.

- b. Consider Acceptance of 2017 Annual Groundwater Report**  
With a motion by Vice President Flores and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors unanimously Accepted the 2017 Annual Groundwater Report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Approved at the February 28, 2018 board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

*/s/Joe Tonascia*  
Joe Tonascia, President

*/s/Barbara L. Mauro*  
Barbara L. Mauro, Board Clerk