

January 13, 2014  
Special Meeting  
6:02 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 6:02 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: Vice President Joe Tonascia and Directors Frank Bettencourt, Sonny Flores and Joe Torquato; President Tobias arrived late. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Deputy District Engineer Dale Rosskamp and Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Tonascia called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice President Tonascia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Approval of Minutes for: December 18, 2013 Regular Meeting**

With a motion by Director Torquato and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Minutes from December 18, 2013 were unanimously approved.

*(President Tobias arrived at 6:04 p.m.)*

**2. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing**

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication for tonight's public hearing.

**3. Public Hearing regarding 2013 Annual Groundwater Report**

Mr. Cattaneo stated Iris Priestaf and Maureen Reilly from Todd Engineers will be giving the Board the presentation. Mr. Cattaneo added the primary focus of this year's report was water quality changes but he also asked that they report on the groundwater levels in the basin due to the drought.

**a. Presentation of Report**

Ms. Priestaf, using a PowerPoint presentation, began with an overview. She reported there is a lot of data contained in the report. Todd Engineers worked closely with District staff and reviewed how the data is double and triple checked for this report. Ms. Priestaf stated how important this report is to the District.

Ms. Priestaf reported 2013 was an extremely dry year; the driest since 1977. She reported groundwater use has increased significantly. Ms. Priestaf stated the District uses its available tools to manage its CVP allocation.

Ms. Priestaf reviewed the management activities at the District over the past year. One of the most significant activities was the Pajaro River Watershed Integrated Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Mostly notably, a grant was awarded for

\$7.5 million, with \$4.1 million being dedicated to the Hollister Urban Water and Wastewater Master Plan (HUAWWMP). Some of the programs that are a part of the IRWMP are the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan, the Recycled Water Plan, the Lessalt WTP upgrade, the West Hills WTP and the North County groundwater studies. Other management activities include water conservation, which is especially important in a dry year, and managed percolation of the District's water.

Ms. Reilly continued the presentation, discussing the District's water sources and uses. Ms. Reilly stated there are four water sources; groundwater, CVP imported water, recycled water and local surface water. She reported that while the CVP water allocation was down, ag groundwater pumping was up. Ms. Reilly also discussed groundwater storage and stated the Hollister West area and the San Juan Valley have both decreased in water storage. For the short term, groundwater pumping is fine, but long term, with dry years, other sources will be needed in addition to the groundwater.

Regarding water quality, Ms. Reilly reported that TDS and Nitrates levels are reviewed. San Benito County has a naturally high level of TDS, and the concentration is higher this year. Also, Ms. Reilly stated there was a spike in monitoring well #31 and suggested a closer look at this well. Ms. Reilly reported the next water quality evaluation won't be until 2016. This data is also important, as it will be used for the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan, per Ms. Reilly.

Ms. Priestaf concluded the presentation by reviewing the outlook for 2014 and the recommendations. The year ahead is presumed to be another dry year with a predicted low CVP water allocation. Ms. Priestaf stated the District should continue to develop additional water sources, rely on their management tools to store any available water, and continue to act in the short term to conserve the groundwater. Looking forward, the District should look for the best solutions to replenish the groundwater basin.

Based on the report, Ms. Priestaf made the following recommendations.

- Groundwater Rates, \$3.60 for Ag and \$23.25 for M & I
- Continue with CVP Imported Water
- Continue with Groundwater Production and Replenishment
- Continue utilizing Data Management

**b. Questions of Directors**

Director Bettencourt asked what kind of well monitoring well #31 was. Mr. Cattaneo stated it has been more than 15 years since we started the monitoring of this well, so he isn't sure what kind it is. Ms. Priestaf suggested taking a closer look at the well to see if the spike was due to failure of the well casing or if it's from sources near the well site.

There were no other questions from the directors.

**c. Open Public Hearing**

President Tobias opened the public hearing.

Mr. Preston Artman asked to speak. He stated he is a local farmer and is concerned about the available blue valve water and if he has water left, can he use it before the end of February.

President Tobias stated the focus of tonight's meeting is the annual groundwater report and the board is unable to discuss something not on tonight's agenda. He added Mr. Artman should call Mr. Cattaneo and discuss this item with him. Director Torquato added Mr. Artman may find the information in the groundwater report helpful.

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

There were no other public comments; President Tobias closed the public hearing.

**4. Acceptance of 2013 Annual Groundwater Report**

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

With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and second by Director Torquato; the Board of Directors unanimously adopted the Statement of Findings and Recommendations.

**b. Consider Acceptance of 2013 Annual Groundwater Report**

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Bettencourt; the Board of Directors unanimously accepted the 2013 Annual Groundwater Report.

**5. Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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Minutes were approved at the January 29, 2014 Board Meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/John Tobias  
John Tobias, President

/s/Barbara L. Mauro  
Barbara L. Mauro, Recording Secretary