

January 14, 2013
Special Meeting
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President John Tobias, Vice President Joe Tonascia and Directors Frank Bettencourt and Joe Torquato. Director Sonny Flores was absent. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Water Conservation Program Manager Shawn Novack and Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Tobias at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Tobias led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.

2. Public Hearing regarding 2012 Annual Groundwater Report

Mr. Cattaneo stated Iris Priestaf and Maureen Reilly, from Todd Engineers, are at the meeting to present the report to the Board. Mr. Cattaneo stated the report is in a new format this year and the special study this year was concentrated on the land use report.

a. Presentation of Report

Ms. Priestaf began with an overview of their presentation which via Power Point. The new format for the report is not only more readable and accessible but also provides the data required by the District Act.

2012 was a very dry year and rainfall was half of the normal amount reported Ms. Priestaf. The groundwater basin is full and the District is using its available tools to manage the allocation of CVP water. Also, this year's report updated the land use map.

Regarding management activities, Ms. Priestaf reviewed programs though the IRWMP (Integrated Regional Water Management Plan), the completion of the Hollister Urban Area Management Plan, the Ridgemark Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water Conservation programs, and the management of percolation of both surface and CVP water.

Ms. Reilly reviewed the water sources for the report which are: groundwater, imported water, recycled water and surface water. While the CVP allocation was lower, the ag use was slightly higher than the previous year. Ms. Reilly reviewed the water use by sub-basins. Regarding the land use map, Todd Engineers began with the 2002 DWR (Department of Water Resources) map and compared it to the aerial photo taken in 2010 by the USDA and used the newer photo to update

the land use map. Ms. Reilly stated it is possible that DWR will be again doing a survey which can then be incorporated into future reports.

Ms. Priestaf discussed the outlook for 2013. The forecast for rainfall is uncertain as is the CVP allocation. The District continues to develop water sources and relies on its management tools. Based on the report, the recommended groundwater charge is \$3.25 for Ag and \$23.25 for M & I. Some additional recommendations Ms. Priestaf had are: additional wells for more groundwater monitoring, improved calibration on pumping data and better information on unmetered water use. Continued management of CVP water and groundwater production and replenishment was also recommended.

b. Questions of Directors

Vice President Torquato asked about the calibration. Mr. Cattaneo stated there is a lot of variation and it is subject to uncertainty. A mechanical meter would be the only way to have more accurate information. The information we are using is somewhat dated. Ms. Reilly added the report shows Ag use is down and to find out why, they need to verify the data. President Tobias asked how the District does its calibration. Mr. Cattaneo stated regarding the wells we cannot access, it is based on an estimate using the power of the pump and the discharge size. Ms. Reilly added updating the land use offers another look at the groundwater.

Director Bettencourt asked if anyone sends out a survey to growers on their crops. Ms. Priestaf stated DWR used to do crop surveys every 5 years, then every 10 years. A crop survey hasn't been done in a while in San Benito County, but Ms. Priestaf stated DWR is planning to do another one soon.

Ms. Priestaf stated there is also the matter of unmetered water use. Director Bettencourt asked if the District had meters on all wells. Mr. Cattaneo stated, only in Zone 6.

c. Open Public Hearing

President Tobias opened the Public Hearing.

Vera Nelson, of Erler & Kalinowski, Inc. asked to address the Board. Ms. Nelson stated her firm has been tracking water use, primarily in the Bolsa sub-basin. While she appreciates the information in the groundwater report and especially the land use review, it shows a reduction in groundwater in the Bolsa sub-basin and that is not what she has been hearing from the farmers. The evaluation for the land use report Ms. Nelson stated is based on an aerial photo. On prior reports, Ms. Nelson feels the Bolsa area was under-estimated in its water use. Additionally, she feels the water levels are relatively stable. Ms. Nelson recommends the DWR come back and re-evaluate. Also, she feels the prior reports could be corrected.

Vice President Tonascia asked if the report has been adjusted from last time. Ms. Reilly replied the same data was used. Mr. Cattaneo added it would be difficult to go back to previous reports and the DWR has not done a crop survey since 2002. Ms. Nelson stated the District is relying on measured water level.

Paul Rovella, an attorney with Lombardo & Gilles, asked to address the board. Mr. Rovella stated he is a local attorney who represents clients in agri-business. San Benito County is currently updating their General Plan. In doing this, Mr. Rovella stated the County is doing an EIR which includes items such as traffic, water, etc. It is critical, Mr. Rovella states, that the water analysis be accurate as it is often used as a basis for legal challenges. He added updating the land use map and the DWR coming out to update the crop analysis are also good. Mr. Rovella added he feels it is important the District's information is correct.

d. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date

With no additional members of the public wishing to speak, President Tobias closed the Public Hearing.

3. Acceptance of 2012 Annual Groundwater Report

a. Consider Adoption of Statement of Findings and Recommendations

Mr. Pipal stated the requirement for the findings are taken from the District Act. Mr. Pipal stated he has reviewed the findings of this year's report and finds them to meet the requirements set out in the District Act. The Board is accepting the record not approving the report.

Vice President Tonascia asked for clarification of adopting of the findings. Mr. Pipal stating the Board is accepting the findings and recommendations and not approving the report.

With a motion by Director Torquato and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors approved the adoption of the statement of findings and recommendations of the 2012 Annual Groundwater Report by three affirmative votes, Directors Tobias, Bettencourt and Torquato; a no vote from Director Tonascia and Director Flores was absent.

b. Consider Acceptance of 2012 Annual Groundwater Report

With a motion by Director Bettencourt and a second by Director Torquato, the Board of Directors accepted the 2012 Annual Groundwater Report with three affirmative votes, Directors Tobias, Bettencourt and Torquato; a no vote from Director Tonascia and Director Flores was absent.

4. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the January 30, 2013 Board Meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/John Tobias
John Tobias, President

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