

February 8, 2017  
Special Meeting  
5:02 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 5:02 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, Sonny Flores 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 Conservation Program Manager Shawn Novack and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Tobias called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

- a. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
President Tobias led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. **Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board**

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. **Public Hearing regarding the District's Decision to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Bolsa, Hollister and San Juan Subbasins within San Benito County**

- a. **Proof of Publication submitted for Notice of Public Hearing**

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.

- b. **Presentation of Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

Mr. Cattaneo stated all relevant materials have been presented at prior Board meetings.

- c. **Open Public Hearing**

Director Huenemann asked if the District had more detailed maps of the basins, as the boundaries are difficult to interpret. Mr. Cattaneo stated these maps come from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Director Huenemann further asked about the boundaries and particularly the ones near the county line with Santa Clara. Mr. Cattaneo stated Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) will be applying to be a GSA for Santa Clara County and will be assuming responsibility for all areas in their county. Once both Districts have their GSA's, we will need to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for areas we would have in common. Director Huenemann further asked if our District would add on any areas once we have the agreement with SCVWD. Mr. Cattaneo said yes. Once we develop our Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) (*which follows once the District becomes a GSA*) we could add other areas.

Mr. Cattaneo stated the District will only be including medium and high priority areas within San Benito County which will include the Bolsa, Hollister and San Juan Subbasins. President Tobias asked why not take on the low priority areas at

the same time. Mr. Cattaneo stated the District would then have to have plans for all of them.

Mr. Pipal asked when DWR does their review, can they force the District to take on other basins. Mr. Cattaneo stated no, they cannot.

President Tobias asked Mr. Cattaneo to arrange to have more detailed maps be distributed to all of the directors. Mr. Cattaneo stated he will meet with Director Huenemann to be clear on what his concerns are and then get a more detailed map distributed. Discussion ensued about putting maps and information on our website regarding the GSA and GSP once the District has applied.

Director Bettencourt asked about charging fees. Mr. Cattaneo stated certain fees are identified in the plan and the District would have the authority to assess them. Some information is still uncertain, whether a Proposition 218 process is needed. Mr. Cattaneo added if the basin is in overdraft, the District could definitely have the authority to limit pumping.

Mr. Pipal added the fee structure is uncertain. Regulatory fees are included in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, but his opinion is that any other fees would be subject to Proposition 218.

**d. Close Public Hearing**

With no further questions, President Tobias closed the Public Hearing.

**e. Consider Resolution for San Benito County Water District's Decision to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Bolsa, Hollister and San Juan Subbasins within San Benito County**

With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Bettencourt, Resolution #2017-03, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District's Decision to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Bolsa, Hollister and San Juan Subbasins within San Benito County* was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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The minutes were approved at the March 29, 2017 Board Meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/John Tobias  
John Tobias, President

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