

February 22, 2017  
Regular Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 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, 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, Supervising Accountant Natalie Sullivan, Consultant Harry Blohm and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

- a. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**  
President Tobias led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. **Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board; rebuttal will be limited to 3 minutes; no new business agenda items will be heard after 9:00 p.m.**
- c. **Approval of Agenda**  
Prior to the approval of the Agenda, Mr. Cattaneo asked that the Closed Session item be moved to the first item under the Regular Agenda. Also, Director Huenemann noted items #5 and #6 were miss numbered on the transmittals. Agenda Items #10 and #11 will now become #4 and #5. Noting these changes, a motion was made by Director Flores and seconded by Vice President Tonascia; the Agenda was unanimously approved.
- d. **Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda**  
There were no public comments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **Approval of Minutes for: January 25, 2017** **Regular Meeting**
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the February Board Meeting**  
With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Bettencourt; the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

4. **CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Labor Negotiator**  
**Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6**  
**Agency Negotiator: District Manager**  
**Title: Office and Field Employees**  
The Board went into Closed Session at 6:03 p.m.

**5. Reconvene in OPEN SESSION**

**Report action if any (Government Code 54957.1)**

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:11 p.m. President Tobias stated the Board had no action to report.

**6. Discuss and Consider Resolution Establishing the District's Policy for Inter-Subsystem Water Transfers for the 2017-2018 Water Contract Year**

*(Vice President Tonascia left at 6:12 p.m.)*

Mr. Cattaneo stated in the past, the District has limited sub-system water transfers. However, due to the drought, groundwater levels have dropped. Because of this, Mr. Cattaneo stated staff is recommending the Board suspend this item and revisit it next year. President Tobias asked Mr. Pipal how the Board would take this action. Mr. Pipal stated they would need a motion, second and a vote to suspend the proposed resolution.

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to suspend Resolution #2017-04, Establishing the District's Policy for Inter-Subsystem Water Transfers for the 2017-2018.

**7. Discuss and Consider Emergency Declaration for the San Justo Reservoir Interceptor Well Network**

(As per District Counsel, the background information Mr. Haertel provided in his transmittal to the board, needs to be included in the minutes as the findings for this item. The following is the detailed description):

***Detailed Description:***

*San Justo Reservoir has been constructed in an area prone to natural landslides. To combat this occurrence in the area of the dike, a series of groundwater interceptor wells has been installed. These wells help to reduce the groundwater levels and ensure the safety of surrounding areas. By pumping the groundwater in this area, it helps support the hillside from sliding. These hillsides make up the foundation that support the dike. Due to the requirements of the Reoperations Plan and the fact that San Justo Reservoir is over the 485 feet above mean sea level elevation, continuous operation of the interceptor well network is imperative to ensure the safety of the dike.*

*During routine monitoring, it was determined that Interceptor Well IW-1A pump has failed and needs to be replaced. During the process of attempting to repair this pump, it was determined that the well itself may have experienced a failure and can no longer be utilized. In order to complete this process within the necessary truncated time schedule, and to satisfy the requirements of both the Public Contract Code and the California Environmental Quality Act, an emergency declaration is required. A local drilling company has been identified that can complete the necessary well and pump replacements within the required timeframe. This emergency declaration will allow the District Manager to complete this well replacement.*

Mr. Haertel reported today, a well inspection team put a camera down the well and it was noted the well has an obstruction. Mr. Haertel will send the video to the geotechnical firm who designed the San Justo Reservoir Reoperation Plan, so the location of a new well can be determined.

Director Bettencourt asked if 2 casings would help. Mr. Cattaneo stated based on the geology, even 2 casings couldn't prevent a slide. The urgency of this item is that this well helps to keep the hill dewatered so it keeps water off of Pacific Scientific. Mr. Cattaneo added staff is concerned, due to the very wet year, the area could be prone to landslides.

Director Huenemann asked when this well was originally installed. Mr. Cattaneo stated 1997. Director Huenemann asked if Mr. Cattaneo expects the well to fail again and Mr. Cattaneo stated yes, it would be likely if it's drilled in the same location. The consultant may recommend a new location.

A member of the audience asked if run-off is a problem; Mr. Cattaneo stated no. The audience member further asked if the District would lower the level in the reservoir to install the pump. Mr. Cattaneo stated no, unless we had demand, because if we released water into the San Benito River, we would also release zebra mussels.

President Tobias asked how often the pump goes on. Mr. Haertel stated it runs almost continually.

Mr. Pipal stated the information from the transmittal must be incorporated into the minutes, the District would comply with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) by declaring an emergency declaration and it would require a 4/5 vote of the Board. Due to Director Tonascia's departure, the remaining 4 members would all have to approve of this item for it to pass.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Director Bettencourt and seconded by Director Flores, the Board of Directors approved the Emergency Declaration for the San Justo Reservoir Interceptor Well Network by 4 affirmative votes.

**8. Discuss and Consider Authorizing District Manager to fill existing open Accountant position**

Mr. Cattaneo stated the District should recruit for the open accountant position. Staff feels with the change in business of the District, a person who can do a higher level of work to assist Mrs. Sullivan would be best; projects such as the Hollister Urban Area Projects, which are more complex, for example. Mr. Cattaneo added staff believes this person should have a business or accounting degree. He and Mrs. Singleton have reviewed the salary range and feel it is comparable to other agencies.

President Tobias asked how the District plans to recruit. Mr. Cattaneo stated through the usual channels.

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Director Huenemann, the Board of Directors unanimously Authorized the District Manager to fill the existing open Accountant position.

**9. Staff Report on the Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update**

Mr. Blohm began with an update on the Master Plan. The update was delayed while the agencies waited for the crosstown pipeline technical memorandum (TM) to be completed, which is now done. The TM will be presented to the Governance Committee at the March 1, 2017 meeting. The agencies will be wrapping up the Master Plan Update as we have the water demands, water supply options and the timing for the crosstown pipeline. Also, Mr. Blohm reported the City of Hollister is accelerating their upgrades of wells 4 and 5 to address the chromium VI issue.

Regarding the West Hills Water Treatment Plant (WHWTP), Auburn Constructors, Inc. is still on schedule to be completed by July 1, 2017. Mr. Blohm showed some photos of the buildings under construction at the treatment plant. Mr. Blohm also reported HDR is working with Scott Joslyn who is a start-up specialist for procedures, plans, etc. who will assist with the start-up of West Hills. There will be coordination between the contractor (Auburn), the operator (Sunnyslope County Water District) and the California Department of Drinking Water.

Discussion ensued about testing for chromium VI, which is done quarterly. A member of audience asked, because of the drought and the aquifers going down, how does that affect the chromium VI in the water and does it take it out. Mr. Blohm replied no, it doesn't take it out and regulations state the water must be tested every 3 months. The Delta water doesn't have chromium VI so blending our groundwater with it, is the best solution.

President Tobias asked if Sunnyslope's wells will be addressed. Mr. Blohm stated they will be addressed with the crosstown pipeline. He added, with the modeling that has been done, when the WHWTP is on-line, it will substantially improve the water for the west side of Hollister.

Director Huenemann asked if the March 1<sup>st</sup> date being referred to is a Board Meeting. Mr. Blohm stated it is a Governance Committee Meeting. Director Huenemann further asked about the accuracy of the lab results. Mr. Blohm stated the City and Sunnyslope use different labs and are getting consistent results.

Mr. Cattaneo reported, regarding the Tranche, of the \$41 million, there is only \$14,000 left uncommitted, however; there was a \$1.2 construction contingency which has \$900,000 left.

**10. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:**

**a) San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (Tobias/Tonascia)**

Mr. Cattaneo will cover this under his report.

**b) Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Bettencourt/Flores)**

As per Director Bettencourt, a phone conference was held; its primary purpose was to approve claims.

**c) Water Resources Association (Flores/Bettencourt)**

As per Director Flores, general business was discussed.

- d) **Personnel Committee (Tobias/Tonascia)**  
As per Director Tobias, the items have been covered already.
- e) **City of Hollister RDA Advisory (Tobias)**  
As per Director Tobias, a repayment schedule was discussed.

**11. District Manager/Engineer's Report:**

**a) Reach 1 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo reported the date may be shifting for the Reach 1 shutdown. The original shutdown was to be November 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>, however; we are proposing moving it to October 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>. That would give the District the month of February to fill San Justo Reservoir prior to the start of the new water year. This will be especially important as Mr. Cattaneo anticipates San Luis Reservoir to fill and the District could run the risk of the loss of stored water. Also, the upcoming water allocation forecast is looking much better.

**b) Zone 3 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo reported Hernandez Reservoir is full and spilling at a spill rate of 300-500 cfs (cubic feet per second). The District has also begun moving water into Paicines Reservoir and will move more once the water is clearer (due to silt).

Director Huenemann asked for the status of the Hernandez Operations Study. Mr. Cattaneo replied it is nearly complete. He will check with Jeff Micko for the status. Once completed, it will be presented first to the committee and then to the Board, hopefully at the March Board meeting.

**c) Zone 6 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo stated the well issue at San Justo Reservoir has already been discussed. Mr. Cattaneo reported regular operations and maintenance continues in Zone 6. Next week, the District will be participating in a week-long safety training, which is required by OSHA, with one day dedicated to the Gate Chamber. Mr. Cattaneo added some requirements may have changed and instruction for recovery in confined space will be reviewed.

**d) San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities**

Mr. Cattaneo reported the water situation has had a dramatic change, with San Luis Reservoir 5 feet from being full. The allocation is looking good. Mr. Cattaneo's best guess is the Ag allocation could be 30-35%.

Director Flores asked if the District is in danger of losing any of its carry over water. Mr. Cattaneo replied yes, that is a possibility. He added he has contacted Granite Rock to use their old gravel quarry for percolation, which the District has not used in 8 or 9 years.

Also, Mr. Cattaneo noted that a letter signed by President Tobias will be going to SLDMWA changing Director Tonascia's alternate on the Authority's Board from himself to Mrs. Singleton, effective immediately.

e) **Recycled Water**

Mr. Cattaneo reported a Site Supervisor Meeting was held today, which was their second annual meeting. There will be another opportunity for participants to meet again in May. Mr. Haertel stated some in attendance had some significant concerns about Title 22 water usage and the state's regulations. He further reported the storage pond for the recycled water is complete but is still needing a few plumbing components.

f) **Sexual Harassment Training for Board of Directors-Options**

Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the options for the training. Mrs. Singleton added it wasn't clear in the past if elected officials needed this training but legislation that went into effective January 1, 2017 has made that a stipulation.

**12. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

---

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