

February 27, 2017
Special Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 5:00 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 and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

President Tobias called the meeting to order at 5:00 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. **Discuss and Consider Approval of Principals of Agreement, Submittal of Proposition 1 Application and Joint Investigation of Pacheco Reservoir Expansion, between Pacheco Pass Water District, San Benito County Water District and Santa Clara Valley Water District**

Mr. Cattaneo stated the Board received a draft agreement with their packet. The purpose of this agreement is to set out guidelines for the 3 districts, Pacheco Pass Water District (PPWD), San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) and Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) to jointly investigate expanding Pacheco Reservoir. SBCWD will not be the lead on this, SCVWD will be the lead.

Mr. Cattaneo stated it is a 2 step process. SCVWD, if the agreement is approved by all agencies, would hire a consultant for the grant application. The first phase is a Feasibility Study, which total cost is approximately \$200,000. If it shown this project is NOT feasible, the project can stop at that point. If it does show it's feasible, Mr. Cattaneo stated it could cost an additional \$700,000 to prepare the grant application. The grant funds could amount to 50% of the total cost. As we are partners with SCVWD in Reach 1 facilities, Mr. Cattaneo stated that is why the two agencies are looking into this. One factor is the low point issue for San Luis Reservoir. Last year, due to the drought, the water was so low, not only did the low point affect the taste/odor of the water but there could have been not enough water to get into the pumps. Mr. Cattaneo stated it would be an advantage for our District to have additional storage in a wet year, such as this year. If our District and SCVWD could get the long term agreement approved, our two Districts would be viewed as a single service area in the eyes of the Bureau and could transfer water between our districts without approval from the Bureau. Expanding the Pacheco Reservoir would offer SCVWD and SBCWD additional storage so that both could acquire additional water in wet years.

Mr. Cattaneo stated San Benito County needs approximately 20,000 acre feet to balance our basin (this data is from our Annual Groundwater Report, per Mr. Cattaneo). Regarding this project, Mr. Cattaneo stated the District would have no obligation beyond 5% of the \$900,000 (\$45,000) and could also step-out at the \$200,000 (\$10,000) level as well.

President Tobias asked Mr. Cattaneo to summarize the benefits to Pacheco Pass Water District. Mr. Cattaneo stated based on the examination done by GEI (shared study by SBCWD and SCVWD) the North Fork Reservoir needs some significant repairs and replacements, especially to the spillway. Additionally, a flood study may be needed as well as the raising of the dam itself. Mr. Cattaneo stated the Spillway Project alone could cost \$1 million and this was an estimate about 4-5 years, so it could be more like \$2 million now. The advantage to PPWD, per Mr. Cattaneo, would be the removal of the old dam and construction of the new dam further up the canyon, which would alleviate them from the repair costs while still maintaining their water rights.

President Tobias further asked Mr. Cattaneo to discuss the design of North Fork. Mr. Cattaneo stated it is the same designer as 2 of SCVWD's dams. Steve Verigan, who is employed by GEI now but was formerly with the Department of Safety of Dams, didn't find any seismic issues when they conducted their investigation.

Director Bettencourt asked if this would be for Ag or M & I water. Mr. Cattaneo stated it would not change anyone's water rights; they would all remain the same.

A member of the audience asked if it would be strictly for irrigation or would it offer flood control if the project went forward. Mr. Cattaneo replied it would be primarily for storage but there are always flood prevention advantages in cases such as this.

Mr. Pipal asked Mr. Cattaneo to discuss the public benefits. Mr. Cattaneo stated for our District it would simply be for water supply. It would give SBCWD the advantage of storing extra water in a wet year to have available to use in a dry year.

Director Huenemann asked what would happen if we said no to this agreement and project and negotiated for the water on the open market instead. Mr. Cattaneo replied he would prefer to have the advantage from the beginning as to offer the District more options in the future.

A member of the audience asked about the GEI study, which cost \$50,000, and if any of that information would be useful for this project. Mr. Cattaneo stated SBCWD and SCVWD shared this cost equally and he doesn't believe any of that information would be relevant to this project.

Discussion ensued about adding more benefits to this agreement and all agreed this is a more general document where there will be more specifics in the grant application.

With no further questions from the Board, a motion was made by Vice President Tonascia and seconded by Director Flores; the Board of Directors Approved the Principals of Agreements, Submittal of Proposition 1 Application and Joint Investigation of Pacheco Reservoir Expansion, between Pacheco Pass Water District, San Benito County Water District and Santa Clara Valley Water District by 4 affirmative votes (Tobias, Tonascia, Bettencourt and Flores); there was 1 no vote (Huenemann).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 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