

March 30, 2015  
Regular Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Sonny Flores, Vice President John Tobias and Directors Frank Bettencourt and Joe Tonascia. Director Bob Huenemann arrived late. 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, Water Conservation Program Manager Shawn Novack, Consultant Harry Blohm and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

- a. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**  
President Flores 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**  
With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Tobias, the agenda was unanimously approved.
- d. **Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda**  
Mr. Cattaneo took this opportunity to introduce the District's new Deputy District Engineer, Garrett Haertel, and welcomed him to the District.

*(Director Huenemann arrived at 6:02 p.m.)*

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **Approval of Minutes for: February 24, 2016 Regular Meeting**
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the March Board Meeting**  
With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.
4. **Recognizing Barbara Mauro for 10 Years of Service, Certificate Issued**  
Mr. Cattaneo presented Mrs. Mauro with a plaque recognizing her 10 years of service.

### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

5. **Presentation of District's refund check, \$8,874 from JPIA by David Hodgin, JPIA Executive Committee Member and Board Member from Scotts Valley Water District**

Mr. Hodgin presented the District's Board President with a refund check from JPIA in the amount of \$8874, for the Liability Program. Mr. Hodgin also added JPIA will be adding Cyber Coverage on July 1<sup>st</sup>, free of charge, which will have a \$2 million per incident coverage with a \$5 million aggregate. Also, Workers Compensation is due to decrease by 10% and he also acknowledged Mrs. Singleton's participation in the Leadership Program through JPIA.

**6. Public Hearing declaring an emergency water shortage condition for the 2016-2017 Water Year**

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

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.

**b. Presentation of conditions that caused the water shortage**

Mr. Cattaneo stated the District is still waiting for the 2016-2017 allocation from the USBR. Due to the drought, last year and the previous year, the District had to declare an emergency water shortage. The water supply is still poor. Today, the snowpack was measured and is better this year than last. Mr. Cattaneo added there will be limited capacity at the pumping stations, which in turn makes water transfers difficult. The District needs to pass a resolution annually, in order to enforce the regulatory overuse charge fee, which is \$2000 per acre foot. The Board will also have the option to reduce this fee should the water situation improve. There were no questions from the Board.

**c. Open Public Hearing**

President Flores opened the Public Hearing.

Richard Bettencourt, an audience member, asked if there is still water running to the ocean due to the smelt and salmon. Mr. Cattaneo stated yes and added there is always some water flowing for water quality reasons and environmental issues.

There were no other questions from the public.

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

President Flores closed the Public Hearing.

**e. Consider Resolution Declaring an Emergency Water Shortage Condition for the 2016-2017 Water Year and Establishing Interim Policies and Procedures during the period of such shortage**

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Bettencourt, Resolution #2016-08, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Declaring an Emergency Water Shortage Condition for the 2016-2017 Water Year and Establishing Interim Policies and Procedures during the period of such shortage* was unanimously approved.

**7. Discuss and Consider the Restatement of Resolution #2003-03 Pertaining to the Water Users Handbook, Rules and Regulations for Delivering and Receiving San Felipe Distribution System Water**

Mr. Cattaneo stated the District has to modify Resolution #2003-03 as we are changing how the District bills M & I Small Parcel Accounts, which is referred to in the Water

Users Handbook. In the past, small parcel users were billed in 12 equal payments, based on their allocation. Starting this year, the District will bill the M & I small parcel users for the water as it is used, including power charges, still following their water allocation. As in previous years, if the water allocation is used up prior to the water year being over, the meter will be locked.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Vice President Tobias and seconded by Director Bettencourt, Resolution #2016-09, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Restating Resolution #2003-03 Pertaining to the Water Users Handbook, Rules and Regulations for Delivering and Receiving San Felipe Distribution System Water* was unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Blohm began with a progress report on the West Hills Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Blohm reported at the last Board Meeting, he showed photos of the construction being done at the site. The Clear Well Tank is under construction and once complete, will be wrapped in wire and then encased in Gunite. He and Mr. Cattaneo attended a site meeting today and all is going well as they are on schedule and about 25% complete. Mr. Blohm stated the end of April would be a good time for a site visit and suggested Board members let Mr. Cattaneo or Mrs. Mauro know their availability, as it is easier to take small groups on a tour as it is an active construction site.

The second item Mr. Blohm reported on was the Master Plan Update, which is underway. All of the managers have agreed on the water demand forecast and staff is working closely using the General Plans of San Benito County, the City of Hollister and Sunnyslope County Water District. Based on the Master Plan, completed in 2008, the numbers are down about 20%, which is consistent with both the drought and the decline in the economy.

The final item Mr. Blohm reported on was the Chromium VI issue. HDR offered several options to combat this issue and the option chosen was dilution by delivering water from the West Hills and Lessalt WTPs to the wellheads. The cost is approximately \$7.5 million, for which approximately \$5 million is for the Crosstown Pipeline. A kick off meeting was held today, for the pipeline.

Director Tonascia asked if there will be lines directly to the well heads; Mr. Blohm stated yes. Additionally, Director Tonascia asked how a well that had a -0- Chromium VI level, has it now. Mr. Blohm stated Chromium VI naturally occurs, so it all depends on the flow of water.

Vice President Tobias added that this is a huge benefit to the community, as a result of our projects and an example of spending public money wisely. Mr. Blohm stated that is a good point. Vice President Tobias further added it would be good to get the word out.

Richard Bettencourt, an audience member, asked if there will be a separate pipeline to the wellheads or can they use the current pipeline. Mr. Blohm replied it has to be an independent line to follow the state regulations.

Director Bettencourt asked if a pump will be needed to inject water into the wellhead. Mr. Blohm replied there will be an injection system but it will depend if boosters are needed and will be considered on an individual basis.

President Flores asked if there has been an increase in the Chromium VI. Mr. Blohm stated Sunnyslope has experienced that. The threshold is 10 (parts per billion) and one of their wells was testing at 8 or 9 and now has once tested at 15. Mr. Blohm reported it is naturally occurring and there will be blending ratios.

Vice President Tobias stated HDR began working with the City of Hollister (City) but now it appears to be an issue for both the City and Sunnyslope County Water District (Sunnyslope). Mr. Blohm stated yes, but the two agencies will work out the details. Mr. Cattaneo added our agreement is with the City and any cost splitting will be up to the two agencies (City and Sunnyslope) to work out. Also, Mr. Cattaneo stated Sunnyslope is not out of compliance; they have only had 1 high level recorded. Mr. Blohm reported the levels are tested quarterly and are considered out of compliance if there are 4 quarters of high levels.

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

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

As per Director Tonascia, the current water situation and pumping issues were discussed.

**b) Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan Governance Committee (Tobias/Flores)**

As per Directors Flores and Tobias, Mr. Blohm has covered this item.

**c) Zone 3 Water Supply and Operations Committee (Tonascia/Huenemann)**

As per Mr. Cattaneo, the original reason for the committee meeting was to discuss water releases. However, last week, during a routine inspection by the Department of Safety of Dams (DSOD) at Hernandez Reservoir, the hydraulics appeared to have failed and the butterfly valve was stuck in the open position, releasing water. Prior to this, there was approximately 1600 acre feet of water in the reservoir, which Mr. Cattaneo had intended to release into Zone 3 anyway. It is still a concern, as the hydraulic lines were replaced only a few years ago. It is difficult to gain access to inspect it until it is mostly dry, so Mr. Cattaneo anticipates this inspection to be sometime in September or October.

Director Bettencourt asked about the Paicines Canal and Mr. Cattaneo reported the maintenance work done last year has the canal working well.

**d) Zone 6 Water Supply Committee (Tobias/Flores)**

As per Directors Tobias and Flores, the two resolutions, discussed earlier in the meeting, were the subject of the committee meeting.

**e) Pacheco Reservoir Exploratory Committee (Tobias/Flores)**

As per Mr. Cattaneo, staff and the committee had a joint meeting with Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). SCVWD's board members want to know more about the costs associated with the spillway, the intake structure, the spillway

capacity and all environmental and permitting issues. Also, there was a LAFCO meeting last Thursday, which Mr. Cattaneo attended as did a representative from SCVWD. Neither District is prepared to move forward on the Pacheco Pass Water District (PPWD). Also in attendance at the LAFCO meeting were 2 residents from the PPWD who expressed interest in becoming Board members. At the next San Benito County Board of Supervisors Meeting, they can appoint 3 board members to the PPWD. It is a 5 member board and only 3 can be appointed; the other two would need to be elected. This would solve the governance issue but not the financial issues.

Director Huenemann asked if the GEI study is an on-going study. Mr. Cattaneo reported no, the study has been completed for SBCWD and SCVWD. Director Huenemann asked if SCVWD is not satisfied with the study. Mr. Cattaneo stated SCVWD feels the costs reported in GEI's study are not accurate to what needs to be done. Mr. Blohm added there are not fundamental issues but no negotiations have been done regarding the costs. Mr. Cattaneo further added that it took 7 months to agree on a date for the joint meeting to be scheduled.

Richard Bettencourt, an audience member, asked if the dam is safe, according to the GEI report. Director Huenemann asked according to the DSOD, the dam is safe. Mr. Blohm replied both GEI and the DSOD state the dam is safe.

**10. Consider Director Attendance at JPIA Board of Directors Meeting and Spring Conference, May 2, 2016, Monterey, California**

Director Bettencourt is interested in attending, however no hotel room will be needed and there is no registration fee for the JPIA Board of Directors Meeting.

**11. Consider Director and District Manager (or his Designee) Attendance at ACWA Spring Conference May 3rd through 6th, 2016, Monterey, California**

If anyone is interested, they should contact Mrs. Mauro to have her register them for the conference.

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

**a) Reach 1 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo reported the District is working with SCVWD on the Reach 1 pipe investigation, which according to SCVWD's estimate will \$6 million or more. Mr. Cattaneo has asked them to revise the estimate, which he feels is too high. Next year's budget, which begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>, is also being worked on. Mr. Cattaneo reported this could be a serious issue if we can't control the costs.

Director Huenemann asked what our percentage is. Mr. Cattaneo reported our share of Reach 1 costs is 22%

**b) Zone 3 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo stated this was covered during the committee reports.

c) **Zone 6 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo reported the District may be unable to get the North Delta transfer water. He is working with SLDMWA on some other water possibilities.

Vice President Tobias asked why we aren't able to get back the water the Bureau took 2 years ago, that was banked in San Luis Reservoir. Mr. Cattaneo stated some of that water was contract water and some was transfer water. The Bureau did not have us pay for the contract water but it is completely the decision of the Bureau to back fill the exchange contractors and is out of our control.

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

Mr. Cattaneo reported this has already been covered.

e) **Pacheco Pass Water District**

Mr. Cattaneo reported this was covered in the committee reports.

**13. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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Approved at the April 27, 2016 Board Meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Sonny Flores  
Sonny Flores, President

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