

April 6, 2016  
Special Meeting  
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 5:00 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, Joe Tonascia and Bob Huenemann. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Flores called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

- a. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
President Flores led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. **Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board**  
There were no public comments.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **1. Discuss and Consider Approval of the 2016-2017 Water Allocation**

Mr. Cattaneo stated this is a departure from how the District normally handles the annual allocation but wanted the Board to take the action, due to the low allocation. When the Bureau released the allocation, it stated California is not out of the drought and are would still be in a water shortage situation. The Bureau's allocation was 5% for Ag and 55% for M & I.

Using a handout, Mr. Cattaneo reviewed staff's proposal for this year's allocation, beginning with Ag. He discussed that with less water, the system loss is higher and could be as high as a 20% loss. Mr. Cattaneo reported that San Justo Reservoir has a loss rate of 2% per month. Assuming a loss rate of 20%, staff is recommending an allocation of 6% of their maximum allocation which should be approximately 1400 acre feet.

Vice President Tobias asked if the District will be sending out requests to the Ag customers. Mr. Cattaneo stated no, the water office will prepare and send out the contracts, offering the maximum amount we can allocate based on their account.

Regarding the M & I accounts, the Bureau's allocation was for 55% of the District's full contract. Mr. Cattaneo gave a brief history on how he and Mrs. Singleton met with the Bureau and requested an increase in our total M & I allocation, which took approximately a year and half to work out. In lieu of using surface water, the City of Hollister and Sunnyslope County Water District pumped groundwater. With the Lessalt upgrade and the design of the West Hills plant, the District showed the reasoning to be eligible for credit toward the increase in the M & I (historical use) allocation. The final determination by the Bureau was the District was eligible for credit and allowed the District's M & I to increase to 8250 acre feet.

Again, assuming a loss of 20%, Mr. Cattaneo reviewed staff's proposal for allocating to M & I accounts. The proposal allocates 3200 acre feet to the water treatment plants, 100 acre feet to the small parcel accounts (.25 acre per account) and 25% of historic use for contract M & I. The District has an obligation to serve water to the treatment plants, per Mr. Cattaneo. There is an anticipation of having 1300 acre feet unused as West Hills won't be completed until the end of 2017. If that is the case, Mr. Cattaneo stated the District would carry that water into the next year to save for future deliveries to the treatment plants.

Mrs. Singleton added, on the conference call where the District received the allocation, both the Bureau and the Department of Water Resources stated everyone should be prepared for a critical water year next year.

Director Huenemann asked who the contract M & I customers are. Mr. Cattaneo stated it is the two golf courses, Stonegate, North County School, Earthbound and Pacific Scientific. There may be some additional water available to purchase through transfer agreements, however; most of this water has been designated for Ag by contract. Mr. Cattaneo reported they may be a small amount of M & I water available through the exchange contractors.

Director Huenemann asked if there is any consideration made for M & I small parcel customers who have high boron. Mr. Cattaneo stated only ag accounts are given extra consideration for boron because high boron water is not suitable for farming.

Director Bettencourt asked about the current situation with regard to the delta smelt and salmon and the related pumping restrictions. Mr. Cattaneo reported that situation is always being worked on but it is an uphill battle. It is also a difficult situation to know that the North Delta CVP users received a 100% allocation for Ag and M & I.

With a motion by Vice President Tobias, noting the allocation is for both Ag and M & I customers, and a second by Director Tonascia, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the 2016-2017 Water Allocation.

## **2. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 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