

April 25, 2018
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Joe Tonascia, Vice President Sonny Flores and Directors Frank Bettencourt, and Bob Huenemann; Director John Tobias was absent. 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 and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

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

- a. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
President Tonascia 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 Vice President Flores and a second by Director Bettencourt, 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: Regular Meeting March 21, 2018**
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the April Board Meeting**
4. **Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report, Ending March 31, 2018**
5. **Recognizing Sara Singleton for 10 Years of Service, Certificate Issued**
Mr. Cattaneo thanked Mrs. Singleton for her time at the District, which actually is closer to 20+ years, and presented her with a certificate.

With a motion by Director Huenemann and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

6. **Presentation of District's refund check, \$ 35,221.35 from JPIA by David Hodgin, JPIA Executive Committee Member**
Mr. Hodgin presented the refund check to President Tonascia and Mr. Cattaneo. He stated this amount was returned to the District due to loss coverage not needed.

7. Consider Resolution Proclaiming May as Water Awareness Month

Mr. Novack stated May is Water Awareness Month as it coincides with the beginning of the irrigation season. He added he visits all neighboring agencies to proclaim May as Water Awareness Month. Mr. Novack reported this year's precipitation was below our state's average. As far as water conservation, San Benito County has definitely improved their water usage. Residents were using 220 gallons, per person, per day in the 1990's, and now it averages about 105 gallons, per person, per day, reported Mr. Novack. The Water Resources Association to date has removed 950 water softeners through the rebate program. Mr. Novack then read the resolution into the record.

With a motion by Vice President Flores and a second by Director Bettencourt, Resolution #2018-04 *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Declaring May as Water Awareness Month—May 2018* was unanimously approved.

Director Bettencourt asked about incentives that could be offered in the schools. Mr. Novack reported at the May 3, 2018 WRA Meeting, a video contest will be considered to coincide with the Fair.

Director Flores asked about the turf removal program. Mr. Novack said residents need to go through the State for this program. Mr. Novack also reported that through WRA you can also apply for rebates for water wise hardware.

8. Public Hearing for the District to formally initiate with the California Department of Water Resources a proposed basin boundary modification request to consolidate the Hollister, Bolsa and San Juan Bautista Subbasins of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin and the Tres Pinos Valley Groundwater Basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

a. Proof of Publication submitted for Notice of Public Hearing

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.

b. Presentation of Proposed Basin Boundary Modification

Mr. Cattaneo stated this is a formality to include Tres Pinos in our boundary. He also described where the boundary of the Tres Pinos Basin is. While management of each of the basins will be different, this action will allow for a single GSP (Groundwater Sustainability Plan).

Director Huenemann asked if the boundaries are contiguous. Mr. Cattaneo stated yes and further described the Tres Pinos area.

c. Open Public Hearing

President Tonascia opened the Public Hearing.

d. Close Public Hearing

Seeing no one wishing to speak, President Tonascia closed the Public Hearing.

e. Consider Resolution for the District to formally initiate the proposed basin boundary modification request to consolidate the Hollister, Bolsa and San Juan Valley subbasins of the Gilroy-

**Hollister Groundwater Basin and the Tres Pinos Valley
Groundwater Basin with the California Department of Water
Resources under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**

With a motion by Director Bettencourt and a second by Director Huenemann, Resolution #2018-05, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District formally initiating the proposed basin boundary modification request to consolidate the Hollister, Bolsa and San Juan Valley subbasins of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin and the Tres Pinos Valley Groundwater Basin with the California Department of Water Resources under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act* was unanimously approved.

9. Public Hearing for the District's decision to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Tres Pinos Valley Groundwater Basin

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 this is also formality, much like agenda item #8.

c. Open Public Hearing

President Tonascia opened the Public Hearing.

d. Close Public Hearing

Seeing no one wishing to speak, President Tonascia closed the Public Hearing.

e. Consider Resolution for the San Benito County Water District's decision to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Tres Pinos Valley Groundwater Basin

With a motion by Director Huenemann and a second by Director Bettencourt, Resolution #2018-06, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District's decision to become the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Tres Pinos Valley Groundwater Basin* was unanimously approved.

10. Discuss and Consider Resolution Restating the District's Investment Policy

Mrs. Singleton stated this is also a formality. The District's policy calls for an annual review of its Investment Policy. District Counsel reviewed the policy and found no changes were needed. Mrs. Singleton added this also comes to the Board with the Investment Committee's recommendation.

With a motion by Vice President Flores and a second by Director Bettencourt, Resolution #2018-07, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Restating the District's Investment Policy* was unanimously approved.

11. Discuss and Consider Approval of a 5 year extension of the Operation and Maintenance Agreement between San Benito County Water District and Sunnyslope County Water District for the Lessalt Water Treatment Plant and the West Hills Water Treatment Plant and Authorize the District Manager to sign contract extension

Mr. Cattaneo stated it has been almost 5 years since the District entered into the Water Supply and Treatment Agreement and the O & M Agreement. The O & M Agreement began with Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD) managing the Lessalt WTP for the District and the West Hills WTP was under construction. Mr. Cattaneo reported SSCWD is doing an exemplary job with no violations and no complaints. Also, he added they have stayed within or often under the budget. The Administration Committee has reviewed the extension and has recommended approval by the Board.

With a motion by Director Bettencourt and a second by Vice President Flores, the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District unanimously approved a 5 year extension of the Operation and Maintenance Agreement between San Benito County Water District and Sunnyslope County Water District for the Lessalt Water Treatment Plant and the West Hills Water Treatment Plant and Authorized the District Manager to sign the contract extension.

12. Discuss and Consider Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between San Benito County Superior Court and San Benito County Water District for Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Authorize the District Manager to sign the MOU

Mrs. Singleton stated Gil Solorio, Executive Officer for the San Benito County Superior Court, approached the District about this item. As per their Emergency Action Plan, the Court needs to define a facility to continue operating in the event of an emergency. This would be a reciprocal agreement. Mrs. Singleton stated District Counsel and the Administration Committee have both reviewed the MOU. Security was also discussed and it would be provided by the San Benito County Sheriff's department. Mrs. Singleton added this would be on a temporary and emergency basis only. Mr. Cattaneo stated there would be no obligation to the District if it didn't work out for us.

With a motion by Vice President Flores and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District unanimously approved of a Memorandum of Understanding between San Benito County Superior Court and San Benito County Water District for Continuity of Operations (COOP) and authorized the District Manager to sign the MOU.

13. Discuss and Consider Request from Hollister Enterprises LLC for the District to abandon the San Felipe water service at APN 020-310-009-0 and Authorize the District Manager to sign the necessary documents to Quitclaim the District's Easement

Mr. Cattaneo stated this parcel is part of the Roberts property, which has now been purchased by Hollister Enterprises, LLC. Mr. Cattaneo gave a brief description of the property. He has also contacted SSCWD to see if they had a need for the easement and they do not. Because of its location, Mr. Cattaneo does not see a purpose for the District to keep it. Mr. Cattaneo further stated he will have the landowner disconnect it from Sub 9 and take out all of our pipelines at their expense.

Director Huenemann asked if that means it is just not about the easement but the abandonment of service. Mr. Cattaneo stated yes, as the parcels would no longer qualify

for San Felipe service. With a motion by Director Bettencourt and a second by Director Huenemann, the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District unanimously approved the request for the District to abandon the San Felipe water service at APN 020-310-009-0 and authorized the District Manager to sign the necessary documents to Quitclaim the District's easement.

14. Discuss and Consider the Surplus of the John Deere Backhoe, Model 510B, Product ID# T0510BA714703 and Authorize District Staff to release it for auction

Mr. Cattaneo stated the Board approved the purchase of a new backhoe and now staff would like to surplus the old one. Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the two options. Option 1 would be to deliver it to an equipment auction in the Central Valley (which would mean District staff would have to deliver it) and Option 2 would be to handle the sale locally, setting a minimum bid and go from there.

Vice President Flores asked what would be easier for staff. Mr. Cattaneo stated local sales would be easier. Mr. Cattaneo asked Mr. Pipal if the District can simply sell it, which he responded yes, the Board can authorize this action. Discussion ensued and all agreed to sell it on an "As Is" basis and the minimum bid would be \$3,000.

15. Discuss and Consider Approval of a Contract with Todd Groundwater for preparing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and Authorize the District Manager to sign the contract (NTE \$725,386)

Mr. Cattaneo stated the District has been awarded a Grant for \$830,000, which is to formulate a GSP. Because of this, the District can go back to July 2017 and forward for reimbursement. The public outreach has begun with Mr. Cattaneo and Mr. Novack attending Rotary last week.

Director Huenemann asked if this doesn't need to be done for a year. Mr. Cattaneo stated the District has approximately 3.5 years to complete the GSP through adoption of the plan. The GSP will also involve a better understanding of the hydrology which equates to more monitoring. The District's engineering department is working on obtaining more wells to monitor. Discussion ensued about the process of gaining access to properties and that a fee structure will need to be created to cover the costs. Monitoring wells, per Mr. Cattaneo, are smaller and less expensive than a traditional well, is the District needs to install additional wells.

Vice President Flores asked how many monitoring wells the District has access to currently. Mr. Cattaneo stated about 100 to monitor groundwater levels and about 35 to collect water quality data.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Vice President Flores and seconded by Director Bettencourt; the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District unanimously approved of a contract with Todd Groundwater for preparing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and authorized the District Manager to sign the contract (NTE \$725,386).

16. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:

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

As per Mr. Cattaneo, he will discuss this under his Manager's Report.

b) **Administration Committee (Tobias/Flores)**
As per Director Flores, this has been covered.

c) **Investment Committee (Flores/Tobias)**
As per Director Flores, this has been covered.

17. District Manager/Engineer's Report:

a) **Reach 1 Operations**
As per Mr. Cattaneo, he had nothing to report at this time.

b) **Zone 3 Operations**
Mr. Cattaneo reported the District is releasing water from Hernandez Reservoir and not storing water in Paicines Reservoir.

c) **Zone 6 Operations**
Mr. Cattaneo reported there is 2500 AF of water from the exchange contractors which the District will need for the HUA Projects. He plans to transfer it to Santa Clara Valley Water District and then transfer it back when it's needed. The Bureau has increased the M & I allocation to 75%, so it is likely the District wouldn't have storage space for the 2500 AF.

d) **San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities**
Mr. Cattaneo reported that last Friday, the Bureau increased the Ag allocation to 40% and the M & I allocation to 75%. Mr. Cattaneo will decide in August if the District will percolate. SLDMWA has decided on a Strategic Planning Firm and they hope to hire a new director by October.

e) **Recycled Water**
Mr. Cattaneo reported the District has new recycled water customers this year. Also, because the storage ponds are operational, there are no restrictions on when customers can take recycled water. Next month, Mr. Cattaneo will have a site visit to the recycled water project with DWR'S grant administrator for the drought relief grant the District participated in.

Director Huenemann asked about Southern California and the tunnels. Mr. Cattaneo stated it is still up in the air, however; Metropolitan Water has agreed to fund a 2 tunnel option.

18. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the May 30, 2018 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Joe Tonascia
Joe Tonascia, President

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