

August 2, 2016  
Special Meeting  
5:02 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 5:02 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 Bob Huenemann; Director Joe Tonascia was absent. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pival, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel, Consultant Harry Blohm and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Flores called the meeting to order at 5:02 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**

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Discuss and Consider Approval of a Charge Order for Auburn Constructors for the Recycled Water Storage Ponds (\$ 840,500)**

Mr. Cattaneo stated District staff and its consultants have been working with Auburn on a change order for the storage ponds. Staff has stated it would be more efficient to use a change order than go out to bid; this approach has been reviewed with District Counsel. It has taken about 10 weeks for the negotiations. The actual change order is for \$810,500 but with an additional \$30,000 as material testing is not included in the change order. The material testing will be on a time/materials basis. Mr. Blohm added the performance specification the District has chosen creates the need for the testing. There is variability due to the different sources involved.

Vice President Tobias asked who provides these specifications. Mr. Blohm stated GEI, with the District's input, as they designed the pond. Mr. Blohm stated is a basically a pond within a pond.

Mr. Cattaneo stated GEI's estimate was \$775,000 but that did not include the increased thickness of the liner to 45 mm. This liner comes with a 20 year warranty and will be substantially more durable. Mr. Cattaneo stated the pond will hold about 15 acre feet of water and will add operational flexibility to the recycled water project. If our users should run the plant out of water, it can shut down the plant for about 2 hours. Mr. Cattaneo reported the pond could hold about 2-3 days of usage and at night and on weekends, when we aren't drawing the recycled water; this water can go to the storage pond. All recycled water will go in and out of the pond, which will reduce the chlorine residual. Veolia has installed a chlorine system for about \$6-7,000 and it is up and running. If purchased later, the cost could have been \$20,000 or more.

Director Bettencourt asked about covering the ponds. Mr. Cattaneo stated this change order includes the poles but this contractor does not do bird deterrent (wires) so the District will have to hire someone to install the wires to the existing poles done by Auburn. He asked Mr. Blohm and Mr. Dahl to describe the change order process.

Mr. Blohm reviewed the Pay Item List, discussing the higher priced items and the reason for them. Mr. Dahl stated he took an independent look at what was needed and drew up his own estimate which was very close to Auburn's estimate. Mr. Blohm added Auburn's estimate, when compared to GEI's, isn't a true comparison because staff has modified the size and shape from the original design. Mr. Cattaneo also stated in GEI's proposal, all materials were assumed to be onsite. Now there is extra work for clearing and grading. Mr. Dahl stated the initial bid from Auburn was \$952,000 but he and Mr. Blohm negotiated down to the current bid.

Mr. Blohm stated Auburn will work closely with the City's staff at the treatment plant, as to not disrupt their operations.

Vice President Tobias asked about the timeframe. Mr. Blohm stated the intended start date is August 22<sup>nd</sup> and should take about 8 weeks. Mr. Haertel stated Veolia will circulate water remotely at the plant which will make the project have more flexibility and capture as much recycled water as possible. Discussion ensued about the liner and the access ramp. Mr. Cattaneo stated vehicle activity on the ramp will be limited, as to not disturb the liner. Mr. Blohm stated the District will gain a tremendous benefit from the extra thickness of the liner.

Mr. Pipal asked Mr. Cattaneo to discuss the relationship of the recycled water project and storage ponds to the West Hills Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Cattaneo stated without the new plant, the District would not have the Recycled Water Project. Part of the reason the District contributed \$10 million to the project was to improve the water quality to the Wastewater Plant, which in turn improves the quality of the recycled water. He added using the same contractor for the West Hills WTP and the Storage Pond Project not only save money but offers synergy by taking material from the water treatment plant site and moving it to the storage pond site. Mr. Blohm further stated the Hollister Urban Area Water Projects are all inter-related and part of the same system. Vice President Tobias added this would be the completion of the projects. Mr. Pipal added all the parts of the project have been environmentally studied as well. Mr. Blohm stated a PEIR (Programmatic Environmental Impact Report) was done. Mr. Pipal further added there is no burden to the taxpayer and no increase other than a bid. Mr. Cattaneo stated if the District had gone to bid it would have likely been higher, so the District is actually saving public money. Mr. Blohm added Auburn a qualified contractor.

Discussion ensued about the amount of water going into the wastewater plant and that it comes from both the City of Hollister and Sunnyslope County Water District. Director Huenemann asked about what percentage of the water can be recycled. Mr. Cattaneo stated nearly all of the water that goes through the plant has the potential to be recycled and during the growing season, the District would be able to use most or all of the recycled water. Director Huenemann further asked about the total groundwater and CVP water. Mr. Blohm stated whatever goes into the domestic system can be recycled.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Vice President Tobias and seconded by Director Bettencourt; the Board of Directors unanimously Approved of a Change Order for Auburn Constructors for the Recycled Water Storage Ponds (\$840,500),

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the August 31, 2016 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/John Tobias

John Tobias, Vice President

/s/Barbara L. Mauro

Barbara L. Mauro, Board Clerk