

November 18, 2015
Regular Meeting
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 6:00 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 John Tobias, Frank Bettencourt and Bob Huenemann. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Consultant Harry Blohm and Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER:

President Tonascia called the meeting to order at 6:00 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

Mr. Cattaneo stated an item needs to be added to the agenda. Mr. Pipal stated according to the statute, an urgency item is one that comes up after the agenda has been posted and cannot wait until the next regular meeting. Mr. Pipal further added the Board must approve this addition by at least a 4/5 vote. Mr. Cattaneo stated the item is to increase the salary for the open Senior Deputy Engineer position as the District has been unable to fill it and the Information and Controls Supervisor is retiring at the end of the year. Staff feels the wages for the engineer position is insufficient to attract applicants.

With a motion by Director Tobias and a second by Vice President Flores, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to add the urgency item to the agenda. This will be item number # 11a.

With a motion by Director Huenemann, noting the addition to the agenda, and seconded by Director Tobias; the Board of Directors unanimously approved of the agenda.

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: October 28, 2015 Regular Meeting**
- 2. Allowance of Claims**
- 3. Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the November Board Meeting**
- 4. State Water Rights Fees**
 - a. Approve Payment of Water Rights Fee Under Protest and Petition for Reconsideration For Zone 6**

Director Bettencourt asked how long the District has been paying the water rights fees under protest; Mr. Cattaneo stated at least 8 years.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Vice President Flores and seconded by Director Huenemann; the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 5. Discuss and Consider Authorizing District Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Consulting Agreement with Harry Blohm for Services Relating to: West Hills Water Treatment Plant Project Management, and Reclaimed Water Use (\$47,100)**
- Mr. Cattaneo stated the budget approved for the current fiscal year will be insufficient to carry through to June 2016. The biggest reason is due to the resignation of Dale Rosskamp as he was taking on a good portion of day to day operations for the West Hills Water Treatment Plant (WHWTP) project. The District has been unable to fill this vacant position and more technical work has become necessary. Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the previous budget approved and noted where changes are needed. Also, there were no funds allocated to the Recycled Water Project and now the District has found a need for storage ponds, so Mr. Blohm's expertise in this area has been critical. The increase in his total budget is \$47,100, but is mostly attributed to the Hollister Urban Water Projects. The District's share of the increase is \$19,093.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Tobias and seconded by Vice President Flores; the Board unanimously Authorized the District Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Consulting Agreement with Harry Blohm for Services Relating to: West Hills Water Treatment Plant Project Management, and Reclaimed Water Use (\$47,100).

- 6. Discuss Cal Trans' pre-condemnation offer to purchase .26 acres of District-owner land on the corner of Hwy 156/Breen Road/Cagney Road**

Mr. Cattaneo stated this is the 156 GAP Project which widens the highway from Union Road to San Juan Bautista. The District owns 2 small pieces of property that was acquired from the Hollister Irrigation Company. There is a culvert pipe that is obsolete and is of no value to the District. Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the area in question with the map provided in the board packet and a brief discussion ensued.

President Tonascia asked District Counsel if these can be taken all together or is it necessary to take them one at a time. Mr. Pipal stated they can be taken as a group.

- a. Review appraisal**
- b. Approve Right of Way Agreement and Grant Deed**
- c. Authorize District Manager to sign all necessary documents**

With a motion by Vice President Flores and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors unanimously accepted the appraisal, approved the Right of Way Agreement and Grant Deed and Authorized the District Manager to sign all necessary documents.

7. **Discuss and Consider Approval of Quitclaim Relinquishment of District Easement, Rights and Abandonment of any District Infrastructure contained therein at 1051 South Street Property (Patrick Dike and Linda Dike), Assessor Parcel Number 050-060-001 and Authorize the District Manager to sign all necessary documents**

Mr. Cattaneo stated the District has been requested to quitclaim an easement as it is in the middle of a development area. The property owners need the District to take this action for them to proceed. Staff's opinion is the easement has no benefit or purpose for the District.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Huenemann and seconded by Vice President Flores, the Board of Directors unanimously Approved of the Quitclaim Relinquishment of District Easement, Rights and Abandonment of any District Infrastructure contained therein at 1051 South Street Property (Patrick Dike and Linda Dike), Assessor Parcel Number 050-060-001 and Authorized the District Manager to sign all necessary documents.

8. **Discuss and Consider Approval of Quitclaim Relinquishment of District Easement, Rights and Abandonment of any District Infrastructure contained therein at 1340 Buena Vista Road and 1470 Buena Vista Road Properties (Frank Borelli et al), Assessor Parcel Number 019-120-038 and Authorize District Manager to sign all necessary documents**

Mr. Cattaneo stated this item is similar in nature to item #7, as the property owners wish to develop the property and need the District to Quitclaim an Easement.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Bettencourt and seconded by Director Tobias, the Board unanimously Approved of a Quitclaim Relinquishment of District Easement, Rights and Abandonment of any District Infrastructure contained therein at 1340 Buena Vista Road and 1470 Buena Vista Road Properties (Frank Borelli et al), Assessor Parcel Number 019-120-038 and Authorized the District Manager to sign all necessary documents.

9. **Discuss and Consider Authorizing the District Manager to Execute a Task Order with GEI for Services Relating to the Design and Construction of Recycled Water Storage Facilities at the City of Hollister's Reclamation (\$ 172,548)**

Mr. Cattaneo stated this item is related to the District's Recycled Water Project. GEI has been asked to design storage ponds for this project and the anticipated budget is \$172,548. He and Mr. Blohm have reviewed the budget and conclude the task order may be lower as the testing amounts and the pre-bidding services are high and construction support may also be less than budgeted. Mr. Blohm added clay that has been removed from the WHWTP site can be used for the storage ponds, which would yield considerable savings. Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the transmittal and stated the pipeline project came in significantly under the engineer's estimate. The District anticipates a cost of \$1.2 million for the storage ponds. Due to the higher engineer's estimates for the pipeline project, the costs for the ponds have been covered in the rate analysis for the sale of recycled water.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Vice President Flores and seconded by Director Huenemann; the Board unanimously Authorized the District Manager to Execute a Task Order with GEI for Services Relating to the Design and

Construction of Recycled Water Storage Facilities at the City of Hollister's Reclamation (\$ 172,548).

10. Discuss and Consider setting the November and December Board Meeting dates for 2016

Mr. Cattaneo stated the meetings in these two months are moved every year, due to the holidays. Beginning this year, the District would like to set them in advance to finalize the calendar for the coming year. In 2016, the November meeting can remain on the 30th as it is after Thanksgiving. Two dates were discussed for December and the majority of the Board agreed on December 21st.

November 30, 2016 Remain on the last Wednesday of November
December 21, 2016 Move the December to one week earlier

With a motion by Director Bettencourt and seconded by Vice President Flores, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to move the December 2016 Board Meeting to December 21, 2016.

11 a. Discuss and Consider changing the salary for the Senior/Deputy Engineer position

Mr. Cattaneo stated the District is having difficulty in recruiting for the Senior Engineer and the Deputy District Engineer position. In reviewing salaries of other agencies and the State of California, our approved wages for these positions are significantly lower. These wages, for the top of the scale, are \$120,000 for the Senior Engineer and an additional 10% more for a managing engineer. Staff and the Personnel Committee are recommending increasing the salary range by 14% which would be, for the top of the scale, \$9920/month for the Senior Engineer and \$10,954/month for the Deputy District Engineer. Further, it is recommended to try this for a few months and if still not successful, come back to the Board to discuss using a head hunter to assist in the recruitment.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Bettencourt and seconded by Director Tobias; the Board unanimously approved the increase in the Senior/Deputy Engineer positions by 14%.

11. Staff Report on the Hollister Urban Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update

Mr. Blohm began with the WHWTP update. The site has been more complex than anticipated, with some soil issues and some foundation changes. The contractor is making progress as planned and continues to give a rolling 4 week schedule at the weekly meetings. The clear well tank's excavation, (the clear tank will be 60' in diameter), is about 60% complete. As discussed earlier, clay material removed from the site is being stored near the future site for the storage ponds for recycled water, which will be a savings both in cost and to the schedule.

Director Tobias asked about the timetable for the storage ponds. Mr. Blohm stated the schedule is to go to bid sometime in February and be on-line by May. GEI is fast-tracking this project. Mr. Cattaneo added the District's intent is to use clay rather than a liner for the ponds, which will reduce some of the analysis proposed in the GEI task order. Mr. Blohm stated using clay is an easier method than using a liner.

In regards to the Hexavalent Chromium VI, the approach now is to deliver treated water at the wellheads with the target to bring the level below 10. The City of Hollister (COH) approved this at their council meeting and there is a meeting scheduled with the Department of Drinking Water on December 3rd to present this plan. Mr. Blohm stated then there will be time to allow for their review of the plan.

12. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:

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

Mr. Cattaneo will report on this item under his Manager's report.

b. Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Bettencourt)

As per Director Bettencourt, a legislative meeting was held on November 6th, attended by Congressman Farr. Discussion ensued about the preservation of Soap Lake. Also discussed was the available funding to continue studies but the Army Corps of Engineers doesn't seem to move this forward.

c. Administration Committee (Tobias/Flores)

As per Directors Tobias and Flores, some items were covered and also discussed was the Amendment to the Water Supply and Treatment Agreement regarding Tranche #3 and now our partners, COH and Sunnyslope County Water District, will review this item.

d. Personnel Committee (Tobias/Tonascia)

As per Directors Tobias and Tonascia, they discussed the salary increase needed for the Engineer position and also agreed to start advertising for Mr. Ray's position.

e. Recycled Water Ad Hoc Committee (Flores/Bettencourt)

As per Director Flores, the discussion was regarding the contract with GEI for the storage ponds.

13. District Manager/Engineer's Report:

a. Reach 1 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reported the scheduled meeting with Santa Clara Valley Water District for yesterday was cancelled.

b. Zone 3 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reported District staff is mowing and doing maintenance work at Paicines Reservoir. Our mower broke down and we have since rented a larger mower. However, what is needed is a side mower to do the sides of the canal. We still have no water in Zone 3. Regarding Hernandez, Mr. Micko is working on the telemetry and did a site visit today.

c. Zone 6 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reported there have been meetings with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the County, the Bureau and others regarding the zebra mussel eradication at San Justo Reservoir. Currently, funding options are being sought and Mr. Cattaneo believes it will be at least 12-18 months before any action to takes place. Mr. Cattaneo has stated to these groups that the District can

develop the plan but is unable to fund the eradication. Also, he wants to be careful to not have anything added to our repayment contract with the Bureau, should the Bureau decide to perform the work.

d. San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities

Mr. Cattaneo reported they continue to monitor the water issues. Ron Miller, from the Bureau, stated they intend to move rescheduled water from Shasta to bring down the COA debt by the end of January. Mr. Boardman stated he thinks it will be more like February for this. There was discussion at SLDMWA about moving forward with the Delta fix (tunnel project), but reported is a shortage of \$5 million. Mr. Cattaneo reported there is not a lot of support from members to make up this shortage. Also, there is no assurance there would be new water from this project and may actually be less water, instead.

Director Bettencourt asked if Jeff Ray, who is scheduled to retire from the District in December, is the longest employee the District has had. Mr. Cattaneo stated yes, 29 years.

14. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the December 16, 2015 Board Meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/ Joseph A. Tonascia
Joseph A. Tonascia, President

/s/ Barbara L. Mauro
Barbara L. Mauro, Recording Secretary