

November 30, 2016
Regular Meeting
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, November 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, Joe Tonascia and Bob Huenemann. 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, 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**
There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. **Approval of Minutes for: October 26, 2016 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 Fees Under Protest and Petition for Reconsideration for Zone 6**

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Huenemann and a second was made by Director Bettencourt; the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 5. **Discuss and Consider Authorizing the District Manager to mail Prop 218 Notices for:**
 - a. **2017-2018 & 2018-2019 Groundwater Rates**
Mr. Cattaneo stated last year, the Board only approved 1 year of Groundwater Rates, due to the uncertainty of the effect the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act that was upcoming. However, now more is known, staff and the Finance Committee is comfortable moving forward with 2 years of Groundwater Rates, that will coincide with the remaining 2 years of the San Felipe Rates. Mr. Cattaneo stated the Board's action

would be to authorize mailing a Prop 218 notice to increase the Ag rate for Groundwater charges only; the M & I Rate will not be changing. Mr. Cattaneo reminded the Board, per the District Act, the Ag Rate cannot be more than 1/3 of the M & I Rate. Mr. Pipal asked Mr. Cattaneo to also state this is not an assessment, so for a protest, a simple majority is all that is needed.

A member of the audience, Richard Bettencourt, asked if this charge is only for groundwater from wells. This is not blue valve, correct? Mr. Cattaneo state, no it is not for blue valve.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Tonascia and seconded by Vice President Tobias; the Board of Directors unanimously authorized the District Manager to mail the Prop 218 Notices for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Groundwater Rates for Ag customers.

6. Discuss and Consider Changing the Date of the September 2017 Board Meeting

Mrs. Mauro stated Director Tonascia asked for this to be on the agenda, at the last Board Meeting; he felt it would conflict with the San Benito County Fair. Mrs. Mauro confirmed the Fair is in the same week as the scheduled September Board Meeting.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Tonascia and seconded by Vice President Tobias; the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to move the September 2017 Board Meeting to September 20, 2017.

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

Mr. Blohm stated he will be reporting on 3 items as part of his report.

The first item will be the status of the West Hills Water Treatment Plant construction. Mr. Blohm reported the contractor is anticipating completion on approximately July 1, 2017, which would be 4 months early. Weekly progress meetings at the site continue. Mr. Blohm reported the current progress at the site is the surface structure work. He added if the directors would like another tour, please contact District staff and Mr. Blohm will have it arranged.

The second item is the Master Plan Update. Mr. Blohm stated the schedule has slipped slightly due to the crosstown pipeline issue and its alignment with the San Benito High School. Mr. Blohm reported there are 2 suggested alignments being considered with the City of Hollister and Sunnyslope County Water District. Mr. Blohm stated a likely revised completion of the Master Plan Update is March of 2017. The next step will be arranging meetings with each agency and Mr. Ellis and Mr. Blohm, to get their specific needs. Director Tonascia asked if the directors could see a map for the pipeline; Mr. Blohm stated yes that could be provided.

The final item to be discussed is the Storage Pond Project. Mr. Blohm stated we have some recent photos provided to us by John Dahl. Mr. Haertel described the photos showed to the Board.

Richard Bettencourt, an audience member, asked how many employees will work at the plant (West Hills) once completed. Mr. Blohm stated 3.5 employees would work on site.

Vice President Tobias asked where the materials (sludge) from the storage pond goes. Mr. Haertel stated it would be taken off-site to a land-fill. That material is often used for compost at a landfill. Vice President Tobias also asked about installing wires on top of the fencing enclosing the pond. Mr. Haertel stated staff is working on having that installed.

Director Bettencourt asked about whether the chlorinated water will be detrimental to agricultural use. Mr. Haertel reported District staff is working closely with the reclamation plant staff on the amount of chlorine used to prevent issues such as this.

8. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:

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

As per Director Tonascia, he did not attend the meeting.

b) Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Bettencourt/Flores)

As per Director Bettencourt, a Legislative Meeting was held, with Congressman Sam Farr. Several items were discussed, included the Bench Excavation Project.

c) Association of California Water Agencies—Joint Powers Insurance Authority (Bettencourt)

As per Director Bettencourt, he attended the Fall JPIA Board of Directors' Meeting in Anaheim. He mentioned Mrs. Singleton has recently completed JPIA's Leadership Program and Mr. Haertel is now enrolled in the program. Director Bettencourt stated JPIA reported claims on a whole are under 20%. Other items discussed were cyber issues and making health programs less expensive.

d) Finance Committee (Bettencourt/Tonascia)

As per Director Tonascia, the items have been covered.

e) City of Hollister RDA Advisory (Tobias)

As per Vice President Tobias, procedural items were discussed.

9. District Manager/Engineer's Report:

a) Reach 1 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reported the planned shutdown has been delayed to next fall, because Santa Clara Valley Water District was unable to obtain the necessary permits. There was also a draft Asset Management Plan reviewed at the Quarterly O & M Meeting and is on the agenda for a joint committee meeting for our two District's next week.

b) Zone 3 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reviewed photos of the recent repair work done by District staff. He stated staff used 150 yards of rock to build a road to the structure to not only make the current repair easier but on-going maintenance easier and safer. Mr. Cattaneo also explained how a crane was used to move heavy items in and out of the structure.

Director Huenemann asked if the valves can be operated remotely. Mr. Cattaneo stated staff is designing a battery operated unit to do this but it's not complete. Director Huenemann asked if it would be a solar unit. Mr. Cattaneo stated, yes, a 12 volt solar unit.

Vice President Tobias asked if staff only worked on 1 valve. Mr. Cattaneo confirmed only 1 of the 2 valves was repaired, as we were so close to the rainy season. Vice President Tobias asked if Mr. Cattaneo plans to repair the other valve next year. Mr. Cattaneo stated yes it needs repair but it depends how much water is in the reservoir next year, whether he has staff work on it next year or not. Right now, Mr. Cattaneo reported both valves are operational.

c) Zone 6 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo stated there wasn't much to report. Staff will not read meters in December and the next read will be in January 2017.

d) San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities

Mr. Cattaneo reported the DHCCP Project (Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program) has approximately \$5 million of the original \$50 million left. It needs about \$8 million more and Mr. Cattaneo reported he isn't sure if any of the Authority agencies want to proceed. If they elect to not go any further, the District stands to get a refund of approximately \$100,000.

e) Recycled Water

Mr. Cattaneo stated this has already been covered.

10. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the December 21, 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