

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
of the
CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD
held at the
Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board Office
3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA
Monday, July 21, 2008**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by President Chuck Evans, who chaired the meeting. Those in attendance were:

Directors present:

Chuck Evans	Goleta Water District
Matt Loudon	SYR Water Conservation Dist., ID#1
Das Williams	City of Santa Barbara
Sam Frye	Montecito Water District
Robert Lieberknecht	Carpinteria Valley Water District

Others present:

Kate Rees	William Hair
Kevin Walsh	Dan Hernandez
Janet Gingras	Gary Kvistad
Charles Hamilton	Brett Gray
Tom Mosby	Chip Wullbrandt
Rebecca Bjork	Terri Maus-Nisich

2. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

The Board next considered Item #5

5. Quagga Mussel Cost Sharing Proposal

The action before the Board was to consider staff's recommendation regarding cost sharing with the County of Santa Barbara for Quagga Mussel preventative measures at Lake Cachuma. Ms. Rees reported that the individual Member Unit Boards have discussed the recommendation to consider cost sharing with the County. If the Board were to authorize any cost sharing, the funds used would be unexpended funds that are available from FY 06-07 and FY 07-08.

Dan Hernandez, Director County Parks Department, updated the Board on the process and procedures that the County has implemented to date to prevent an infestation of Quagga Mussels in Lake Cachuma. He reported that the program costs have not been as high as originally expected. County Parks is proposing a cost share between County Parks, the County Water Agency and COMB of the estimated operating cost of \$180,000, which would be approximately \$60,000 from each agency.

The Board also received information from the County Parks staff as to why these upfront funds are needed. Assistance from COMB would give them the time to incrementally ramp up the boat launch fees until they are sufficient to cover the total annual costs of the ongoing inspection measures. Two options were discussed if the COMB Board agrees to approve any cost sharing with the County. It could consider sharing the operating costs on an annual basis or consider a one time lump sum payment. Director Williams requested that the Directors take this back to their individual Boards to reconsider assisting the County with cost sharing for the Quagga Mussel prevention program with the lower estimated cost request. Mr. Hernandez and Ms Maus-Nisich indicated they would be willing to attend any of the individual meetings of the Member Unit Boards, if requested, to answer any questions about the program.

Director Williams moved that the proposed cost sharing be brought back to the Member Units' respective Boards to reconsider two possible options; (1) participate in an annual cost sharing for a few years at approximately \$60,000 per year; (2) provide a one time payment, the total yet to be determined. Counsel Hair recommended that if the COMB Board ultimately decided to assist with funding for this program that COMB should state, in writing, that this does not constitute an endorsement of the protocols the County has in place for preventing a Quagga Mussel infestation. In addition, that any contribution would not constitute a waiver of any potential future claim COMB might have against the County should Quagga or Zebra Mussels occur in Lake Cachuma, seconded by Director Evans, passed 5/2/0, Directors Loudon and Fyre voted no.

This will come back to the COMB Board in August for further consideration

3. COMB CIP /Bond Issuance

The action before the Board was to consider approving staff's recommended priority list of COMB capital improvement projects, which included a new COMB office building, for potential bond issuance for approximately \$16,000,000. Brett Gray highlighted the list of capital improvement projects

There was discussion concerning the COMB office building relative to reorganization of COMB and CCRB, and how that might affect office space needs in the future. Director Williams and Ms Rees were of the opinion that regardless of how the responsibilities of the two agencies were eventually organized, housing needs for staff would not change. ID#1 was concerned about protective step up provisions being included in the bond so that it would not be held responsible for repayment any debt associated with south coast

projects. Director Loudon also voiced objections regarding funding for a new office building. Ms Rees stated that bond counsel will be consulted to structure the bond so that ID#1 would not be responsible for repayment of any of the south coast projects.

Director Fyre moved to approve the list of COMB capital improvement projects and the project prioritization for potential bond issuance, seconded by Director Williams, passed 6/1/0, Director Loudon voted no.

4. Gap Fire

Mr. Gray gave a power point presentation showing before and after photographs of the area burned by the Gap Fire in the Goleta SCC upper reach area. Mr. Gray reported that only minor damage was done to the Cachuma Project facilities in the area. The fire burned in the vicinity of the South Coast Conduit and the proposed area for the second pipeline project. Mr. Gray said a major concern was the likelihood of significant erosion of the very steep slopes in the burn area that might occur during the rainy season this winter, and the affect substantial sediment deposition would have on the SCC and proposed construction site for the second pipeline.

Mr. Gray had attended a Gap Fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) interagency meeting, and the draft notes of that meeting were provided for the Directors. He reported that a BAER report was being prepared and would be made available to the Directors when it is completed.

6. COMB Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Rees, Secretary of the Board

APPROVED:

Chuck Evans, President