

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF
CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**

by Teleconference Call ONLY

Monday, May 24, 2021

1:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by President Holcombe at 1:03 PM

All attendees participated telephonically pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

Directors Present:

Polly Holcombe, Carpinteria Valley Water District

Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara

Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District

Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District

General Counsel Present:

William Carter, Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

Staff Present:

Janet Gingras, General Manager

Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO

Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager

Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager

Shane King, Operations Supervisor

Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Others Present:

Matt Young, County of Santa Barbara

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of April 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Minutes of the last Board meeting and asked Mr. Lyons to comment on the remaining Consent Agenda items. Mr. Lyons reviewed revenues received and highlighted various expenditures. He fielded questions from the Board.

Director Hanson put forth a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items which was seconded by Director Sneddon. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:

4. VIRTUAL ACCESS FOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ms. Gingras introduced virtual meeting access for Board discussion. She asked Ms. Turner to provide a summary of the proposed platform for virtual meetings. Ms. Turner presented Zoom Professional and Zoom Video Webinar products for the Board's review, summarizing the background and research undertaken by staff during the last year. Additionally she provided a general outline for a public meeting that would meet current Brown Act requirements. Ms. Gingras and Mr. Lyons fielded questions and comments from the Board, which approved virtual access for meetings when and as allowed by the Brown Act and any upcoming legislation.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 725 – COMB FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Lyons presented the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Annual Operating Budget to the Board for adoption. He reviewed the projected operating expenditures for the 2021-22 budget in comparison to those of 2020-21, noting percent and dollar amount of change. Mr. Lyons provided itemization of the cost increases and decreases that comprised the change between the two years. As well, he drew the Board's attention to the enhanced schedule of Cachuma Project Member Unit Obligation, year over year. Mr. Lyons fielded various comments from the Board. Directors noted that new regulations for zero emission standards for vehicles are forthcoming from the State of California which will impact new vehicle purchases as well as future budgets.

Director Hanson made a motion to adopt Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operating Budget via approval and adoption of Resolution No. 725. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:

6. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- Meetings
- Staff Training
- Engineering / Operations Division

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager Report highlighting the onset of preliminary 2020-21 audit field work and COMB's upgraded phone system. She updated the Board regarding action taken by COMB in light of the recent Colonial Pipeline cyber-attack. Ms. Gingras reported extensively about the recent Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) meeting, in particular the Local Government Commission's presentation on fire management and the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) newly created database to track water-related sustainability. She touched briefly on IRWMP funding opportunities and staff Emergency Action Plan (EAP) training. Finally, Ms. Gingras provided a legislative update of bills currently in appropriations. She fielded comments from the Board, including a request for further information, as available, regarding EAP training.

7. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Cachuma Water Quality Update
- SCADA System Improvements
- Comprehensive Facility Reviews
- Vehicle Condition Assessment
- CalTrans Highway 192 Paving Project
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's report. He reviewed climate conditions and lake hydrology data, noting continued lack of rain has the area on track for being the fifth driest year on record. He provided updates on the anticipated downstream water rights releases planned for Summer 2021 and the projected deployment of the Emergency Pumping Facility based on current hydrology. Additionally, Mr. Degner reported that staff is monitoring lake water quality closely in light of recent non-toxic algal blooms. Updates were provided for the ongoing SCADA System improvements and actions taken to address Reclamation's site inspection recommendations. Mr. Degner advised that staff is investigating options to replace an existing undersized vehicle with a heavy-duty Ford F350. Finally, he reviewed CalTrans' planned July 2021 re-pavement of a portion of Highway 192, the completion of which will require COMB to bring valve cans up to grade.

8. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report, reviewing routine operations and the completed quarterly Venturi meter calibrations. He detailed Reclamation-requested work undertaken at the Lauro outlet works and reported that the Operations crew had collaborated with Fisheries crew to assist Reclamation with valve replacements for the Hilton Creek Emergency Backup System. Mr. King advised that a minor vehicle collision with an Air Vacuum Air Release (AVAR) structure required that the AVAR lid be repaired and repositioned but no other damage was sustained by the structure from the impact.

9. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

- LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements
- Tributary Project Updates
- Surcharge Water Accounting
- Reporting/Outreach/Training

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report, noting that Reclamation has met or exceeded minimum target flows to Hilton Creek and the Highway 154 bridge. Normal Biological Opinion monitoring has been ongoing. Mr. Robinson reported that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) had approved the rescue and relocation of eleven fish from a deteriorating habitat to a more sustainable habitat. Further, he advised that another such rescue operation was planned upon receipt of NMFS's and CDFW's approvals. Mr. Robinson provided an in-depth report of Reclamation's replacement of two inoperable valves in the Hilton Creek Emergency Backup System. Fisheries and Operations staff's assistance resulted in maintenance of downstream flow while the outlet works were shut down for the repair and hence, no impact to the downstream fishery.

10. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson presented the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Program report. He reported that staff had continued to irrigate, hand-weed around the oak trees and maintain or remove deer cages as needed. Mr. Robinson reported that the 2020 Annual Report would be ready early in the new fiscal year. Finally he advised that the arborist consultant had visited the planted areas and provided some suggestions for maintenance of the trees.

11. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

- a. Cachuma Water Reports
- b. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions
- c. Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

Ms. Gingras presented the Cachuma Project reports, noting that there was nothing imperative to report other than disappointment at the continued lack of rain.

12. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no requests from Directors.

13. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: POTENTIAL LITIGATION

The Board entered into Closed Session at 2:39 PM

- a. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Name of matter: *Kimball-Griffith L.P. v. Brenda Wren Burman, et al.*, Case No. 2:20-cv-10647 – Request for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

14. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

- a. [Government Code Section 54957.6(a)]
Agency designated representatives: Board President
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

- [Government Code Section 54957.7]
Disclosure of actions taken in closed session, as applicable
[Government Code Section 54957.1]

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 2:54 PM.

- 13a. *Kimball-Griffith L.P. v. Brenda Wren Burman, et al.*, Case No. 2:20-cv-10647 – Request for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

There was no reportable action

- 14a. Conference with Labor Negotiators

The Board gave direction to the President regarding the proposed Employment Agreement of General Manager, Janet Gingras.

16. MODIFICATION OF GENERAL MANAGER'S COMPENSATION

The Board unanimously approved the proposed employment agreement between COMB and Ms. Gingras.

17. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **June 28, 2021 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

18. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gingras

Janet Gingras (Jul 22, 2021 16:41 PDT)

Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:

Polly Holcombe

Polly Holcombe (Jul 22, 2021 17:06 PDT)

Polly Holcombe, President of the Board