

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
of the
CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD**

**held at
3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA
Monday, November 16, 2015**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Doug Morgan who chaired the meeting. Those in attendance were:

Directors present:

Doug Morgan	Montecito Water District
Harwood "Bendy" White	City of Santa Barbara
Kevin Walsh	SYR Water Conservation District, ID No. 1
Polly Holcombe	Carpinteria Valley Water District
Lauren Hanson	Goleta Water District

Others present:

Janet Gingras	Charles Hamilton
Amy Smith	Fray Crease
Tim Robinson	Tom Fayram
Dave Stewart	William Carter
Phil Walker	Chris Dahlstrom

2. Public Comment

Phil Walker spoke to the reliability of Mag Meters, the unlikelihood that the predicted El Niño storms will provide rains sufficient to solve the current drought, and the loss of water supply to evaporation. Tom Fayram briefed the Board on items set to go before the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in the coming weeks. President Morgan introduced Ms. Fray Crease to the Board; Ms. Crease will be serving as Interim Manager to the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, filling the position vacated by Matt Naftaly.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

October 13, 2015 Special Board Meeting
October 19, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

b. Investment Funds

Financial Reports
Investment Reports

c. Review of Paid Claims

d. Review of Pending Claims for Payment

Director Hanson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Holcombe requested that, moving forward, certain items on legal invoices be listed to specifically detail exactly what the work is concerning. General Counsel, Mr. Bill Carter, confirmed that he would be as specific as possible when billing his time in the future. Director Walsh thanked COMB

staff for presenting the internal tracking of legal invoices to the Board, and Ms. Janet Gingras, Interim General Manager, assured him that said tracking has been going on “behind-the-scenes” for years. Seconded by Director White, the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote:

Ayes: White, Walsh, Holcombe, Hanson, Morgan

Nays: None

Absent/Abstain: None

4. Verbal Reports from Board Committees

- *Fisheries Committee Meeting – October 23, 2015:* Director Holcombe summarized the agenda, highlighting the major points of discussion for each item. Director Holcombe also spoke to the exploration of a return flow system at Hilton Creek, prompting Janet Gingras, Interim General Manager, to notify the Board that the County would be “taking charge” on such a consideration, and that the topic is planned for discussion at an upcoming meeting.
- *Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee Meeting – November 11, 2015:* Director White summarized his positive educational experience on the recent Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee fieldtrip, where the Committee was able to appreciate firsthand many of the oak tree planting locations.

5. Resolution No. 609 – Extending Project Expenditure Date for the Emergency Pumping Facilities Project

Ms. Gingras explained to the Board that the funds from the Board-approved project expenditure would be fully expended under normal operation of the Project by March 31, 2016, assuming there is no rainfall. Director Holcombe moved to approve Resolution No. 609; Director Walsh stated he would abstain from voting on the motion. Director Hanson asked, since the Project is structured as a Design, Build, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) project, if there could be a mechanism for establishing a project completion date such that funds expended afterwards could be attributed to the regular operation of facilities; noting that this concept should potentially be an item for further discussion, Director Hanson suggested that the Administrative Committee consider it at some point in the future. Seconded by Director Hanson, the motion carried 6/0/1 as follows:

Ayes: White, Holcombe, Hanson, Morgan

Nays: None

Absent/Abstain: Walsh

6. Interim General Manager’s Report

- *Board Administration*
- *Personnel*
- *Cachuma Member Unit Managers Meeting*
- *Financial*
- *Operations Division*
- *Fisheries Division*

Ms. Gingras highlighted topics within her report as incorporated in the board packet, providing updates on each of the associated current and ongoing deliverables, and offered to field any questions from the Board.

7. Operations Division Report

- *Lake Cachuma Operations*
- *Operation and Maintenance Activities*

Operations Division Manager, Mr. Dave Stewart, referred to his report as included in the board packet, and offered to field questions from the Board. President Morgan addressed Mr. Stewart about the Division's weekly safety meetings and the possibility of including staff from outside the Division as well.

8. Fisheries Division Report

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

Dr. Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager, noted features as presented in his report in the board packet. Following lengthy discussion on the new emergency back-up for Hilton Creek Watering System (HCWS), Director Holcombe asked Dr. Robinson if there was a project schedule detailing when the emergency back-up system would be complete, tested, and on-line. Dr. Robinson replied that while the system is expected to be fully operational by January 2016, there is no definitive project schedule due to the many variables involved in testing the system. Dr. Robinson also notified the Board of an elevational threshold for the system's operation, to which the lake's elevation is rapidly approaching, adding that he was not privy to how Reclamation would decide to operate the system once the threshold is realized. Director White inquired with Dr. Robinson about what the 'Adaptive Management Committee' is and who is on it; Dr. Robinson recited the members of the committee and pointed out that they had not met in quite some time since the chair of the committee, Reclamation, no longer calls for meetings.

9. Progress Report on Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Program

- *Maintenance and Monitoring*

Dr. Robinson gave a concise review of the status of the project, notifying the Board that Potassium had been introduced in the fertilizer for some deficient trees; additionally, he hopes to begin this year's round of planting, in preparation for California Conservation Corps (CCC) to join the efforts in mid-December and assist with the already-begun planting.

10. Update on Fish Passage Improvement Project – Quiota Creek Crossing 3

Dr. Robinson gave a brief update on the status of the project, advising the Board of two change orders that had arisen to address tree relocation and thicker rock slope protection (required by the County), and further stabilization upstream of the project, respectively. Director Hanson moved approval of Change Orders No. 1 and No. 2. Director Walsh stated that ID No. 1 would vote "no" for the reasons outlined in the District's October 5, 2015 letter to COMB. Tom Fayram asked whether or not the County had charged the \$25,000 encroachment permit fee for the Project; Dr. Robinson replied that they had. President Morgan asked if there was anything Mr. Fayram could do to reduce the fee and Mr. Fayram confirmed that he would see what could be done. Director Holcombe inquired with Dr.

Robinson as to the status of the Flood Area Certificates to be signed by landowners for all projects on Quiota Creek. Dr. Robinson replied he hoped to transmit them for signatures just after Thanksgiving. Seconded by Director Holcombe, the motion carried 6/0/1 as follows:

Ayes: White, Holcombe, Hanson, Morgan

Nayes: Walsh

Absent/Abstain: None

11. Monthly Cachuma Project Reports

The September reports were included in the board packet for information. Ms. Gingras informed the Board of a nuance with the calculation of evaporation for the month of October, now that lake levels are so low. Ms. Gingras will the October reports as soon as she has received guidance from the Bureau in regards to how to approach the issue. Director Walsh asked if the Bureau would put its decision of how to handle this concern into writing, to which Ms. Gingras assured him they would certainly do.

12. Directors' Requests for Agenda Items for Future Meeting

- Director White requested future discussion on where the concept of lengthening Lake Cachuma's useful life fits into COMB's "realm."
- Director White requested future discussion on managing the reservoir's exposure to wildfires and the associated sedimentation.

Following brief deliberation as to whether or not these discussions would take place primarily under COMB charge or elsewhere, Director Holcombe suggested that the Board receive updates on these discussions once they are underway, wherever that may be.

13. [Closed Session]: Conference with Legal Counsel: Existing and Potential Litigation

The Board went into closed session at 3:56 p.m.

- a. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]
Name of matter: Alleged Access Rights to Ortega Ridge Road, Ocean View Estates Subdivision

14. 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 came out of closed session at 4:11 p.m.

- a. Alleged Access Rights to Ortega Ridge Road, Ocean View Estates Subdivision
There was no reportable action.


15. Meeting Schedule

- The next regular Board meeting will be held November 16, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Agendas and Board Packets are available on the COMB website at www.cachuma-board.org

16. COMB Adjournment

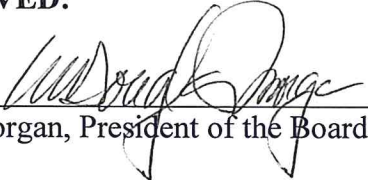
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

APPROVED:



Doug Morgan, President of the Board