

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

**held at
3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA
Monday, September 22, 2014**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by President Lauren Hanson who chaired the meeting. Those in attendance were:

Directors present:

Lauren Hanson	Goleta Water District
Doug Morgan	Montecito Water District
Dennis Beebe	SYR Water Conservation District, ID No. 1
Dale Francisco (arrived @ 2:30 pm)	City of Santa Barbara
Alonzo Orozco	Carpinteria Valley Water District

Others present:

Randall Ward	Tony Trembley
Tim Robinson	Janet Gingras
Dave Stewart	Chris Dahlstrom
Darren Burge	Ruth Snodgrass
Sarah Horwath	Phil Walker
Lara Cooper	Ann Gong
Brian Trautwein	

2. Public Comment

Phil Walker commented on the drought and weather patterns.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. **Minutes:**
August 25, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
- b. **Investment Funds**
Financial Report
Investment Report
- c. **Payment of Claims**

Director Beebe moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Director Hanson, passed 4/0/3

Ayes: Beebe, Morgan, Hanson,

Nays: None

Abstain: Orozco

Absent: Francisco

4. General Manager's Report

Randall Ward, General Manager, highlighted his report which was included in the board packet. Mr. Ward reported on USBR Site Inspections, the North Portal Elevator Rehabilitation, the Santa Barbara County Drought Task Force meetings and the Drought Emergency Pumping Facility Project.

5. Progress Report on Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Program

Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager, highlighted his report which was included in the board packet. Mr. Robinson reported that staff had been busy with the annual Lakeshore Survey the month of August which consumed all available staff time for this effort.

6. Operations Division Report

Dave Stewart report described the activities performed by the Operations field crew staff for the previous month. The Operations field crew staff is in the process of identifying system vulnerabilities to enable effective planning and emergency response which will ultimately be brought to the Operations Committee and Board for review.

7. Fisheries Division Report

Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager, highlighted his report which was included in the board packet. Mr. Robinson gave a presentation to the Board on the Biological Opinion determination of Critical Drought Years and the proposed reduction in releases to the Lower Santa Ynez River below Bradbury Dam in support of the downstream fishery.

Brian Trautwein and Phil Walker made comments.

8. 2000 Biological Opinion: Lake Elevation – Low Flow Fish Release Regime

Lake Cachuma will reach 30,000 acre-feet of available Project water in the near term. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has entered into a focused consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding a reduction to downstream releases in support of the steelhead/rainbow trout. The COMB Board requested that the General Manager indicate in a letter to USBR that they appreciate USBR initiating consultation with NMFS and they encourage USBR to move as quickly as possible to finish this consultation. The Board is supportive of USBR's interpretation that the 30,000 acre feet determination refers to Project water. Also the Board appreciates that USBR recognizes its responsibility to conduct the required Biological Opinion target flows during a critical drought year and maintain a reliable water delivery system to Hilton Creek in support of the endangered southern steelhead downstream of Bradbury Dam.

Director Hanson moved to direct the General Manager to write a letter to USBR communicating the position of the COMB Board as discussed regarding obligations under the Biological Opinion to provide low flow fish releases during critical drought conditions, seconded by Director Orozco, passed 6/1/0:

Ayes: Francisco, Morgan, Orozco, Hanson,

Nayes: Beebe

Abstain/Absent: None

9. Monthly Cachuma Project Reports

a. Cachuma Water Reports

The monthly water reports for August 2014 were included in the board packet.

b. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions

The Lake Cachuma Daily Operations report through September 17, 2014 was included in the board packet.

c. Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

The County's summary of Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Program for August 2014 was included in the board packet.

10. Directors' Requests for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Director Orozco requested that a discussion regarding repercussions if a Member Unit took more water than their allotment be added to the agenda.

Counsel Tony Trembley announced that the Board would go into closed session for Item #11 as indicated on the agenda.

The Board went into closed session at 4:23 p.m.

11. [Closed Session]: Conference with Legal Counsel: Anticipated Litigation

[Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]

Name of case: Andrew Brown and Jessica Brown vs. Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 1438821

12. 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 5:15 p.m. There was no action to report out of closed session.

13. Meeting Schedule

- The next regular Board meeting will be held October 27, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Agendas and Board Packets are available on the COMB website, www.cachuma-board.org

14. COMB Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Randall Ward, Secretary of the Board

APPROVED:



Lauren Hanson, President of the Board