

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

held at

**3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

**Monday, September 23, 2024
1:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL 1:03 PM

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	Elijah Papan, Water Resources Analyst
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager / CFO	Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Mgr.	Scott Volan, Project Biologist
Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distribution Operator	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Others Present:

Dakota Corey, City of Santa Barbara	Nicholas Turner, Montecito Water District
Matthew Scrudato, County of SB Water Agency	Matt Young, County of SB Water Agency

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of August 26, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras introduced the Consent Agenda items and asked Mr. Lyons for his comments on the financial statements. Mr. Lyons reviewed the Paid Claims report, highlighting several items of note, including payments to California Surveying & Drafting Supply, Storrer Environmental Services, Van Sande Structural Consultants and Total Compensation Systems. As there were no questions, President Holcombe requested a motion.

Director Hayman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items followed by a second from Director Hanson. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

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

4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- Fisheries Committee Meeting – September 12, 2024

Director Hanson summarized the Fisheries Committee meeting and noted that the action item is next on this agenda with the committee's recommendation to approve.

5. FISH PASSAGE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT – EL JARO CREEK, RANCHO SAN JULIAN

Ms. Gingras introduced Mr. Volan who provided a brief history of the San Julian fishway. Additionally, he gave a presentation of the project site in its original and present condition and pointed out the areas that are in need of remediation part of which the current change order is intended to address. A discussion followed with questions from the Board.

Director Hayman provided a motion to approve the change order to the project and the agreed upon funding option. Director Hanson seconded the motion which passed with a vote of six in favor.

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

6. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Gingras advised that COMB had received the water rates worksheets and subsequently billed the Cachuma Project Member Units for their prorata shares. As well she reported that staff had participated in a Value Planning workshop hosted by Reclamation concerning fish passage above Bradbury Dam. Ms. Gingras fielded questions from the Board. She touched briefly on COMB's purchase of the chassis for the new crane truck and summarized the cooperative efforts between COMB and Reclamation as Reclamation begins to reduce water releases incrementally.

7. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation
- Lake Water Quality
- Carpinteria LIVR Project
- Winter Storm Damage and Repairs
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Degner initiated his report by providing current reservoir data. He noted that Cachuma remains nearly full and that water quality is very good. He advised that Phase II of the lower reach project has made good progress with only two laterals remaining to be rehabilitated. With regard to FEMA reimbursements for the 2023 storms, Mr. Degner reported that COMB is awaiting final obligations, after

which staff can apply for reimbursement of administrative costs. Finally, he added that the debris removal project at the Lauro Debris Basin would begin within the week. He fielded questions from the Board.

8. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations report, noting that staff was very busy monitoring and supporting the lower reach lateral project. He advised that Aspect Engineering completed enhancements to the North Portal backup generator that will provide valuable data not previously available. Finally, Mr. King reported the purchase of a new radar-based level transducer which does not require immersion. The unit will be tested at the Carpinteria Reservoir, and if it performs successfully within a closed reservoir, COMB will consider replacing all of its transmitters with this new technology.

9. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

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

Mr. Volan provided the Fisheries report and noted that target flows remain higher than required, however, Reclamation will begin to reduce releases as reported by the General Manager. He reported that staff will conduct stranding surveys as releases begin to recede. Tributary Enhancement projects are proceeding and the 2024 Annual Monitoring Summary is already under way.

10. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring
- End of Program Plan

Mr. Volan reported that the oak trees are thriving although staff continues to monitor the inundated trees. Younger trees are being irrigated.

11. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

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

Ms. Gingras advised that the water reports were routine with nothing of note to report. The September reports will complete the current water year.

12. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no requests for future agenda items.

13. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **CANCELLED** Regular Board Meeting – October 28, 2024 at 1:00 PM
- Regular Board Meeting – November 18, 2024 at 1:00 PM
- Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org

15. COMB ADJOURNMENT

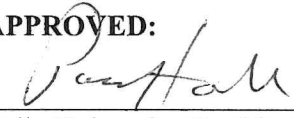
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:


Polly Holcombe, President of the Board