

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD
Monday, September 27, 2021
1:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Holcombe at 1:02 PM.

All attendees participated electronically pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21.

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	Shane King, Operations Supervisor
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO	Perri Wolfe, Administrative Analyst
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II
Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager	

Others Present:

Joshua Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara	Matt Young, County of Santa Barbara
Catherine Taylor, City of Santa Barbara	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of August 23, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda items to the Board, calling upon Mr. Lyons to comment on the Investment of Funds and Paid Claims reports. Mr. Lyons reviewed revenues briefly and directed

the Board's attention to several expenditures of note, including payments made in respect of the COMB Building Replacement project, the Sanitary Survey and the South Coast Conduit design.

As there were no questions, Director Hayman put forth a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- *Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee Meeting – September 2, 2021* – Director Hayman reported that the committee received an update on the Oak Tree program and forwarded the report to the Board for approval.
- *Administrative Committee Meeting – September 16, 2021* – Director Holcombe summarized the information received by the committee at its meeting and noted that the Personnel Policy is forwarded to the Board to receive and file.

5. PERSONNEL POLICY AND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATE

Ms. Gingras introduced the agenda item and stated this item has been brought back to the Board for further review. A discussion followed addressing various questions and concerns. Mr. Carter provided legal clarity in response. The Board received and filed the Vaccination Policy update to the Employee Handbook, noting that the policy may be updated in the future as needed.

6. LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE RESTORATION PROGRAM – FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

Mr. Robinson provided a historical overview of the Oak Tree Restoration project and summarized the annual plan. He reported the numbers of surviving trees and the number of trees still to be planted in order to meet the target. Mr. Robinson advised he will plant three hundred new trees this year and eighty trees to replace non-surviving trees. He fielded questions and comments from the Board and advised that the annual report would be posted on COMB's website.

Director Sneddon motioned to approve the Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Restoration Program proposed program of work for Fiscal Year 2021-22. Director Hayman seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- Personnel
- Virtual Meetings

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report, noting actions recently taken by Governor Newsome with respect to public meetings and the Brown Act with the passage of Assembly Bill 361. This item will be brought back to the Board at its next regularly scheduled public meeting for further discussion and possible action. She advised the Board that staff has also researched the costs and effectiveness of various safety measures and equipment to implement upon a return to in-person public meetings. Ms. Gingras followed with an update on staff training and reported that the Operations Division has developed a presentation in conjunction with Reclamation's upcoming Emergency Preparedness Exercise. Operations staff will also present COMB's Secured Pipeline project at an upcoming IRWMP meeting. Finally she reported that Michael Jackson, SCCAO Area Manager (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) recently met with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the Cachuma Project Member Units and provided notice to allocate 70% of the contract total of 25,714 acre-fee in Cachuma Project water allocation for water year 2022.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation Projections
- Lake Water Quality
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's report, beginning with the current Lake Cachuma capacity and elevation and providing an update on climate conditions including the forecasted chance of La Nina conditions this winter. He noted the projected date for installation of the secured pipeline and provided a twenty year hydrology report for historical reference. Mr. Degner will request updated projections from the member agencies based upon Reclamation's 70% water allocation. He reviewed the Infrastructure Improvement Projects under way, several of which are expected to come before the Board at the next meeting.

9. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report, highlighting the replacement of the well pressure tank at the North Portal and resurfacing of the Lauro grating at the overflow structure. He reviewed the routine monthly activities of staff, as well as the ongoing annual structure maintenance work. Mr. King reported that staff has been constructing a new ADA compliant ramp for the mobile buildings and performing other renovation work on stairs and decking.

10. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

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

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report, opening with an update on flows to Hilton Creek and the Highway 154 Bridge, while noting that lake elevation is still adequate to provide gravity flow to Hilton Creek. He advised that the pumping barge is ready for use as necessity dictates. Finally he provided an update on staffing and the annual monitoring reports which are under way.

11. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson presented the Oak Tree progress report, noting that irrigation rotation is being dictated by year of planting. Mr. Robinson also advised that he will discuss the placement of 300 new oak trees, as approved by the Board, with the Cachuma Park manager.

12. 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, mentioning that there remains only one month in the water year but noting nothing else of consequence.

13. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

Director Sneddon questioned whether it was necessary to request, formally, that the AB 361 mandated resolution to continue remote meetings be agendized. Director Hayman requested a discussion concerning the month to month justifications for continuing to hold remote meetings. Director Hanson requested an update on the progress of the COMB Sustainability plan currently under development.

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

- 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

The Board convened the Closed Session at 2:35 PM.

15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

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

- 14a. 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

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 2:46 PM. There was no reportable action.

16. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **October 25, 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 2:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gingras
Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:

Polly Holcombe
Polly Holcombe, President of the Board