

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD  
Monday, September 26, 2022  
1:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Holcombe at 1:14 PM.

All attendees participated electronically pursuant to California Government Code sections 54953(b)(1), (b)(2), (e)(1) and (e)(3) (AB 361).

**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	Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant

**Others Present:**

Catherine Taylor, City of Santa Barbara	Matt Young, COSB Water Agency
Nicolas Turner, Montecito Water District	

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. RESOLUTION NO. 766 – CONFIRMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY - RATIFICATION OF GOVERNOR NEWSOM’S DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY (HEALTH AND SAFETY)**

Resolution No. 766 was presented to the Board. As there was no discussion, the President called for a motion. Director Hanson motioned to approve the resolution followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion carried with a vote of five in favor and one opposed.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hanson, Holcombe

**Nays:** Hayman

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of August 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
  - Financial Reports
  - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda for consideration and invited Mr. Lyons to comment on the financials. Mr. Lyons reviewed revenues received and highlighted various expenditures of note, including payments to Santa Barbara Office Interiors, Quinn Cat, Total Compensation and Cushman Contracting.

Director Hayman provided a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

## **6. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

- Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Committee Meeting – September 16, 2022

Director Hayman reviewed the Oak Tree Committee meeting briefly and noted that the action item is before the Board today for consideration.

## **7. LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE RESTORATION PROGRAM – FISCAL YEAR 2022-23**

Mr. Robinson presented the Oak Tree Restoration Program for fiscal year 2022-23 to the Board. He concentrated his discussion on the executive summary section, noting the numbers of trees planted and adopted and the percentage still living. Mr. Robinson reported that nine more trees would fulfill the mitigation target. Fiscal year plans are to plant sixty trees so as to provide a margin of error in the total trees and account for any mortalities. Finally, he reviewed the finances for the program budgeted for this fiscal year. The Board expressed their appreciation.

Director Hayman motioned to approve the plans for this fiscal year, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

## **8. LAKE CACHUMA EMERGENCY PUMPING FACILITY SECURED PIPELINE PROJECT – STATUS REPORT**

Mr. Degner provided the Board with an update on the Emergency Pumping Facility Secured Pipeline project now under way. Additionally, he reported that dredging of gate five would finish soon and the silt screen installed around the intake tower is successfully controlling turbidity to lessen treatment plant

impact. Finally, he reported that costs accrued to date were roughly 25% of the budgeted amount. Mr. Degner fielded questions & comments from the Board.

## **9. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

- Administration / Staff Training
- Virtual Meetings

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report, highlighting recent staff training through California Special Districts Association and ACWA JPIA. She noted that staff had also attended an American Water Works Association cybersecurity webinar and held a follow-up discussion with the IT vendor. Ms. Gingras added staff had attended an Employee Benefits webinar in preparation for the commencement of open enrollment. Finally she summarized the recent Office of Emergency Management meeting which included an interesting Americans with Disabilities Act presentation.

## **10. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation Projection
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's Report, providing updates on climate, the recent record heatwave, precipitation and its impact on the watersheds. He noted that fire risk is still high. Mr. Degner also reviewed the status of the downstream water rights release and its impact on lake level. Based on current drought status, the Board should expect a request to approve the installation of the pumping barge in February or March. Finally, Mr. Degner provided updates on the expected allocation from Reclamation and the Infrastructure Improvement Projects.

## **11. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT**

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division Report, reporting that staff pulled the insertion meter at the North Portal prior to beginning of the dredging and took the opportunity to calibrate it. He advised that there were no issues with the sanitary survey conducted by the State Water Resources Control Board, DWOCP. Mr. King provided updates on structure maintenance and noted that staff has been monitoring the work on the secured pipeline closely. He fielded comments from the Board.

## **12. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT**

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

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division Report, commenting that the outset of the month had been challenging with respect to Hilton Creek. He summarized the various issues that arose, reporting their impact on the fish and ultimately their solutions. He was happy to report that the Hwy 154 USGS Stream Gauges is installed and online, already sending telemetry data. Mr. Robinson reported staff participation in an Airborne Visible Infra-Red Imaging Spectrometer (AVIRIS) overflight of the lake,

during which COMB also took water quality samples. The AVIRIS overflight was a joint research-gathering effort of JPL, NASA and UCSB. Mr. Robinson fielded questions from the Board.

**13. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM**

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson presented the Oak Tree program report, advising that irrigation is ongoing and the trees are setting acorns. He noted that staff will gather a few acorns to provide to the nursery for germination. Mr. Robinson expressed his hope that the dry year will not impact the young trees heavily.

**14. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS**

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

Ms. Gingras stated that there was nothing of note in the Cachuma reports, however, she will continue to follow up with Reclamation on the Accumulated Drought Water Credit adjustment and keep the Board apprised of its status.

**15. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

There were no requests from Directors for future meetings.

**16. [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
- b. Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel
- c. Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 2:35 PM.

**17. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

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

- 15a. 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
- 15b. Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel
- 15c. Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 2:54 PM. There was no reportable action for any of 15a., 15b. or 15c.

**18. MEETING SCHEDULE**

- **October 24, 2022 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website [www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)**

**19. COMB ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

**APPROVED:**



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Polly Holcombe, President of the Board