

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

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

**Monday, November 18, 2024
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 1:03 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 Papen, Water Resources Analyst
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager / CFO	Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Mgr.	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II
Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager	

Others Present:

Dakota Corey, City of Santa Barbara	Matthew Scrudato, County of SB Water Agency
Dana Hoffenberg, City of Santa Barbara	Bob McDonald, Carpinteria Valley Water District
Matt Young, County of SB Water Agency	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public Comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of September 23, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda items and solicited Mr. Lyons' comments on the Financial Reports and Paid Claims. Mr. Lyons drew Board attention to a number of September and October paid claims. He highlighted September remittances to Flowers, Quinn, Ford of Downtown LA and Reclamation followed by October remittances to HDR, Peter Lapidus Construction and Carpinteria Valley Water District. Mr. Lyons fielded questions from the Board.

President Holcombe asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, provided by Director Hayman and seconded by Director Sneddon. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

4. FINANCIAL REVIEW – 1ST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

Mr. Lyons shared his Powerpoint presentation to illustrate the quarterly financial report. He reviewed revenues received during the quarter and then presented actual expenditures for each division for the quarter, as compared to budget, providing explanation for any variances. He also provided forecasts of anticipated expenses compared to budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. Finally, Mr. Lyons reviewed administrative deliverables and fielded questions from the Board.

5. LATERAL ISOLATION VALVE REPLACEMENT (LIVR) PROJECT

Mr. Degner summarized the background and current status of the LIVR co-operative project. He noted that COMB's 2024-25 budget contains funds for completion of Phase III. Funds for Phase II were assessed and collected during FY 2023-24 and will be carried forward to offset COMB's share of cost under the agreement. He complimented Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) and Tierra Contracting staff highly for the success thus far of the project. Mr. McDonald of CVWD added his thanks, stating that CVWD was very happy with the outcome to date. The Board thanked and congratulated all involved.

6. HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS COMPLETION

Mr. Robinson projected a slide show to illustrate the damages requiring repairs at Quiota and El Jaro Creeks. He discussed the processes undertaken to repair both fish passages and included photos of the finished stream beds. Mr. Robinson reported that as-built drawings and close-out of the permits were the only tasks remaining. He fielded a number of questions and comments from the Board.

7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- Personnel
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report, referring the Board to the contracts that were executed under her authority during the prior quarter, some of which will be reimbursed through FEMA. Ms. Gingras invited Mr. Papen to comment on his CE-QUAL-W2 water quality modeling training and implementation. She summarized the content of the IRWMP virtual meeting and reported that COMB offered technical assistance and professional expertise in conjunction with various Reclamation projects. Finally, Ms. Gingras stated that COMB and Reclamation continue to collaborate on the step-down of the Bradbury releases.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation
- Winter Storm Damage and Repairs
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's Report, commenting first on climate and current fire risk. He reviewed the graphs and tables contained in his report which elicited discussion from the Board. Mr. Degner provided an update on expected FEMA obligated reimbursements and those projects not yet obligated. He reported that the Lauro Debris Basin project had turned up two additional sub-projects required to return the basins to optimal conditions. Finally, Mr. Degner reviewed the Infrastructure Improvement projects, highlighting the log boom replacement under way and the upcoming Sheffield Tunnel evaluation. He fielded questions and comments from the Board.

9. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. Degner continued with the Operations report, advising that staff had monitored the debris removal projects and repair of the North Portal secondary road washout. The annual cathodic protection inspection has taken place. Mr. Degner noted that staff had assisted Fisheries with revegetation at the tributary projects and had, with environmental approval, removed an osprey nest from the North Portal structure and relocated elsewhere.

10. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

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

Mr. Robinson reviewed the Fisheries division report, advising that target flows were met and exceeded at the measuring points. He reported that Reclamation continues to step down releases. Staff will begin snorkel surveys soon. Mr. Robinson reviewed completed tasks which were requested by Reclamation under the terms of the State Water Board Order WR 2019-0148. He provided a brief update on the Tributary Project Enhancements and fielded questions from the Board.

11. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring
- End of Program Plan

Mr. Robinson reported that staff is irrigating those trees not considered self-sustaining and weeding as necessary. Additionally, he noted that the annual inventory is due to begin soon.

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 and reported nothing unusual other than the data completes the 2023-24 water year.

13. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

COMB will provide Directors with a list of Board meeting dates for 2025.

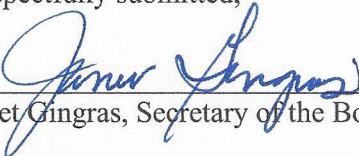
14. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – December 16, 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 3:25 PM.

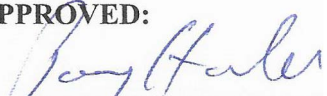
Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:



Polly Holcombe, President of the Board