

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

by Teleconference Call ONLY

**Monday, October 26, 2020
1:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Gingras at 1:01 PM.

All attendees participated telephonically pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

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

Others Present:

Bob McDonald, Carpinteria Valley Water District	Matt Young, SB County Water Agency
Kevin Walsh, SY River Water Conservation District	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of September 28, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda items and reviewed various revenues and expenditures. She noted several pass-through revenue amounts that were offset by corresponding expenditures, including the first period water rates obligation due to Reclamation.

Director Sneddon moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Director Hanson seconded the motion which carried with a unanimous vote of six in favor.

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

4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- Operations Committee Meeting – October 21, 2020

Director Sneddon reported out to the Board regarding the Operations Committee meeting and noted that the committee supported moving the items forward to the Board with recommendations to approve. Both action items are to be addressed in this agenda.

5. PRESENTATION ON CACHUMA PROJECT WATER RATES

Mr. Lyons presented a comprehensive description of the manner in which water rates are calculated by Reclamation. He reviewed the method Reclamation uses to handle funds surpluses and budgetary deficits. Mr. Lyons fielded questions and comments from the Board. COMB will continue to follow up with Reclamation.

6. FINANCIAL REVIEW – 1ST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Mr. Lyons presented the first quarter financial results for Fiscal Year 2020-21. He reviewed revenues and expenditures noting variances from the budget. Mr. Lyons reviewed Administration's upcoming deliverables and fielded comments and questions from the Board.

7. CACHUMA PROJECT WARREN ACT TRUST FUND / RENEWAL FUND 2020-21 ANNUAL AND LONG TERM PLAN; SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BETTERMENT FUND USE OF FUNDS

- a. Receive and file the Cachuma Project Annual and Long Term Plan
- b. Approve Program Expenditures – Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund for FY 2020-21
- c. Approve Program Expenditures – Santa Barbara County Water Agency's Betterment Fund for FY 2020-21

Mr. Lyons, as the COMB appointed member of the Warren Act Trust Fund / Renewal Fund / Betterment Fund Committee (Funds Committee), presented the actions taken by the Funds Committee for Fiscal Year 2020-21. He summarized the annual and long term plan and reviewed the proposed usage of the available funds. Mr. Lyons requested Board ratification of the plan and approval of the proposed expenditures. Following questions and discussion, Director Hanson moved to receive and file the plan and approve the expenditures. Director Sneddon seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous vote of six in favor.

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

8. RESOLUTION NO. 719 – PROPOSED REVISED STRATEGY FOR LOWER REACH LATERAL REHABILITATION PROJECT

Mr. Degner provided the Board with a detailed description of the proposed revised strategy for the Lower Reach Lateral project and reviewed the tabulated results of the Request for Proposals received from three contractors, noting the final choice. He advised that the project involves a cooperative effort between COMB and Carpinteria Valley Water District. Mr. Degner detailed the conduit's inherent design problems which preclude ease of shutdown for critical maintenance and noted that the proposal represents a plan to remedy those design problems and create a permanent solution for future shutdowns and maintenance. Noting that COMB would incur no additional cost for the design phase of the revised strategy due to the proposed cooperative agreement, Mr. Degner fielded questions and comments. At the Board's request, the president will sign the cooperative agreement. With that modification, Director Sneddon motioned to approve Resolution No. 719. Director Hayman seconded the motion which passed unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain

9. RESOLUTION NO. 720 – SOUTH COAST CONDUIT REHABILITATION PROJECTS – CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Mr. Degner presented the staff memo to the Board requesting approval of a sole-source construction contract, including a contingency for emergency repair work. He provided an itemization of the costs, as bid, and detailed the sole-source justification logic. Mr. Degner fielded questions and comments from the Board. Director Sneddon put forth the motion to approve the project and resolution, followed by a second from Director Hayman. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain

10. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Engineering / Operations

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report, summarizing recent actions taken by COMB staff. She highlighted the previous quarter's executed contracts, reported that COMB had been awarded additional funding from FEMA / CalOES. Further she announced that the entitlements for the 2021 Water Year were authorized at 100%. Additionally, Ms. Gingras updated the Board regarding the status of various ongoing projects, such as the Domestic Water Supply Permit process, the Lake Cachuma Watershed Sanitary Survey and Santa Barbara County's planned Lake Cachuma Bathymetric Survey scheduled for the summer of 2021.

11. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation / Downstream Release Update

- Infrastructure Improvement Projects / Work Plan

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's report with a focus on analyzing current data and providing potential forecasts of climate conditions during a La Niña year. He provided an estimate of the total acre feet of the downstream water rights release and noted its expected impact on lake elevation. Additionally, Mr. Degner provided a projection for deployment of the Emergency Pumping System, based on hydrology forecasts. Finally he reviewed the Infrastructure Improvement Projects briefly.

12. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report, announcing the interview and subsequent hiring of a new Water Service Operator. He reviewed the Division's recent activities, including Underground Service Alerts and structure maintenance. He noted that winterizing maintenance is due to begin. Finally, Mr. King reported that COMB, in conjunction with the SCADA contractor, has replaced all cellular modems with current technology, a requirement to provide stability, security and functionality.

13. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

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

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report, providing additional information on the downstream water rights release as well as updates on trapping and snorkel survey activities mandated by the Biological Opinion during releases. Other updates included tributary projects, the Hilton Creek Watering and Emergency Backup Systems, a Surcharge Water Accounting summary and the production of the 2020 Annual Monitoring Report and Annual Monitoring Summary.

14. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson presented the staff memo detailing Oak Tree program activities. He advised that the recent heat wave necessitated increased irrigation and also reported that the crew had been collecting ripe acorns from both Valley and Live Oak trees for germination. Finally, Mr. Robinson noted that deer cages had been removed from trees no longer at risk of decimation by deer and had been stored for future re-use.

15. 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. She noted that these reports represented the final month of the water year and advised that the data contained nothing unusual.

16. BOARD DISCUSSION ON PROCESS TO RETURN TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Ms. Gingras introduced the staff memo regarding a return to in-person meetings and opened the discussion. Board members expressed concern for staff safety, adding that while visuals are helpful, the current method of holding meetings is acceptable. COMB's pathway to resuming in-person meetings will follow State and County guidelines.

17. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no requests from Directors.

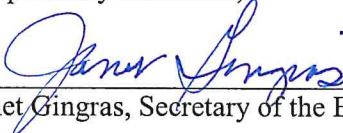
18. MEETING SCHEDULE

- November 16, 2020 at 1:00 PM
- Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org

19. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:



Polly Holcombe, President of the Board