

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

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

**Monday, April 22, 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 1:01 PM.

Directors Present:

Polly Holcombe, Carpinteria Valley Water District
Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District
Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District
Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara

General Counsel Present:

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

Staff Present:

Janet Gingras, General Manager	Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distribution Operator
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO	Elijah Papen, Water Resources Analyst
Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager	Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Mgr.	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Others Present:

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of March 25, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda items for review and invited Mr. Lyons to comment on the financial reports. He reviewed revenues received during the month, notably the pass through revenues collected from Member Agencies. Mr. Lyons also reviewed and provided explanation for expenditures of note, among others noting payments to Reclamation, Gibbs Truck and Rosemount.

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

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

4. RESOLUTION NO. 797 – PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION (2024 WINTER STORMS)

Ms. Gingras presented Resolution No. 797 for discussion and approval, noting that approval would provide COMB with the ability to apply to Federal FEMA for reimbursement of expenses related to the 2024 storms as well as to contract expeditiously for emergency work.

Director Hayman provided a motion to approve. Director Hanson seconded the motion which passed unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

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

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW – 3rd QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Mr. Lyons shared his presentation of the third quarter financial review with the Board. He recapped revenues received during the quarter. He provided explanation for any variances as compared to the budgets for each division and advised that certain offsets to expenditures were included in the calculations. Mr. Lyons noted that budgets generally were trending on track, barring some timing issues, reviewed the status of the Administrative Division's deliverables and fielded questions from the Board.

6. PRESENTATION ON PHASE II WATER QUALITY AND SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT STUDY

Mr. Papen shared slides as he presented the results of Phase II of the Water Quality and Sediment Study. He recapped the background on this project and reviewed four study questions intended to inform the basis of the study and report. Mr. Papen discussed the collection of data, results and conclusions drawn and the recommendations developed from the study. He also updated the Board as the current status of the reservoir water quality. Finally, he advised that staff is working on some in-house plans of action going forward, where appropriate. Mr. Papen fielded questions from the Board.

7. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PURCHASE – OPERATIONS DIVISION

Ms. Gingras introduced the request for approval of the purchase of a new vehicle and advised that it would replace the Ford Explorer with a new, favorably priced Ford F-150 Lightning vehicle. Mr. Degner added that a recent California law mandates a gradual replacement of fleet vehicles with electric vehicles (EVs). He fielded questions regarding the practicality of EVs and discussed charging options.

Director Hanson motioned to approve the vehicle purchase. Director Sneddon seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- FY 2023-24 Accomplishments / FY 2024-25 Internal Goals

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report. Highlights she mentioned included the draft budget which has been provided to Member Agency staff for comments, contracts executed during the last quarter and California Fish and Game Commission's receipt of COMB's letter regarding steelhead. Ms. Gingras thanked staff and drew Board attention to the list of activities accomplished by staff over the past year. The Board appreciated the breadth of the accomplishments.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation Projection
- Meter Accuracy Improvements
- Winter Storm Damage Repairs/Reimbursement
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Degner reviewed climate conditions and lake elevation, commenting that higher volume combined with low evaporation rates may result in a longer spill this year. The purchase of new pressure transmitters for the Venturi meters will enhance accuracy. He discussed the status of funding efforts and the work due to begin on the lower reach laterals. Finally, Mr. Degner reported on the progress of the solar and EV charging projects. He fielded questions and advice from the Board.

10. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operation Division report. Other than the usual monthly duties, he reported that staff continued to perform storm cleanup, had repaired the log boom and participated in confined space rescue training. In addition, Mr. King advised that electrical repairs had taken place as well as the successful annual hoist inspection at the North Portal. Finally, he mentioned that structure maintenance in the South Reach continues.

11. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

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

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report, stating that target flows continue to be well above the requirement. He noted effects of flow cuts on the fishery resulting from Reclamation transition from gate releases to the outlet works. Mr. Robinson also reported that Biological Opinion surveys are ongoing and the tributary projects are moving forward. Finally, he noted that staff has been working on the Annual Monitoring Summary and Report, drafts of which are expected to be completed within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Robinson fielded questions from the board.

12. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson reported that oak tree inventory efforts were nearly complete and data entry of the inventory results is under way. The trees are thriving due to all the rain but staff is monitoring shoreline trees which have been inundated due to the full reservoir.

13. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

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

Ms. Gingras presented the routine Cachuma Project reports and noted the ongoing availability of surplus water. Allocations remain unchanged and are presumed to be full allocations.

14. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no requests from directors for future agenda items.

15. [CLOSED SESSION]: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

- a. [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)] Title: General Manager

The Board adjourned into closed session at 3:10 PM.

16. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

- a. [Government Code Section 54957.6(a)]
Agency designated representatives: Board President
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

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. Annual Performance Review – General Manager
- 16a. Conference with Labor Negotiators

The Board reconvened into open session at 4:03 PM.

There was no reportable action for item 15a.

With respect to item 16a, the General Manager is directed to gather market comparisons on comparable public agencies and related matters.

18. MODIFICATION OF GENERAL MANAGER'S COMPENSATION

Action on this item was tabled for the next Board meeting.

19. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – May 20, 2024 at 1:00 PM (Third Monday)**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

Ms. Gingras added that a Special Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

20. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:



Polly Holcombe, President of the Board