

**January 8, 2007**  
**Special Meeting**  
**7:31 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 8, 2007 at 7:31 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Bob Swanson, Vice President Frank Bettencourt, and Directors Ken Perry and Sonny Flores. Director John Tobias was absent. Also present were District Manager/Engineer John S. Gregg, Deputy District Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Administration and Finance Manager Shelley Giancola, and Office Specialist II Barbara L. Mauro.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Swanson at 7:31 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Swanson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing** Ms. Giancola verified publication.
- 2. Public Hearing regarding 2006 Annual Groundwater Report**
  - a. Presentation of Report** Iris Priestaf and Maureen Riley from Todd Engineers and Tom Gaffney from Bartle Wells gave a PowerPoint presentation for the 2006 Annual Groundwater Report. Ms. Priestaf began by pointing out some important points such the new format which includes steam lining the fundamentals while preserving the useful information. Ms. Priestaf gave an overview of the subbasins, which were defined in 1996 and used in this report. Zones 3 and 6 water sources are documented in the annual report. Ms. Priestaf reviewed the local, regional, state and federal Water Resources Programs over the Water Year 2006. Ms. Priestaf discussed the Water Softener Rebate Program which involved the WRA and Santa Clara Valley Water District. The purpose of this program was to replace older models of softeners, offer the customer a \$150 rebate and reduce salt and energy. This was a \$300,000 grant from the state. Additionally, Ms. Priestaf noted a regional project was the Groundwater Desalination Feasibility Study which was a \$245,000 grant from the state and its goal was to reduce salt. Two other programs Ms. Priestaf mentioned were a variety of projects from the Pajaro Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Projects (due to be final in 2007) and the Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan (due to be completed in the spring of 2007). Ms. Priestaf outlined three groundwater studies: 1. AB303 Depth Specific Monitoring Well (Will be complete by 4/2007), 2. Occurrence and Management of High Ground Water (Completed in 2006), and 3. Hydrogeologic Assessments (to be completed

in June 2007). Ms. Priestaf gave an overview regarding percolation, with releases from Hernandez and from CVP Water. Ms. Priestaf attributes the Wastewater Reduction to water conservation measures Ms. Priestaf turned the presentation over to Maureen Riley. Ms. Riley gave an overview of water sources and use of CVP versus Groundwater. Regarding the Groundwater Level Profile, the Water Year of 2005 and 2006 are very similar in Zone 6. In the Pacheco/Bolsa basin, near the Wastewater Plant, the groundwater is slightly higher. Ms. Riley stated the anticipated water storage for 2007 should be the same as 2006. Ms. Riley then turned over the presentation to Mr. Gaffney. Mr. Gaffney reported that the District is in excellent financial shape. Mr. Gaffney reported the major expenses for the District are water costs and employee salaries while revenue is from water sales, standby and availability assessments and groundwater charges. These three areas of revenue make up about 1/3 of the District's total revenue, with the remainder coming from property taxes. Mr. Gaffney recommended stabilizing the groundwater charges in the future. Upon conclusion, Mr. Gaffney turned the presentation back over to Ms. Priestaf. Ms. Priestaf concluded that the basin is full, there is no overdraft, and the groundwater use is decreasing. The 2007 Water Year outlook is favorable. Ms. Priestaf stated groundwater pumping and CVP water, requests should be fulfilled.

- b. Questions of Directors** Vice President Bettencourt asked about the quality of wells. Ms. Priestaf stated the water quality is good but in 2007, there will be a full water quality report; during the third year of report, the water budget will also be reviewed. President Swanson asked if Mr. Gaffney would attend a meeting discussing the rates. Mr. Gregg stated it would need to be following the February Proposition 218 hearing, so the meeting could be sometime in March 2007. Director Perry stated this report was refreshing.
- c. Open Public Hearing** President Swanson opened the Public Hearing and there were no public comments.
- d. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date** President Swanson closed the Public Hearing.

**3. Acceptance of 2006 Annual Groundwater Report**

- a. Consider Adoption of Statement of Findings and Recommendations** President Swanson asked Mr. Pipal to explain adopting the statements of findings and recommendations. Mr. Pipal stated the findings are required and they are simply recommendations and are needed for the Groundwater Report. Upon a motion made by Director Flores and seconded by Director Perry, the Board of Directors of San Benito County Water District unanimously adopted the Statement of Findings and Recommendations of the 2006 Annual Groundwater Report.
- b. Consider Acceptance of 2006 Annual Groundwater Report** Upon a motion made by Vice President Bettencourt and seconded by Director Flores, the Board of Directors of San Benito County Water District unanimously accepted the 2006 Annual Groundwater Report.

4. **Adjourn** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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*Minutes were approved at the January 31, 2007, Regular Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.*

*/s/Robert M. Swanson*  
**Robert M. Swanson, President**

*/s/Barbara L. Mauro*  
**Barbara L. Mauro, Board Secretary**