

**Special Meeting
January 9, 2006
7:30 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District met in Special Session on Monday, January 9, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Directors present were John Tobias, Bob Swanson, Sonny Flores and Frank Bettencourt, Director Ken Perry was absent. Others present were District Manager/Engineer John S. Gregg, Deputy District Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David Pipal and Administrative Services Officer Maria E. Alfaro

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Tobias. President Tobias also lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing

Administrative Services Officer Alfaro noted to the Board that the Annual Groundwater Report was received on December 19, 2005. It was distributed to various County of San Benito and City of Hollister departments and other public agencies as well as to the San Benito County Library and San Juan Bautista Library for public review. The public hearing notice was published in the Free Lance newspaper on December 24 and 27, 2005.

2. Public Hearing regarding 2005 Annual Groundwater Report

a. Presentation of Report

Gus Yates, Consulting Hydrologist, presented a power point presentation to the Board of Directors. Mr. Yates noted that this was the tenth year and that this year's presentation was a little different.

Mr. Yates discussed the focus of the Annual Groundwater Report and reviewed the history of rainfall, average run-off at Hernandez Reservoir. He also discussed the decrease in water use, the groundwater budget and noted it is positive in all sub basins. Mr. Yates noted that storage had increased to 10,000 acre feet and that recharge capacity was not fully utilized. Mr. Yates noted that the Groundwater part of the report looks a lot like last year's and noted that groundwater levels change very slowly and it takes a long time for results to be seen.

Director Swanson asked how these patterns compare to other areas in California. Mr. Yates noted that they are all the same. Director Swanson asked if Southern California was experiencing the same. Mr. Yates noted he was not familiar with the Southern California area.

Mr. Yates noted that most nitrates were increasing. Mr. Yates provided some conclusions to the Board. Mr. Yates noted that the basin was full and water levels were stable, that the basin is likely to stay full, except during droughts, there are large recharge capacities, water quality changes slowly. Mr. Yates made some recommendations to the Board. He recommended a basic data program, to work with local landowners when applying for well permits to gather information, to survey well head elevations and to monitor shallow wells in the Pacheco sub-basin.

b. Questions of Directors

Director Bettencourt asked about the history of wells with nitrates. Mr. Yates noted that there had been a nitrate problem had been here for a while more disbursed in the North County area and noted that previous recommendations to do more depth studies in that area.

Director Flores asked if the basin was full if we should cut back on the release of Hernandez. Mr. Yates noted that the District is free to keep it full.

Director Swanson asked about e-logs and asked if they were better now than they were before. Mr. Yates noted that he had given much more accurate information on the layers and rarely finds a correlation with the well logs and noted that e-logs will help with the screened intervals.

c. Open Public Hearing

President Tobias opened the public hearing.

Richard Bettencourt, County Planning Commissioner, noted that that the County would be looking at the General Plan and would be good if they worked with the District on salinity program. Mr. Yates noted that it would be helpful to have that information in the general plan.

d. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date

President Tobias closed the public hearing. Mr. Tobias noted that he appreciated the new approach of the presentation.

3. Acceptance of 2005 Annual Groundwater Report

Upon a motion duly made by Director Flores and seconded by Director Bettencourt, the board unanimously accepted the 2005 Annual Groundwater Report.

4. Consider Adoption of Statement of Findings and Recommendations

The board considered the adoption of the Statement of Findings of Recommendations. Upon a motion duly made by Director Flores and seconded by Director Bettencourt, the Statement of Findings of Recommendations was unanimously accepted.

5. Adjourn or Adjourn to later date

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

John Tobias, President

Maria E. Alfaro
Administrative Services Officer