

**Special Meeting  
March 8, 2006  
7:30 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session at 7:30 p.m. at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, CA. Board Members present were President John Tobias, Vice-President Bob Swanson, Directors Ken Perry, Sonny Flores and Frank Bettencourt. Also present District Manager/Engineer John S. Gregg, Deputy District Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, and Administrative Services Officer Maria E. Alfaro.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Tobias at 7:30 p.m.

**a. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

President Tobias led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1. North Area Groundwater Management Plan**

**a. Presentation/Discussion of “Occurrence and Management of High Groundwater, North Area by Bookman-Edmonston**

Richard Shatz, Hydrologist with Bookman-Edmonston made a power point presentation to the Board of Directors. Mr. Shatz noted the purpose of the project was to see how groundwater works in the basin and the purpose for the workshop was to get comments from the public. Mr. Shatz’ presentation reviewed the following: definition of the area, the purpose of the study, definition of groundwater, discussed the nature of the problem, sources of subsurface data, groundwater flow distribution, water quality as a key component, and TDS and boron, perched water of poor quality. Mr. Shatz also noted that the sources to the North area are perched water, groundwater from aquifer and groundwater leaking upward across confining bed. Mr. Shatz also reviewed the groundwater management goals which are to maintain habitat, leaving high water at source of Pacheco Creek, to take groundwater to Pacheco Creek, leave water in San Felipe Lake and reduce adverse impacts of the high groundwater in the area of San Felipe Road. Mr. Shatz reviewed the six management options, which were identified as, Option 1, construct groundwater monitoring wells in at five locations to confirm that the management actions are having the desired effects, Option 2, construct tile drains to remove perched water in the soils, Option 3, implement a program to assist artesian well owners to comply with State law and to prevent discharge of artesian water without it being put to beneficial use, Option 4, implement a well construction ordinance to require sanitary seals on all new wells to prevent them from flooding, Option 5, implement a local groundwater extraction program and Option 6, maintain the groundwater divide and increase pumping near airport or construct new wells. Mr. Shatz also discussed how to manage groundwater and an implementation schedule. Mr. Shatz noted that these steps take time and that some are easy to implement, however, some take time to construct and to have willing well owners participate.

Mr. Naser Bateni, Vice President of Bookman-Edmonston discussed a drainage management program and noted that this looks at all the options that were discussed.

Director Perry asked for clarification regarding the airport situation and spray fields in the vicinity on the Southside of 156. Mr. Shatz noted that it should not contribute to the problem. Mr. Bateni, noted that he was not sure of the implications.

Janet Brians noted that her family has lived on their farm for 32 years and that in the late 70's the water table dropped. Now they have water and are concerned about doing something to the water supply. Ms. Brians noted that she would like to continue to farm and keep the good water they have.

Mr. Shatz noted that a monitoring well will be in the Lovers Lane area and that the top objective is that groundwater sources are sustainable. Mr. Bateni noted that there were two concerns that are kept in mind as they go through this process. One being the monitoring and assessment and the other the adaptive management used to review and assess.

Discussion regarding average rainfall was had. Mr. Bateni noted that they do not have all the data.

Director Swanson asked if recommendation to the District be made as to at what depth to monitor at different locations. Mr. Shatz noted yes and also trying to get data on flow direction, etc.

Mr. Swanson asked if this would take care of perched water. Mr. Shatz noted that tile drains is one of the few options the District has. Mr. Shatz noted that the more they know and better understand the system, the better options that may be available. Mr. Shatz noted that tile drains are not cheap and that they use gravity.

Mr. Brians asked if there was any mapping of the oil fields. Mr. Shatz noted that the basin is shallow.

Director Perry asked how far below Lovers Lane they were looking at. He noted that the Nature Conservancy was buying property on Lovers Lane.

Director Flores asked if San Felipe water was cut back. Mr. Shatz noted that more pumping would occur which has poor quality water and make soils unusable for grow agriculture

Don Marcus asked if this could be controlled. Mr. Shatz noted that data from monitoring wells is important. He noted that the data is available to everyone.

Director Swanson noted that people complain about the high water tables and that there should be a mechanism to solve the problem. Mr. Shatz noted that the management option would be beneficial for that.

**b. Next Steps; Review/Discuss Recommended Action Plan**

District Manager/Engineer John S. Gregg reviewed the next steps in three areas. Additional water and what to do with it. Mr. Gregg noted that the Expansion Committee will be tasked with what to do with surplus water. The Groundwater Committee would work on a workplan. Legal

instruments will be reviewed by Counsel. Mr. Gregg noted that this concludes the initial phase. The District will develop a scope of work to go forward.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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**/s/John Tobias**  
**John Tobias**  
**President**

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**/s/Maria Alfaro**  
**Maria E. Alfaro**  
**Administrative Services Officer**