

Special Meeting
April 12, 2006
7:30 p.m..

The San Benito County Water District Board of Directors met in Special Session on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Board members present were John Tobias, President, Bob Swanson, Vice-President, Ken Perry, Sonny Flores and Frank Bettencourt. Also present were David E. Pipal, District Counsel, Deputy District Engineer Jeff Cattaneo and Administrative Services Officer Maria E. Alfaro.

CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Tobias led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Low Interest Loan - Irrigation Equipment Improvement Program (LIL-IEIP)
 - a. Consider Approval of Program and Application
 - b. Consideration of Resolution for the Approval, Authorization and Repayment of the San Benito County Water District Agricultural Drainage Management Loan Program .

President Tobias noted that this item would be continued to a later meeting.

2. Pajaro Watershed Groundwater Desalination Feasibility Study
 - a. Consider Finding of Categorical Exemption and Authorize District Manager to file a Notice of Exemption
 - b. Authorize District Manager to File a Permit of Waste Discharge Under the Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements For Discharges To Land With A Low Threat to Water Quality

Deputy District Engineer Jeff Cattaneo noted they have before them this evening the filing of a categorical exemption and the application for a waste discharge permit for the Groundwater Desalination Feasibility Study. Mr. Cattaneo noted that initially the plan for disposal of water from the desalination pilot plant was going to be done with the City of Hollister's wastewater facilities. This has become a scheduling issue with their new schedule for construction. This project is intended to last for approximately one year to operate the pilot plant. That may impact the City's schedule for construction. In an effort to minimize the effort the conflict of the two projects, we are seeking to get permission from Granite Rock to use an adjacent parcel to set up an irrigation system. Part of the requirement of the project and grant requirement is that it complies with CEQA Before the Board tonight is a request for a categorical exemption. This has been discussed with District Counsel and he has agreed that it agrees for a categorical

exemption under a class six action, which would be for information collection, and we are also applying for a permit from the Regional Board. President Tobias asked if this comes with a Committee recommendation. Mr. Cattaneo noted that it did with recommendation to file the categorical exemption and to apply for the permit from the Regional Board.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Sonny Flores to file the exemption and to apply for a permit, Director Frank Bettencourt seconded the motion the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Depth-Specific Monitoring and Aquifer Characterization to Support Groundwater Management, Hollister North Sub basin, San Benito County

a. Consider Finding a Categorical Exemption and Board Authorize District Manager to File a Notice of Exemption.

Jeff Cattaneo, Deputy District Engineer noted that this item was similar to the previous item. We are requesting that the board authorize the District Manager to file for a categorical exemption for the depth-specific monitoring and aquifer characterization to support groundwater management in the Hollister North sub basin in San Benito County. Mr. Cattaneo noted that this was an AB 303 project where we will be drilling a monitoring well and installing equipment to monitor groundwater levels in the aquifer. Mr. Cattaneo noted that this also required the CEQA procedures be followed. This was also discussed with District Counsel and he agreed that this also qualified for categorical exemption, class six for information collection.

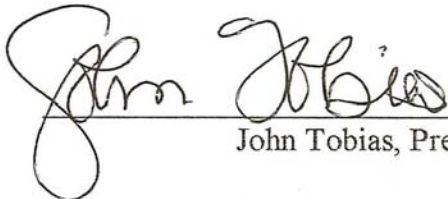
President Tobias if this also came with recommendation from the Committee. Mr. Cattaneo noted that the Committee reviewed and provided recommendation.

Upon a motion by Director Frank Bettencourt to file a categorical exemption for the Depth-Specific Monitoring and Aquifer Characterization to Support Groundwater Management, Hollister North Sub basin, San Benito County and authorizing District Manager to file the Notice of Exemption, seconded by Director Sonny Flores the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the Regular Board Meeting on April 26, 2006 and signed by the presiding board member.


John Tobias, President


Secretary to the Board