

May 23, 2007
Special Meeting
7:32 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 7:32 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: Directors John Tobias, Ken Perry and Sonny Flores. President Robert Swanson and Vice President Frank Bettencourt were absent. Also present were District Manager/Engineer John S. Gregg, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Operations and Maintenance Manager Dave Meraz and Office Specialist II Barbara L. Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

In President Swanson's absence, Director Tobias called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Tobias led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing

Mrs. Mauro verified publication was May 16, 2007.

2. Public Hearing regarding water shortage emergency for the Harmony Hills Water System, Zone 103

a. Report on water shortage emergency

Mr. Gregg began by reviewing how the District began with the system as well as the current situation at Harmony Hills. The District took over this Rural Water System in 2004, as the operator was not complying with the Department of Health Services by not taking corrective measures, not conducting the necessary water analysis or conforming to the requirements by DHS, thus putting the water system into receivership. Mr. Gregg stated it is a surface water supply and has a standing boil order in place. The system has a well and spring and the District also has access to a well belonging to Mr. Pierce as a supplemental water source. Mr. Gregg referred to the graphs given at the meeting and asked that the production logs used for the graphs be included in tonight's record. Mr. Gregg referred to recent issues with the well monitoring equipment and stated yesterday, a new unit was installed which overcame the control problem with the well. These recent actions have restored the yield of the well. Mr. Gregg stated the yield from the combined water sources is about 10,000 gallons a day and 300,000 gallons per day, which referring to the graphs is not enough water by the demand level. Regarding demand, this includes any leakage as well as customer demands. Mr. Gregg stated the District plans to reinstall meters to assist customers in their water usage. Also, Mr. Gregg stated leak detection will be an important component. Acquiring other water, such as Mr. Pierce's other wells, will require additional

water quality testing. Prior to this meeting, there was an informational meeting for the homeowners and Mr. Gregg intends on having regular status meetings approximately every thirty days. Mr. Gregg stated we have an application in the system for state revolving fund money applied for several years ago; it is now in Monterey for review. Last week the District received an invitation to apply for Prop 50 funds through DWR and that would be to rebuild the system. Current water yield is still lower than last year's summer usage, as shown on the graph. Mr. Gregg stated the Ordinance on the agenda tonight, provides for human consumption and fire protection required by the state. Mr. Gregg reviewed the water saving items listed in the Ordinance. As the Harmony Hills Water System is not in a financial position to hire a water conservation consultant, the District has offered the WRA home survey at approximately \$25 as well as low flow toilets, also at the WRA cost. Mr. Gregg continued review of the Ordinance before the Board. Mr. Gregg asked for legal counsel's view and Mr. Pipal stated the water code has been provided and it enforces the restrictions.

b. Questions of Directors

Director Tobias asked if meters will be installed and Mr. Gregg stated yes. Also, Director Tobias asked if this applies to customers with private wells and Mr. Gregg stated this is only for those participating in the Harmony Hills Water System.

c. Open Public Hearing

Mary Medland, 440 Hillside Road, stated she has a pool. They have always offered their pool water to the fire department, but would like to know how to have it certified for fire availability. Mr. Gregg suggested an informal discussion with the District and the District could contact the Fire Department to see if we can come to an agreement on what the Fire Department can and cannot use. Also, Mrs. Medland understands the meter installation's purpose is to find where the leaks are, and why the system is losing water but how will the District assess the water usage? Mr. Gregg stated the use of meters will encourage water conservation; it is not meant to structure usage.

Tim Valdez, 111 Hillside Road, stated he is currently remodeling his home, which includes wetting the concrete. Mr. Valdez has also purchased a 3000 gallon water tank for two reasons: excess water pressure (he is located at the bottom) and for use with his ozone system. Mr. Valdez asked for an accommodation for health reasons, he has Multiple Sclerosis, and cannot get sick, which is why he purchased the ozone system and the water tank. Mr. Gregg stated there should not be a reason why that can and should happen, as long as Mr. Valdez fills the tank slowly.

Jerry Medland, 440 Hillside Road, stated the premise of this is due to dry years, less water is available to the homeowners and he wonders why they are paying more now but are they getting more. Mr. Medland asked if the District has done enough so far and is this the correct way to address it or should the Board take

some responsibility for this. Mr. Gregg stated, with the limited revenue, the District has only made the urgent repairs. Mr. Gregg stated the issues we need to face are repairs and reconstruction. Mr. Medland asked if there is money now for meters and Mr. Gregg stated the meters are essential.

Mrs. Medland, 440 Hillside Road, asked about the leaks and Mr. Gregg stated one of the problems is the 90,000 gallon tank. Mr. Gregg stated Mrs. Medland is asking about two issues: 1)the water system and 2)the leaking tank. To repair the tank, the District would have to run the tank dry, repair it and then waste water to flush the system, reported Mr. Gregg. Also, Mr. Pierce has offered an alternative site, however; it would take more than a couple of days to run the tank dry.

Mr. Medland asked, when the tank was empty, not sure of when that was, why didn't the District do the repairs then? Mr. Gregg stated we basically need the outside dry and to caulk the seam, however; he does not feel the tank is the only problem. Mr. Medland stated we (homeowners) are not getting enough water. Mr. Gregg stated the leaks amount to approximately 10,000 gallons a day. An audience member asked about new wells and Director Tobias redirected the audience to the subject at hand, the emergency water shortage issue. Mr. Gregg stated future supplemental water will involve time and money. Mr. Medland asked, regarding the unusual users, can the District identify them? Mr. Gregg stated the District needs to address the emergency on our hands. Mr. Medland stated finding the abusers should be the next step and Mr. Gregg stated the numbers don't work; limiting or redistributing the demands will help.

Colleen Gibson, 6471 San Juan Canyon, she stated she understands the meter installation and wanted a timeframe when the District can analysis where the problem is. Mr. Gregg stated the District does a weekly mass balance and once the meters are in place, it would be 2-3 weeks to know how big the leak is.

Dean Machado, 350 Hillside Road, wanted to know the timeframe for installing the meters. Mr. Gregg stated, if the Board approved it, it would take a couple of weeks.

Ms. Gibson asked how long they would be out of water during the meter installation and Mr. Gregg stated it would be brief and on an individual basis.

Bob Hueneman, asked when the first homes were built and Mr. Pierce, the original owner/operator, stated in 1947. Also, Mr. Hueneman asked when the sub-division was built, were questions raised with respect to the water shortage and Director Tobias stated we did not have that information and we needed to stay on the topic of the emergency water shortage.

- d. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date**
Director Tobias closed the Public Hearing.

- e. **Consider Adoption of Emergency Ordinance Declaring a Water Shortage Emergency for the Harmony Hills Water System**
Upon a motion made by Director Flores and seconded by Director Perry, Ordinance Number 44, *An Ordinance of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District, Declaring a Water Shortage Emergency for the Harmony Hills Water System*, was unanimously approved.

3. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the May 30, 2007, Regular Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/John Tobias
John Tobias, Director

/s/Barbara L. Mauro
Barbara L. Mauro, Recording Secretary