

September 12, 2007
Special Board Meeting
5:28 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 5:28 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District Office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Swanson, Directors Ken Perry, and Sonny Flores. Vice President Frank Bettencourt and Director Tobias were absent. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Lance W. Johnson, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Administration and Finance Manager Shelley Giancola, Water Office Supervisor Barbara Mirrione, Accountant Natalie Sullivan, Water Programmer II Anne Stull, and Office Specialist II Barbara L. Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Swanson at 5:28 p.m.

a. Pledge Of Allegiance

President Swanson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

b. Public Input (*Added by President Swanson*)

President Swanson explained that tonight's meeting is a Special Meeting. However, he will add an item for Public Input, per the Brown Act, to allow those in attendance to speak. President Swanson added speakers can address the Board but the Board cannot respond as this was not on the agenda, but if they wish to be on the next Board Agenda for September 26th, interested parties should contact Shelley or Barbara.

Steve Wyrick, Pride of San Juan, stated he feels the growers and water district need to work together as partners. He understands the water table is high in San Juan Valley, but is experiencing problems with his wells. Mr. Wyrick stated feels he needs to communicate to the Board there is a water crisis in San Juan. He also asked if San Justo can be filled any more.

Tony Alameda, Top Flavor Farms, is new to the valley and farming with blue valve water. He asked, regarding water restrictions, if there is anything any of the farmers can do and also asked if San Justo's capacity can be increased.

Joe Tonascia, Tonascia Farms, operates in Sub 10, 7, 6, 5 and feels something needs to be done. He also asked if more water can be put into San Justo. He does have wells, but has lost two. Due to the Delta Smelt and the drought, he feels time is of the essence. He also asked why the District doesn't take its full allotment and why M & I water not used cannot go to Ag?

Director Perry suggested Mr. Johnson meet with Mr. Tonascia to address some of the concerns he raised tonight.

Craig Dobler, Dobler and Sons, Sub 10, and he agreed with all that has been said thus far. Approximately 2 years ago, he spoke to John Gregg about perhaps blending water. He also stated the wells he has are shallow and appreciates the quality of water from the blue valve.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Review and Consider Release of August Board Claim for Lauren Filice for July Services

With no discussion, a motion was made by Director Perry and seconded by Director Flores and the Board approved the Release of August Board Claim for Lauren Filice for July Services.

2. Consider Board Approval for Retaining Harry Blohm as Consultant for District Representation on Wastewater Treatment and Reuse Issues

Mr. Johnson stated this item was from the previous Regular Board Meeting. The Committee, through a review process, has selected Harry Blohm to represent the District in these matters. Mr. Johnson stated the committee has reviewed a draft contract prepared by Mr. Pipal but it has not been presented to Mr. Blohm. Upon a motion made by Director Perry and seconded by Director Flores, the Board Approved Retaining Harry Blohm as Consultant for District Representation on Wastewater Treatment and Reuse Issues, subject to contract negotiations with Mr. Blohm.

3. Authorize District Staff to Initiate Proposition 218 Process for Harmony Hills Water System Rate Increase Notification

Mr. Johnson stated this is a requirement of Proposition 218; the Board has to approve any changes of rates. He stated staff has a tentative rate schedule to send out to the homeowners and President Swanson stated the Rates Committee has reviewed this and recommends Board approval. Upon a motion made by Director Perry and seconded by Director Flores, the Board Authorized District Staff to Initiate Proposition 218 Process for Harmony Hills Water System Rate Increase Notification.

4. District Manager's Status Report on Delta Smelt

Mr. Johnson stated there will be another Water Users Workshop on September 24th at the District, which will follow an update on the Delta Smelt issue by San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority on September 21st. Mr. Johnson referred to the two items handed out on this subject. Mr. Johnson stated, without the court ruling, best case in a dry year, the CVP allocation would have been 30% of supply. With this ruling, Mr. Johnson stated the District may begin the water year with a 0% allocation. Discussion was had regarding closely monitoring the situation, sharing information with water users, Inter and Intra District Transfers and Meter Accuracy Assessment and review of rate structures. He also indicated contact has been made with the Bureau for the potential use of M & I Water. Mr. Johnson stated the District will be exploring a Groundwater Integration Program and his goal is to be in the best position possible by March 1st. When asked about San Justo, Mr. Johnson stated the District hopes to increase capacity at San Justo to 486-487 feet (above sea level) prior to the Reach 1 shutdown. Discussion was had regarding the selling

of unused M & I Water for Ag and it was agreed Jan Goldsmith would be involved in the meetings with the Bureau. President Swanson stated the approximate storage at San Justo is 10,000 acre feet but due to the restrictions by the Bureau, we are only allowed to fill it to 75% of capacity. Mr. Johnson stated URS is currently reviewing all of the issues at San Justo. Protecting the Delta Smelt could go into 2009 or 2010 and the only entity immune will be the exchange contractors. In review, the District will be reviewing its policies, procedures, and regulations. Part of the frustration is the Bureau has no long term guidelines so there is no way to know in advance what allocations will be, per Mr. Johnson. As per Director Perry, the District has not carried water over in the past and the District would have to look into this.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Robert M. Swanson, President

Barbara L. Mauro, Recording Secretary