

January 14, 2019  
Special Meeting  
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Sonny Flores, Vice President John Tobias and Directors Frank Bettencourt, Joe Tonascia and Doug Williams. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel, Assistant Engineer David Macdonald, Water Resources Technician Dustin Franco and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Flores called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Flores led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

With a motion by Vice President Tobias and a second by Director Tonascia, the Agenda was unanimously approved.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing, Annual Groundwater Report**

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.

**2. Public Hearing regarding 2018 Annual Groundwater Report**

**a. Presentation of Report**

Iris Priestaf and Maureen Reilly from Todd Groundwater were in attendance for the presentation of the report. Ms. Priestaf gave a brief introduction and then turned over the presentation to Ms. Reilly.

Ms. Reilly, using a PowerPoint presentation, reviewed the agenda and the water year 2018 at a glance. In regards to the basin, the groundwater is up slightly but is still recovering from the drought. The San Juan Valley, as per Ms. Reilly, is still behind.

Water use in 2018 was up, at 46,500 AF; groundwater was 57% of the total supply, reported Ms. Reilly.

Ms. Priestaf discussed groundwater conditions. She referred to SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) which was landmark legislation in 2014. SGMA is based upon local control of water basins. In San Benito County, Ms. Priestaf stated San Benito County Water District is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). As the GSA for San Benito County, the District is required to produce a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Ms. Priestaf stated

the District has been awarded a grant from the State for the preparation of the GSP. If our basin was in critical over draft, the GSP would be due in 2020, but since San Benito County's basin is not in over draft, our GSP is not due until January of 2022.

Ms. Priestaf reviewed the GSA Organization and stated San Benito County Water District's Board of Directors is also the GSA's Board. Once the GSA is submitted and approved, an annual report will be required.

The District has been managing the basin since 1953, but will extend management to the entire basin, thus preserving local control. Ms. Priestaf reviewed how the draft plan would be done and what the undesirable criteria include. One of the 6 criteria is salt water intrusion, which does not apply to our basin.

Based on the report, Ms. Priestaf stated the recommendations for Zone 6, for the Public Hearing on January 30, 2019 are: \$12.75/AF for Ag and \$38.25/AF for M & I. In addition, the District should continue with groundwater production and replenishment and proceed with SGMA.

**b. Questions of Directors**

There were no questions from the Directors.

**c. Open Public Hearing**

President Flores opened the Public Hearing.

**d. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date**

With no public comments, President Flores closed the Public Hearing.

**3. Acceptance of 2018 Annual Groundwater Report**

**a. Consider Adoption of Statement of Findings and Recommendations**

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Bettencourt, the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District unanimously adopted the Statement of Findings and recommendations.

**b. Consider Acceptance of 2018 Annual Groundwater Report**

With a motion by Vice President Tobias and a second by Director Tonascia, the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District unanimously accepted the 2018 Annual Groundwater Report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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The minutes were approved at the January 30, 2019 Board Meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Sonny Flores  
Sonny Flores, President

/s/Barbara L. Mauro  
Barbara L. Mauro, Board Clerk