

September 18, 2019
Special Meeting
5:04 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 5:04 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Sonny Flores and Directors Frank Bettencourt, Joe Tonascia and Doug Williams; Vice President John Tobias was absent. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

President Flores called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance**
President Flores led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board**

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Public Hearing regarding the San Benito County Water District's Intention to undertake a Project—San Felipe-Recycled Water Percolation Project**
 - a. Proof of Publication submitted for Notice of Public Hearing**
Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.
 - b. Presentation of Mitigated Negative Declaration**
Mr. Haertel reviewed this item for the Board. The public comment period ended on August 8, 2019 and the only comment the District received was the letter from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regarding cyanotoxins and the potential issues with groundwater. Mr. Haertel reported the District responded with a Technical Memo which stated the District's position on the issue. This week, the District received a response from the RWQCB which included the request for additional monitoring on a weekly basis. Mr. Haertel stated he contacted Valley Water for their protocol for testing. Valley Water tests bi-weekly, so the District will use their data on a bi-weekly basis and test the other weeks on their own.

Mr. Cattaneo added he had a discussion with Matt Keeling (RWQCB) and reiterated the District's stance that there is no basis for their requested regulations. Mr. Cattaneo further added in the discussion with the Regional Board, the District had been percolating water from San Luis Reservoir in the off stream pond at Union Road for approximately 18 – 24 months during which time cyanotoxins had been detected in the water from San Luis Reservoir. He stated that to help further the assurance to the Regional Board that the risk to groundwater from water percolated containing cyanotoxins was very low a sample from a shallow

monitoring well, twenty feet from the percolation pond was tested for the presence of cyanotoxins. The test showed no evidence of cyanotoxins in this sample.

Director Williams asked what the treatment is. Mr. Cattaneo stated the primary treatment at the treatment plants is oxidation and adsorption with carbon. Mr. Haertel added carbon is used at both of the District's water treatment plants. The protocol the District has from Valley Water, can be used if the cyanotoxins reach a certain level. Mr. Haertel stated it is important that the carbon be kept at a working level.

Mr. Cattaneo stated he has directed Mr. Haertel to forward Valley Water's protocol on cyanotoxins to the two district water treatments plants.

Director Tonascia asked if the District sent the letter to the RWQCB and stated we don't agree but we will do the monitoring. Mr. Cattaneo stated staff has done this and forwarded a copy of the District's response to both Valley Water and Westlands Water District.

c. Presentation of San Felipe—Recycled Water Percolation Project

Mr. Haertel stated the Board's next step would be to approve the project thereby initiating the project. This will allow staff to expend the necessary District resources to begin the project. He added by re-using the unused assets, it offers the District a significant costs savings. He further explained how District staff will build the necessary infrastructure.

Mr. Haertel also stated staff has made some minor modifications from the initial plans, which will increase the flow. These modifications have been approved by the California Department of Drinking Water.

d. Questions of the Directors

There were no additional questions from the Directors.

e. Open Public Hearing

President Flores opened the Public Hearing.
There were no public comments.

f. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date

President Flores closed the Public Hearing

g. Consider Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration for the San Felipe Recycled Water Percolation Project

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Williams, the Board of Directors unanimously adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the San Felipe Recycled Water Percolation Project.

h. Consider Approval of Resolution—Approve a Project

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Bettencourt, Resolution #2019-12 A *Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Approve a Project* was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the September 25, 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