

January 13, 2020
Special Meeting
5:12 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 5:12 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: Vice President Frank Bettencourt and Directors Sonny Flores, Joe Tonascia and Doug Williams. President John Tobias arrived late. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel David E. Pipal, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel, Water Resources Technician Dustin Franco and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Bettencourt lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Flores, 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 for the Public Hearing.

2. Public Hearing regarding 2019 Annual Groundwater Report

Mr. Cattaneo stated that staff from Todd Groundwater would be presenting the report. He also acknowledged District staff, Garrett Haertel, David Macdonald and Dustin Franco for their hard work; without them this report would not be possible.

(John Tobias arrived at 5:13 p.m.)

a. Presentation of Report

Iris Priestaf, of Todd Groundwater, acknowledged her staff, Senior Hydrologist Gus Yates and Senior Engineer Maureen Reilly.

Ms. Reilly also thanked District staff for their hard work and appreciated that it was received early. She reviewed the agenda for the presentation and stated the report has been revised to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Reilly reported the basin continues to recover and 2019 saw a 75% allocation for Agricultural water and 100% allocation for Municipal and Industrial water. Groundwater usage was approximately 52% and Recycled Water was around 1%.

Ms. Reilly reported this is the triennial for Groundwater Quality. She reported 520,000 records were reviewed and with 1800 monitored locations. She added, percolation was up during this time.

Ms. Priestaf offered the Board an overview of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. She reported the water budget portion is being finalized and next will be the sustainability criteria. Ms. Priestaf reported the process for the policy components of the GSP are about 60% complete. She reviewed the water budget portion of the plan and what data is used to complete the budget.

Ms. Priestaf then reviewed water quality and discussed TDS and nitrates as areas of concern. Also reviewed was a minimum threshold for undesirable results, which staff is proposing the Regional Water Quality Control Board's plan objectives.

Regarding the outlook for 2020, Ms. Priestaf reported average to above average rainfall is anticipated, and groundwater recovery will continue. Also, with the uncertainty of CVP allocations, the District is working on the North County Groundwater Project and participation in the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. The District will also continue its work on SGMA.

Recommendations from this report are: a charge of \$13.15/AF for Agricultural well and \$39.40/AF for M & I wells. Ms. Priestaf added the District should continue with groundwater replenishment and proceed with SGMA. The deadline for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is 2022.

Regarding water quality, Mr. Cattaneo stated the City of Hollister, once the West Hills Water Treatment Plant came on-line, began using more surface water instead of groundwater. However, prior to the new plant, there was a serious problem with TDS and nitrates. The District began working with the City of Hollister and San Benito County on this issue and then our city/county experienced the building moratorium. All of the efforts associated with the Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan have not only improved water quality but for the District, has allowed it to fully utilize the Federal M & I contract allocation. In 1977, the voters in San Benito County wanted better water quality and voted for the CVP Project.

b. Questions of Directors

Referring to the map showing the wells, Director Tonascia asked if there was 1 well in each area on the graph. Ms. Reilly stated yes, a well was chosen in each area to be representative of that region.

c. Open Public Hearing

President Tobias opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments or questions.

d. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date

President Tobias closed the Public Hearing.

3. Acceptance of 2019 Annual Groundwater Report

a. Consider Adoption of Statement of Findings and Recommendations

With a motion by Vice President Bettencourt and a second by Director Tonascia; the Board of Directors unanimously adopted the statement of findings and recommendations from the 2019 Annual Groundwater Report.

b. Consider Acceptance of 2019 Annual Groundwater Report

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Bettencourt, the Board of Directors unanimously accepted the 2019 Annual Groundwater Report.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the January 29, 2020 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/John Tobias
John Tobias, President

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