

January 29, 2020  
Regular Meeting  
5:02 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 5:03 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, Supervising Accountant Natalie Sullivan and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Tobias called the meeting to order at 5:02p.m.

- a. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**  
President Tobias led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. **Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board; rebuttal will be limited to 3 minutes; no new business agenda items will be heard after 8:00 p.m.**
- c. **Approval of Agenda**  
With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Flores, the Agenda was unanimously approved.
- d. **Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda**  
There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- |    |  |                          |                        |
|----|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | <b>Approval of Minutes for:</b>  | <b>December 18, 2019</b> | <b>Regular Meeting</b> |
|    |  | <b>January 13, 2020</b>  | <b>Special Meeting</b> |
| 2. | <b>Allowance of Claims</b>   |                          |                        |
| 3. | <b>Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the January Board Meeting</b> |                          |                        |
| 4. | <b>Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report, December 31, 2019</b>      |                          |                        |

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Vice President Bettencourt and seconded by Director Williams; the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

- 5. **Public Hearing regarding 2020-2021 Groundwater Charges**
  - a. **Proof of Publication submitted for Notice of Public Hearing**  
Mrs. Mauro verified publication for the Public Hearing.
  - b. **Presentation of 2020-2021 Groundwater Charges**  
Mr. Cattaneo stated because the groundwater rates sunset each year this is a formality only, because the District is currently in a three-year rate structure that the Board approved last year. The Board is required to take this action annually.

**c. Open Public Hearing**

President Tobias opened the Public Hearing. No public wished to speak.

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

President Tobias closed the Public Hearing.

**e. Consider Confirming the 2020-2021 Groundwater Charges**

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Williams, the Board of Directors unanimously Confirmed the 2020-2021 Groundwater Charges.

**6. Discuss and Consider Requests from Lico and Greco Properties, LLC, APN's 020-290-151 and 020-290-055 and Anotti Ranch LLC, APN's: 057-780-001 thru 057-780-058; 057-770-001 thru 057-770-039, 057-770-041; 057-790-001 thru 057-790-073 to Abandon the Irrigation Easements and Authorize the District Manager to sign the necessary documents to Quitclaim the District's Easements**

Mr. Cattaneo reported the District has this issue come up from time to time, that there are easements left over from the Hollister Irrigation District. As is the case with these assessor parcel numbers, the District has no need and derives no benefit from these easements. The Board's action would be to authorize the District Manager to Quit Claim the easements to the property owners.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Williams and seconded by Director Flores, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the requests from Lico and Greco Properties, LLC, APN's 020-290-151 and 020-290-055 and Anotti Ranch LLC, APN's: 057-780-001 thru 057-780-058; 057-770-001 thru 057-770-039, 057-770-041; 057-790-001 thru 057-790-073 to Abandon the Irrigation Easements and Authorized the District Manager to sign the necessary documents to Quitclaim the District's Easements.

**7. North County Groundwater Supply Program Update**

Mr. Cattaneo reported he asked the Engineering Department to give the Board an update on the program.

Mr. Haertel stated the joint program between the District, the City of Hollister (City) and Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD) is moving forward with the groundwork. He stated this program came about because the City's well at the airport failed and caused both a flow and water quality issue. As both the City and SSCWD will derive benefit from a new well and two monitoring wells, both are participants in this program. Mr. Haertel stated the District has submitted a technical memo regarding water quality data to our consultant, as all are trying to determine the best location for the new well.

Mr. Cattaneo added interest in wells north of airport may be ruled out due to the hardness of the water and the high levels of TDS. Also, Mr. Cattaneo reported Mr. Ellis was originally going to be the Project Manager but Mr. Ellis has indicated his desire to step away and completely retire. Don Ridenhour, who recently retired from Sunnyslope, has agreed to help on this project.

**8. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:**

- a) **Mid Pacific Water Users Conference in Reno, Nevada, January 22 to 24, 2020 (Tonascia)** As per Director Tonascia, items discussed were: issues at the Klamath River Dam, the 2020 Election and the Westlands/Glen Colusa agreements.
- b) **San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Cattaneo)** As per Mr. Cattaneo, he will cover this under his manager's report.
- c) **Water Resources Association (Flores/Bettencourt)**  
As per Mrs. Mauro, there was not a meeting, the listing of this was an error.
- d) **City of Hollister RDA Advisory (Tobias)**  
As per Director Tobias, he was unable to attend.

**9. District Manager/Engineer's Report:**

- a) **Reach 1 Operations**  
As per Mr. Cattaneo, he had nothing to report at this time.
- b) **Zone 3 Operations**  
Mr. Cattaneo reported the District continues to experience vandalism at Hernandez Reservoir with our telemetry equipment; someone has cut the lines again. The cable and parts cost about \$1500, plus it takes 2-3 District staff members to reinstall. He is considering installing surveillance cameras, perhaps they will deter future incidents. District staff is currently cleaning the Paicines Canal and the District will begin moving water through there either at the end of this week or early next week.
- c) **Zone 6 Operations**  
Mr. Cattaneo reported the District is moving forward with our rescheduled water, which is 4380 AF. Regarding the Recycled Pond, the liner is in place and District staff could begin putting water in it as early as tomorrow but will need to watch the liner carefully. Mr. Cattaneo reported his concern regarding the water allocation, as the District is behind with its storage in San Luis Reservoir. He is anticipating an initial allocation from the Bureau of 30% of contract for Ag and 75% of historic use for M & I. With a combination of the District's allocation and rescheduled water, Mr. Cattaneo reported the District should have between 13,000 and 14,000 AF to deliver. At this point, he is not actively seeking additional water.
- d) **San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities**  
Mr. Cattaneo reported a budget workshop is scheduled to discuss the Sisk Dam Study. The next workshop will be on the San Luis Transmission Project. Mr. Cattaneo reported he asked for this workshop due to concerns of the project and how it will be financed.
- e) **SGMA Update**  
Mr. Cattaneo reported there was an announcement this week from the State that the District has been awarded \$1.2 million Grant for monitoring wells and

managing the aquifer. There will be matching funds due from the District for approximately \$390,000.

Todd Groundwater has prepared a draft of the Water Budget, as part of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, which the Board received at the meeting. All items related to the GSP will be draft until the entire document is final.

**f) Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project**

Mr. Cattaneo reported Santa Clara Valley Water District is currently conducting an environmental analysis and have been granted access to the property to do this analysis. Mr. Ellis has been a great help to the District but will now be turning it over to Holly Kennedy for future consultation.

**10. CLOSED SESSION: Conference with legal counsel—  
Existing litigation**

- a) Government Code 54956.9(a)  
San Benito County Water District v. Randy McAlpine  
(CL-13-00437)**
- b) Government Code 54956.9(a)  
Randy McAlpine v. San Benito County Water District  
(CU-17-00050)**

*(The Board convened in Closed Session at 5:42 p.m.)*

**11. OPEN SESSION:**

**Report any action from Closed Session, if any**

*(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:50 p.m.)*

Regarding Agenda item 10 (a), President Tobias stated the Board took no action and there was nothing to report.

Regarding Agenda item 10 (b), President Tobias stated the Board took no action and there was nothing to report.

**12. Adjournment**

With no further business to report, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

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The minutes were approved at the February 26, 2020 Board Meeting and were signed by the presiding Board member.

*/s/John Tobias*  
John Tobias, President

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