

March 25, 2020
Regular Meeting
5:03 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 5:03 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President John Tobias, and Directors Joe Tonascia and Doug Williams who were present at the District office and Vice President Frank Bettencourt, Director Sonny Flores and District Counsel David E. Pipal participated via conference call. Also present at the District office were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro; Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel also participated via conference call. (Note participation via conference call was due to the situation with the COVID-19 virus.)

CALL TO ORDER

President Tobias called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Due to the participation via conference call, President Tobias acknowledged that Directors Bettencourt and Flores, District Counsel Dave Pipal and Deputy District Engineer were available on the conference line. President Tobias also acknowledged all voting at this meeting will be by roll call.

- 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 Williams, the Agenda was unanimously approved by Tobias, Bettencourt, Flores, Tonascia and Williams.
- 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. **Approval of Minutes for: February 26, 2020 Regular Meeting**
2. **Allowance of Claims**

With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Director Tonascia, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by Tobias, Bettencourt, Flores, Tonascia and Williams.

REGULAR AGENDA:

3. **Consider Resolution San Benito County Water District's Response to COVID-19**
Mr. Cattaneo stated this resolution is the result of the shelter in place order given by Governor Newsom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff worked with our labor attorney to develop the language in this resolution as well as how to direct District staff. Mr. Cattaneo stated District staff is adhering to social distancing, each employees has

their own individual space, all face to face meetings have ceased and if all the staff does have to meet, it is occurring in the parking lot to allow 6 feet between employees and utilizing the telephone and e-mail for communications. Mr. Cattaneo reported today, management has implemented a new practice for a split work schedule. Half of the employees come in at 7 a.m., work until noon, have a rest period and work 1-4 p.m. at their home. The other half work from 8-11 a.m. at their home, have a rest period and work Noon to 5 p.m. at the District. This schedule is for all field and office personnel. The managers have the option of working the split shift or working all of their hours at the District. This resolution also gives the District Manager the authority to implement any measures he sees fit for the safety of both the District employees and the public.

Mr. Cattaneo further explained that the District provides an essential service to the community. The District is considered both a water utility, as it serves water to the two treatment plants and serves Agriculture which is an essential service as well. The work District staff performs for the diversion of San Benito River, the recycled water project as well as the well permitting process, which could be for either a home well or an agricultural well. District employees are essential to all the aforementioned duties of the District.

President Tobias thanked Mr. Cattaneo and Mrs. Singleton for their efforts in this difficult situation.

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Bettencourt, Resolution 2020-03, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District, District's Response to the COVID-19 was unanimously approved by 5 affirmative votes; Tobias, Bettencourt, Flores, Tonascia and Williams.*

4. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:

a) San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Cattaneo)

As per Mr. Cattaneo, this will be discussed during his Manager's report.

5. District Manager/Engineer's Report:

a) Reach 1 Operations

As per Mr. Cattaneo, there isn't much to report at this time. The District and Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) continue to work on the pump rebuild project.

b) Zone 3 Operations

As per Mr. Cattaneo, District staff continues to move water from the San Benito River into Paicines. Staff has been surveying the San Benito River and found water from the river is going as far as the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Staff continues to divert water through the Paicines Canal.

c) Zone 6 Operations

As per Mr. Cattaneo, the District has moved all of the water it could to fill San Justo, which is at 10,800-acre feet. Also, the District has rescheduled 4088-acre feet into the new water year, and that water is stored at San Luis Reservoir. Currently, the system is isolated at Lone Tree Road, which means Subsystems 1-6

are operating off of Bifurcation and Subsystems 7-11 are operating off of San Justo Reservoir.

Mr. Cattaneo also reported the initial allocation from the Bureau was 15% for Ag and 65% of historical use for M & I. The District did have to reaffirm with Duane Stroup from the Bureau that the M & I portion of our contract for a full allocation is 8250-acre feet.

d) San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities

Mrs. Singleton attended the Authority Meeting. As mentioned at our last board meeting, the Authority did mention the by-laws issue, but it was discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting, which recommended the full Board of the Authority should have an opportunity to discuss this important issue. The Finance Committee also discussed the draft procurement policy. Mrs. Singleton also reported that Federico Barajas and Tom Boardman stated the 15% allocation for Ag was reasonable given the current water supply and is likely the Bureau did not hold any water back.

e) SGMA Update

As per Mr. Cattaneo, the Public Workshop scheduled for this week has been postponed. The items the District is working on for our GSP are the minimum thresholds for water quality and water quantity. Also, the District has received the notice and contract for the award it received from the Round 3 Grant Funding. Todd Groundwater is working on updating our schedule and planning our approach for the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Board is receiving at tonight's meeting the next draft section of the GSP; directors should direct any comments to Mr. Cattaneo. Discussion ensued about injection wells and whether a current well could be utilized.

f) Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

As per Mr. Cattaneo SCVWD continues to work on gaining funding from the WIIN Act for the project. Currently SCVWD is conducting geotechnical studies and gathering information and data for the project.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to report, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the April 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