

February 24, 2021
Regular Meeting
5:02 p.m.

On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which enhances State and Local Governments' ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic; this meeting was conducted with some members participating via conference phone. Because of this, all voting was done by roll call vote.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5:02 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present at the District were: President Doug Williams and Vice President Joe Tonascia. Directors Sonny Flores and Andrew Shelton participated virtually, and Director John Tobias was absent. Also present at the District were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel, Water Conservation Program Manager Shawn Novack and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro. District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem and Finance Manager Natalie Sullivan also attended virtually.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Williams at 5:02 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
President Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Roll Call**
Mrs. Mauro called roll. President Williams and Vice President Tonascia were present at the District. Directors Flores and Shelton participated virtually, and Director Tobias was absent.
- c. 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.**
- d. Approval of Agenda**
With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Flores, the Agenda was approved by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores and Shelton and there was 1 absence, Tobias.
- e. Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda**
There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Approval of Minutes for: | January 27, 2021 | Regular Meeting |
| | February 8, 2021 | Special Meeting |

2. Allowance of Claims

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Director Shelton, the Consent Agenda was approved by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores and Shelton and 1 absence, Tobias.

REGULAR AGENDA:

3. Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the San Benito County Water District and the City of San Juan Bautista for Water Supply Plan

Mr. Cattaneo stated he will review agenda items 3 and 4 together. He reported staff has been working with the City of San Juan Bautista (COSJB) on their water and wastewater issues. A new groundwater well option was explored but its water quality was not suitable for the needs of the COSJB. Mr. Cattaneo stated there was an evaluation done for an alternative solutions and it was determined that a connection to the West Hills Water Treatment Plant would be a viable option.

In addition to considering the MOU with the COSJB for the Water Supply Plan, Mr. Cattaneo stated there is a proposal from HDR for a 30% design for the transmission line from the treatment plant to the COSJB. The cost shown in the MOU for pre-design is up to \$180,000, which includes the \$158,970 for the design work proposed by HDR. Mr. Cattaneo also reported that between 1/3 and 1/2 of the distance from the plant to the hook-up with the COSJB, the District already has easements. Additional easements will be needed for the rest of the distance.

The MOU is similar to what was presented to the Board at the December 2020 Board Meeting. Two of the additions are a 180-day time limit for the COSJB to repay if they decide not to move forward with the project and the maximum the District will spend in the initial phase of \$180,000.

Mr. Cattaneo reported the COSJB needs to identify their water demand needs through 2025 but he added the District should not have a problem delivering the water they need.

Don Reynolds, the City Manager of SJB, who was attending virtually, asked to address the Board. He thanked Mr. Cattaneo for all the hard work. He reported that a week ago Tuesday, the COSJB's Council approved the MOU. Mr. Reynolds added the COSJB is 110% behind the project.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Flores and seconded by Vice President Tonascia, the Board of Directors Approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the San Benito County Water District and the City of San Juan Bautista for the Water Supply Plan with 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores and Shelton and 1 absence, Tobias.

4. Authorize District Manager to Execute Amendment #18 with HDR, Inc. to Prepare 30% Design for Pipeline and Treatment Plant Connections for the City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan (NTE \$158,970)

This agenda item was reviewed with agenda item #3.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Vice President Tonascia and seconded by Director Flores, the Board of Directors Authorized the District Manager to Execute Amendment 18 with HDR, Inc. to prepare the 30% design for the Pipeline and Treatment Plant Connections for the City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan (NTE \$158,970) by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores and Shelton and there was 1 absence, Tobias.

5. North San Benito County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

• Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the PowerPoint presented at today's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The subject was to update the Round 3 Monitoring and Managed Aquifer Recharge and discuss management actions.

6. Discuss appointing a board member to the Association of California Water Agencies – Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA)

Mr. Cattaneo reported this position on ACWA/JPIA is vacant as it was previously held by Frank Bettencourt, who is no longer on the Board. President Williams suggested Director Shelton consider filling the vacancy and he agreed. With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Vice President Tonascia, the Board of Directors confirmed the President's appointment of Director Shelton as the District's representative on the Association of California Water Agencies-Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores and Shelton and there was 1 absence, Tobias.

7. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:

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

As per Mr. Cattaneo, he will cover this under his Manager's report.

b) Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Flores/Shelton)

As per Director Flores, it was their annual business meeting where they appointed a chair and vice chair. They also discussed funding received for the Levee repair.

c) Water Resources Association (Flores/Shelton)

As per Director Flores, general business was discussed. Mr. Novack added the committee also chose a chair and vice chair, approved their annual calendar and discussed the status of the programs offered by WRA.

d) City of Hollister RDA Advisory (*Shelton)

As per Director Shelton, who was filling in for Director Tobias, it was also a general business meeting; they approved minutes and elected officers. The next meeting is tomorrow at 3 p.m.

- e) **City of San Juan Bautista Water Infrastructure (Flores/Tonascia)**
As per Directors Flores and Tonascia, this has already been covered.

8. District Manager/Engineer's Report:

a) **Reach 1 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo reported Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is developing the annual budget; it should be to the District in about a month. The pump rebuild work continues; Alan Zeisbrich is working with SCVWD on this project. The District will receive an update on the pump rebuilds at the next quarterly meeting.

b) **Zone 3 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo reported due to the last series of storms, there is 5000-acre feet in Hernandez Reservoir.

c) **Zone 6 Operations**

Mr. Cattaneo reported the Bureau released its initial water allocation. Ag received a 5% allocation and a 55% allocation for M & I. It continues to be dry and Mr. Cattaneo is doubtful the allocation will increase. Most of California appears to be in a drought.

Staff has allocated 24% to the Ag users, drawing from our storage. Mr. Cattaneo added the District will be able to meet the full requirements for the two treatment plants and has enough in storage to allocate 5000-acre feet to the plants over the next few years.

Because of the limited water supply, Mr. Cattaneo reported he is changing how he will operate the system this year. Subsystems 1-9 will operate off of San Luis Reservoir and Subsystems 10-11 and West Hills will operate off of San Justo Reservoir. It is essentially like operating 2 separate systems.

d) **San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities**

Mr. Cattaneo reported the Authority is trying to come to a decision on how to move forward with the Power Transmission Project. The Authority staff made a recommendation on how to proceed but our District has asked for a workshop in order to discuss all the options. Mr. Cattaneo reported this is a \$400 million project.

Regarding the water allocation, Mr. Cattaneo reported that because it is a Shasta critical year, the exchange contractors only received a 75% allocation, which means they will not be selling water to other users. He is considering acquiring water from North Delta, but it is more expensive. It will be \$500-\$550/AF + all the costs which could equate to \$1100-\$1200/AF for our water customers. Staff has also used our water cost model for the treatment plants and the raw water cost would be acceptable even at the higher rate.

e) **Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project**

Mr. Cattaneo reported SCVWD is continuing to move forward with the project. SCVWD held their first public scoping meeting today from 1-3 p.m. He felt it was only lightly attended but it may be due to the time. There is another meeting

planned for tomorrow during evening hours. In a survey, those who responded were more than 50% in favor of the project and more than 50% were willing to have an increase in their water costs for the new project. The current cost for the new reservoir is \$2.6 billion.

f) Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) Contract Conversion

Mrs. Singleton stated she reported at the last board meeting that the WIIN Contract was successfully executed. We have also completed the validation process and the third part, the financing, funded this morning.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the Regular Board Meeting on March 31, 2021 and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Doug Williams
Doug Williams, President

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