

June 23, 2022
Special Meeting
4:03 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Joe Tonascia, Vice President Sonny Flores and Directors Andrew Shelton, John Tobias and Doug Williams. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Manager of Administration, Finance and Business Services Joyce Machado, District Engineer Glenn Micko, Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel, Holly Kennedy, Senior Vice President of HDR, Robert Ellis, Ellis Consulting and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro. District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem participated via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance**
President Tonascia led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Roll Call**
Mrs. Mauro called roll; all board members were present.
- c. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board**

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Future Water Supply Options

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Kennedy gave a presentation to the Board.

Beginning with the Master Plan, Ms. Kennedy began by giving a history of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the original Master Plan and its objectives. She further reviewed the major accomplishments from 2006 to the present. She stated there are several reasons for the need to update the master plan. The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act were not in the picture in 2017. Also, there is a new partner, the City of San Juan Bautista, which needs to be incorporated as well.

Ms. Kennedy then discussed the objectives for the 2022 update which included water demand forecasting and the water quality, which is a key driver. Water hardness was reviewed and explained, as well as the reliability of the CVP water supply.

In regard to projected growth, President Tonascia asked if she considered actual builds or approved projects. Ms. Kennedy stated both were used.

In regard to hardness levels, Director Shelton asked why the tolerance level shifted. Ms. Kennedy stated the early assumption in the master plan was to aim for 120 mg/L. Due to economic factors, the last master plan used a range from 150-180 mg/L. Mr. Cattaneo added, 120 mg/L was just not realistic. He further stated they had to balance between the cost and the benefit and to maximize water when it was available.

Director Tobias asked if they will consider relaxing the hardness to 200mg/L in 2045 if they have 12,500 acre feet of water. Ms. Kennedy stated the reliability of the surface water would be the main factor. Mr. Cattaneo stated there is a higher demand in summer (July/August), which may allow on a short-term basis to exceed the hardness level above 180 mg/L.

Ms. Kennedy then reviewed the reliability of the CVP water and how it affects the water supply overall. In a typical year, the urban demand is met, however, in 2025, more high-quality water will be needed. Mr. Cattaneo stated in order to meet the demand, he purchases water on the spot market through water transfers. Currently, he has been able to meet the demand.

Ms. Kennedy then discussed the level of service goals and what the effect of multi-year drought had on the water supply. Also, how the drought, with less surface water, lowered the water quality. Mr. Cattaneo stated facilities could be built to meet the demand, however it is costly.

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the approach for water supply evaluations. She reviewed the evaluation criteria, which included the estimated capital costs and the estimated yield costs. When using this formula for the water supply evaluations, three projects were ranked the highest, they are: BF Sisk Dam Raise, the North Area Groundwater Banking and the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR).

Director Tobias commented, when reviewing the list of projects, how highly ranked expanding Paicines Reservoir was. Depending on how the District would move forward, Mr. Cattaneo stated that might lower its score.

Ms. Kennedy then discussed the benefits of the ASR Project and how it would be used. Further discussion ensued on how it would be set up and what it would be utilized for.

Director Williams asked if the District has had much success in having homeowners willing to have a well on their property. Mr. Cattaneo stated not much, so far. Ms. Kennedy added it would be a small site and would offer a lot of benefits to the homeowner. Director Tobias added it would also improve the water in the area of the well, which would be a great benefit.

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the recommended phasing strategy for the three highest ranking projects and added they were subject to change. She then showed the phasing with multi-year droughts, as a factor.

Discussion about where the aquifer storage and recovery had been used and whether it would involve any treatment.

Regarding costs, Ms. Kennedy then reviewed the capital improvement program that could be used for the ASR, Phase 1, ASR, Phase 2 and the BK Sisk Dam Raise projects.

Regarding next steps, Mr. Cattaneo reported the District could test the City of Hollister's well and use it for the 1st Phase for the ASR. The proposed plan would be to inject during the winter and extract during the summer. Also, the Master Plan should be updated at least every five years.

Director Tobias asked what would happen if the District cannot expand beyond the City of Hollister's well, as there are a lot of moving parts.

Director Williams asked what was the target for the number of wells. Mr. Cattaneo stated approximately six wells.

Director Tobias asked if there are any other areas being considered, perhaps near the West Hills Treatment Plant? Mr. Cattaneo stated the area nearest the airport is the optimal location. Director Tobias further asked if that is to increase distribution and Mr. Cattaneo stated yes.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Approved at the July 27, 2022 Board Meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/ Joseph Tonascia
Joseph Tonascia, President

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