

December 21, 2022
Regular Meeting
5:03 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 5:03 p.m. 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, Doug Williams and Mark Wright. Also present were District Manager Jeff Cattaneo, Assistant General Manager Steve Wittry, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Manager of Administration, Finance and Business Services Joyce Machado, Finance Manager Natalie Sullivan, Water Conservation Program Manager Shawn Novack, Associate Engineer David Macdonald, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Michael Craig and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

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

- a. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
President Tonascia led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. **Roll Call**
Mrs. Mauro called roll; members present were: President Tonascia, Vice President Flores and Directors Shelton, Williams and Wright.
- 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 Director Williams and a second by Director Shelton, the Board of Directors approved the agenda with 5 affirmative votes, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton, Williams and Wright.
- 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:

1. **Approval of Minutes for: November 30, 2022 Regular Meeting**
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Recognizing Leo Vasquez for 15 Years of Service, Certificate Issued**
Mr. Novack asked to speak regarding Mr. Vasquez. Mr. Novack stated Leo is a very pleasant, hard-working employee who is great with customers. Mr. Novack really appreciates all he has done for the District. President Tonascia added Leo is an excellent employee.

With a motion by Vice President Flores and a second by Director Williams, the Consent Agenda was approved with 5 affirmative votes, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton, Williams and Wright.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. On Call Contracts – Status Updates

Mrs. Machado gave this update. At the October meeting, the Board asked for this to be a regular item on the Consent Agenda. Because it is the first report, it is appearing on the regular agenda.

a. Primex

A contract has been issued to Primex, NTE \$400,000. So far, two task orders have been issued, one for \$30,000 and the second for \$130,665; both issued in December. Primex is upgrading the District’s RTU’s.

b. Todd Groundwater

A contract has been issued to Todd Groundwater, NTE \$250,000 annually. To date, one task order has been issued for \$50,000, in December. Mr. Cattaneo reviewed what Todd Groundwater is doing for the District. Vice President Flores asked if this would be on the Consent Agenda for future agendas? Mrs. Machado confirmed it would be.

5. Discuss and Consider Resolution Setting a Public Hearing Date for the Purpose of Fixing the Standby or Availability Charge for the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 Water Years

Mrs. Machado reviewed this item for the Board. This item refers to 70.6.6 of the District Act, requiring the District approve a resolution setting a public hearing to approve the Standby or Availability Charges. Also, since 1996, the Standby or Availability Charge has been \$6.00 per acre as an annual charge. In order to increase this amount, the District would have to go through the Prop 218 process, per Mrs. Machado.

With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Director Shelton, the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2022-31, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Setting a Public Hearing Date for the Purpose of Fixing the Standby or Availability Charge for the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 Water Years* with 5 affirmative votes, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton, Williams and Wright.

6. Status of Lessalt and West Hills Water Treatment Plants

Mr. Macdonald gave the status report on this item. On November 5, 2022, an automobile accident occurred near the West Hills Water Treatment Plant, hitting an electrical pole, sending a surge to the plant which damaged some equipment. The approximate cost of the equipment needed for this repair is \$86,000 and could take 6-8 weeks to obtain and install. Once the equipment is installed, Mr. Macdonald stated another assessment will be done. Mr. Macdonald also reported the Lessalt Plant is being brought back up asap, hopefully by the end of December.

President Tonascia asked how long Lessalt has been down. Mr. Cattaneo stated about 18 months, but he wasn’t sure of the exact time.

Director Williams asked if the driver of the automobile involved in the accident had insurance and Director Shelton asked if a claim had been submitted. Mr. Wittry stated this is an active claim and everything has been turned in. Mr. Cattaneo added the plant

does have surge protection, but not where the surge happened, which was an odd occurrence.

7. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:

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

This will be covered under the District Manager's Report.

b) Water Resources Association (Flores/Shelton)

Director Flores reported water conservation efforts were discussed as well as extending the turf removal program. Mr. Novack added the committee agreed to take an additional \$80,000 from reserves to supplement the turf program while waiting for the results of the grant application.

c) Finance Committee (Tonascia/Williams)

Director Williams reported the committee reviewed the budget versus the actuals.

d) Personnel Committee (Flores/Tonascia)

Director Tonascia stated the committee reviewed the District's personnel.

8. Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report

Mr. Craig, using a PowerPoint, reported on the maintenance activities;

1. Repair at Flow Structure #1
2. Replacement of a 24-inch water valve which also included welding following the repair and reloading the pipe
3. Also a few projects to do in San Juan Bautista-good time of year to do them

9. District Manager's Report:

Mr. Cattaneo distributed a letter to the Board, stating his last day would be January 20, 2023. He thanked the Board for his time at the District and stated how there have been some challenging times with the low water allocations we've had.

a) Reach 1 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reported that Reach 1 is still down due to maintenance and may continue to be down through January. Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) has new board members; Gary Kreman is now off the Board. Mr. Kreman was a supporter of the relationship between our District and SCVWD. Mr. Cattaneo hopes the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project goes forward.

b) Zone 3 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo stated there isn't much to report except there is a small amount of water in Hernandez Reservoir following the recent storm.

c) Zone 6 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reported the District continues to operate off of San Justo Reservoir and that there isn't a lot of activity at this time.

d) San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities

Mr. Cattaneo reported the B F Sisk Dam Raise project is moving forward, slowly. He stated there is much to do on this project, such as coordinate with the Bureau and prepare cost sharing agreements.

Regarding the North of Delta Water Activity Agreement, Mr. Cattaneo stated that it is also moving forward.

Mr. Cattaneo also discussed the overall cost allocation issue as it relates to Westlands and their percentage share. The proposed new cost allocation has everyone paying more but Westlands.

Mr. Cattaneo reported the proposed budget was also discussed.

e) **City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan**

Mr. Wittry discussed this item. He reported there are two agreements the District is reviewing with the City of San Juan Bautista (City); an addendum to the Water Supply and Treatment Agreement and the Construction Agreement for the water line from West Hills. Mr. Wittry stated there are concerns especially with the addendum. There are 3 alternates that can be done during the construction CalTRANS is doing on Highway 156 as related to the water line to the City. If it works to put in the crossings now, before the construction gets to that point, it could result in a considerable savings. Mr. Wittry reported the District needs to know if the City intends to go forward or not.

Vice President Flores asked if the City Council is aware there are issues on these agreements. Perhaps the District could meet with the Council and discuss? Mr. Wittry stated it would be an advantage for the Council to be aware of the current situation.

Director Shelton asked what the cost difference would be; Mr. Wittry stated about \$500,000.

f) **ACWA/JPIA recognition of District's loss ratio of 20% or less in Liability, Property and Workers' Compensation programs**

Mr. Cattaneo reported the District is being recognized for a loss ratio of 20% or less; we have had very few claims.

10. **Board Organization**

a. **Election of Officers**

President

A motion to elect Sonny Flores as the 2023 President was made by Director Williams and seconded by Director Shelton; Sonny Flores was elected as President by 5 affirmative votes, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton, Williams and Wright.

Vice President

A motion to elect Andrew Shelton as the 2023 Vice President was made by Director Williams and seconded by Vice President Flores; Andrew Shelton was elected as Vice President by 5 affirmative votes, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton, Williams and Wright.

11. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the January 25, 2023 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Sonny Flores
Sonny Flores, President

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