

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Discuss and Consider Approval of San Benito Urban Areas Water Supply and Treatment Master Plan Update

Mr. Wittry stated the Board received the draft Master Plan approximately 1 year ago and has now come before the Board with some edits due to grant opportunities that the District has taken advantage of for some of the projects in the plan.

Holly Kennedy, of HDR, gave a presentation via Zoom on the Master Plan. Ms. Kennedy stated this is the same presentation given to the Governance Committee recently and is very similar to the one she gave the Board a year ago. Ms. Kennedy reviewed the background of when the Master Plan began in 2004 to the present and that it is time for an update. The objectives of the Master Plan are water quality with focus on the hardness in the water, as well as reliability of water with the continued growth in the county. Ms. Kennedy stated the importance of the coordination of regional solutions. She further reviewed the water quality goals and the water demand forecast. The agencies involved determined an update approximately every 5 years would be needed to keep all of the goals and demands up to date. Ms. Kennedy reviewed the approach used for water supply evaluations which led into which projects would be taken forward in the capital improvement projects in the plan. Because of the grant opportunities that arose from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Master Plan update was paused so the projects could be configured for the parameters set by these grants. Ms. Kennedy reviewed the grant funding the District has been awarded to date as well as the grants that have been applied for. The next steps, following approval of the updated plan, would be to continue updating it every 5-7 years.

Mr. Wittry added, the capacity fee the District is considering, needs the Master Plan documents in place first.

Director Wright asked when the B.F. Sisk Dam project is scheduled to be completed. Mr. Wittry stated the estimated completion date is 2031 at the earliest.

Director Tonascia asked about the ADRoP project. Mr. Wittry stated the first phase would be near the High School and the second phase would be in North County. The first step would be the Borehole Project which we have awarded. Director Tonascia asked if Mr. Wittry could have Todd Groundwater give a presentation to the Board regarding the water and how it would remain in the basin. Mr. Wittry stated, yes, at the November or December meeting.

Director Wright asked, regarding the ASR (Aquifer Storage and Recovery), is that treated water. Mr. Wittry stated yes, the water is treated before it is injected. Ms. Kennedy added, due to ADRoP grant timing limitations, a new treatment plant couldn't be built in time, so expanding the West Hills plant was the best option.

Discussion ensued about the change from the Fallon Road location to the location near the High School and why that change was done.

Mr. Wittry added at the recent Governance Committee Meeting, board members from Sunnyslope County Water District expressed concern that they were unaware of the direction the Master Plan was taking and felt they were out of the loop. Mr. Wittry stated

the management group of the Governance Committee, which includes a representative from each agency, including Sunnyslope, discussed the Master Plan update in detail at least six weeks prior to the Governance Meeting and it was presumed that this information was relayed back to each agencies council/board. Mr. Wittry explained at the Governance meeting that for this Master Plan update effort, San Benito County Water District's Board received input from the other agencies, but it is wholly financially responsible for Master Plan work and as such has final approval. President Flores added, the Sunnyslope County Water District Board Member was upset because they felt they weren't informed. Mr. Wittry further added, he met with Mr. Lander, General Manager of Sunnyslope, this morning and is working through communication matters.

With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Vice President Shelton, the Board of Directors approved the San Benito Urban Areas Water Supply and Treatment Master Plan Update by 5 affirmative votes, Flores, Shelton, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

7. **Discuss and Consider Entering into a San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activity Agreement for North to South Water Transfers and Authorize the General Manager to Execute such Agreement**

Mr. Wittry stated this would be the second term for this agreement, as the original agreement was from 2012 and was for ten years. The Activity Agreement was extended, so that it would match the environmental documents. The only change, per Mr. Wittry, is during extreme drought conditions, the notification protocols have been modified.

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Williams, the Board of Directors approved Entering into a San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activity Agreement for North to South Water Transfers and Authorized the General Manager to Execute such Agreement by 5 affirmative votes, Flores, Shelton, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

8. **Authorize the Purchase of a Dump Truck from Pape/Kenworth in the Amount of \$170,625.35**

Mr. Wittry stated the District needs to replace its 1999 Sterling dump truck due to the requirements by CARB (California Air Resources Board). Mr. Wittry reviewed the possible exceptions to these requirements and the possible options which are: renting, leasing, sharing, buying a used or buying a new vehicle. Staff did utilize Sourcewell, which obtains bids for public agencies and that is how the District has the two bids presented in the packet. The amount for the new vehicle, per Mr. Wittry, is above the amount budgeted.

Director Tonascia asked what the mileage is on the current vehicle. Mr. Craig stated it is approximately 60,000. Director Tonascia asked if the District intends to sell it and Mr. Wittry stated yes, through auction on GOV.DEALS. Vice President Shelton asked what staff thought it would be worth. Mr. Craig estimated \$8,000 to \$13,000, as the same model was available in Iowa at that price. Discussion ensued about an excise tax and a member of the audience recommended the District buy it now before the cost increases.

With a motion by Vice President Shelton and a second by Director Williams, the Board of Directors approved the purchase of a Dump Truck from Pape/Kenworth in the Amount of \$170,625.35 by 5 affirmative votes, Flores, Shelton, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

9. **Discuss and Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**

Mr. Wittry stated Ms. Kennedy mentioned this grant opportunity in her presentation. A resolution is not required but it is good to include in the grant application package. Mr. Wittry stated staff has had two meetings with the Bureau regarding this project and they went well. The resolution authorizes entering into an agreement and this is a 75% matching grant.

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Wright, the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2023-22, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)* by 5 affirmative votes, Flores, Shelton, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

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

a. San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Wittry)

As per Director Tonascia, he attended the B F Sisk Dam signing ceremony last Friday; he will ask Mr. Wittry to report any additional information under his manager's report.

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

As per Director Flores, he was unable to attend the meeting.

c. Water Resources Association (Flores/Shelton)

As per Director Flores, general business was discussed. Mr. Novack further reported water objectives were discussed by member agencies as well as indoor and outdoor water use goals.

d. Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan Governance Committee (Flores/Shelton)

As per Directors Flores and Shelton, this has already been covered.

e. Administration Committee (Flores/Shelton)

As per Directors Flores and Shelton, this has already been covered.

f. Investment Committee (Flores/Williams)

As per Director Williams, the committee met yesterday. There are two treasury notes coming to maturity on October 31, 2023. The committee discussed whether to reinvest the funds back in UnionBanc or in L.A.I.F. for six to eighteen months. Mr. Wittry added the discussion was to identify how to reinvest as notes mature. Director Flores reported the committee recommended the General Manager roll over the funds into a six-to-eighteen-month bond with an approximate return of 5%.

- g. Personnel Committee (Flores/Tonascia)**
As per Directors Flores and Tonascia, they reviewed the update to the District's Personnel Policy, which will likely come to the Board for approval in November. Mr. Wittry added staff had a meet/confer with the union today on the policy.
- h. Zone 3 Water Supply & Operations Committee (Tonascia/Williams)**
As per Directors Tonascia and Williams, this will be covered during the manager's report.
- i. Zone 6 Water Supply & Operations Committee (Tonascia/Williams)**
As per Directors Tonascia and Williams, this has already been covered.

11. Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report

Mr. Craig stated the painting project has begun. Also, the Spillway at Hernandez Reservoir is in need of a lot of patching. He is estimating about 5 days of work for his staff to complete it. He anticipates a system shutdown for part of the painting project as some repairs will be needed. In November, Mr. Craig reported his staff will continue work on the spillway and also on the Paicines Canal.

Director Wright asked how many more spill days are needed to empty Hernandez so the maintenance staff can do their work. Mr. Wittry estimates sometime in mid- November. He added staff will prioritize what valves need replacing and work that into the budget. O & M will meet with Finance regarding the budget.

Director Tonascia asked, if it will be about sixteen days for Hernandez to empty, how long after that can your staff get in there to do the repair? Mr. Craig stated the road can be built shortly after it stops running but he can't really give an exact time.

Director Wright asked about a more modern way to track the water in the system. Better technology, maybe? Mr. Craig stated our meters are very specialized and come from either Porterville or Fresno. Mr. Wittry added he and Mr. Craig are looking into new technology. Director Wright asked maybe there would be a good place to start with another type of valve? Mr. Craig replied staff has discussed starting with the recycled water project as it is a localized area and would be a good place to test.

12. General Manager's Report:

a) General Comments

Mr. Wittry thanked Mrs. Machado for her time with the District; she will certainly be missed, and we wish her well. Mrs. Machado thanked everyone and added she will miss working with staff.

Mr. Wittry reported staff is down to the final four candidates for the Office Specialist I position. Also, regarding the Accounting I/II position, the application deadline is this Friday. Mr. Wittry anticipates having someone hired in accounting by the first of the year. Regarding the electrician, staff is working on refining the job duties.

Mr. Wittry reported the District has received the full payment for the accident at the West Hills treatment plant, in the amount of \$246,000.

Regarding the IRWM Grant for the Borehole Project, Mr. Wittry reported he has signed the grant amendment to extend the completion timeline.

b) Reach 1 Operations

Mr. Wittry reported Santa Clara Valley Water District still intends to shutdown Bifurcation but it will have little impact to the District.

c) Zone 3 Operations

Mr. Wittry reported staff is still moving about 20 acre-feet of water through the Paicines Canal and there is about 2000 acre feet in the Paicines Reservoir, with some seepage. As reported by Mr. Craig, Hernandez Reservoir continues to go down.

d) Zone 6 Operations

Mr. Wittry reported District staff is working on our valve system and meters.

e) Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)

Mr. Wittry stated this was covered earlier.

f) San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities

Mr. Wittry reported the Authority is working on a grant for a pilot project to put solar in the canals.

g) Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Mr. Wittry stated he had nothing at this time.

h) City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan

Mr. Wittry reported staff had a meeting today with the City of San Juan Bautista. They are more focused on the water project now the sewer agreement with the City of Hollister has been completed. The amendment to the Water Supply and Treatment Agreement will have to be reviewed as the blend will have to be the same for everyone.

13. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the November 29, 2023 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Doug Williams
Doug Williams, Acting President

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

