

January 8, 2024  
Special Meeting  
5:03 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 5:03 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Andrew Shelton, Vice President Doug Williams and Directors Sonny Flores, Joe Tonascia and Mark Wright. Also present were General Manager Steve Wittry, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Manager of Administration, Finance and Business Services Megan Holland, Deputy District Engineer Rob Hillebrecht, Water Conservation Program Manager Shawn Novack and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

- a. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**  
President Shelton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Roll Call**  
Mrs. Mauro called roll; members present were: President Shelton, Vice President Williams and Directors Flores, Tonascia and Wright.
- c. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board**
- d. Approval of the Agenda**  
With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Williams, the Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Williams, Flores, Tonascia and Wright.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Prior to the approval of the Consent Agenda, Director Tonascia asked that the minutes of December 12, 2023 be reviewed. Director Tonascia stated, on page 2, when referring to water from Hernandez doing damage to property, he was speaking as a customer not referring to his own property. Page 2, next paragraph, Director Tonascia asked if staff had explored all options; the minutes show there was no answer, but he stated Mr. Wittry stated no options were considered. Page 3, third paragraph, Director Tonascia asked that Mr. Craig's comment about when the parts for Hernandez were ordered be included in the minutes. Page 4, second to the last paragraph, the minutes state Mr. Wittry stated there were funds available to do the work at the reservoir; he believes Mr. Wittry reported he would have to check for the available funds in the Zone 3 budget.

Mr. Liem asked if Director Tonascia wished for the amended minutes to come back before the Board and he stated no.

1. **Approval of Minutes for: Special Meeting December 12, 2023**  
With a motion by Director Tonascia, noting the amended changes, and a second by Director Flores, the Minutes of the Special Meeting from December 12, 2023 were approved by 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Williams, Flores, Tonascia and Wright.
2. **Allowance of Claims**  
With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Wright, the Board approved the Allowance of Claims by 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Williams, Flores, Tonascia and Wright.

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

3. **Public Hearing regarding 2023 Annual Groundwater Report**
  - a. **Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing, Annual Groundwater Report**  
Mrs. Mauro verified the Proof of Publication.
  - b. **Presentation of Report**  
Mr. Wittry stated the District was formed in 1953 and in the District Act, the District is required to report the groundwater conditions. In the 1970's, the District began having a Groundwater Report prepared annually. Three years ago, because of the creation of SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act), a more comprehensive report is required by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) prior to April 1st each year, so the District now does a high-level report in January to fulfill the District Act requirement. The report for DWR, per Mr. Wittry, will be presented to the Board at the March meeting.  
  
Tonight's report shows the basin is not in overdraft due to the deliveries brought in with the CVP water. Mr. Wittry stated the recommendations are to continue to deliver CVP Water, purchase additional water as needed and to percolate water at Hernandez and Paicines Reservoirs. The Groundwater Rate is recommended to be \$14.03 per acre foot for agriculture and \$14.03 for Municipal and Industrial.
  - c. **Questions of Directors**  
Director Tonascia asked if the report is different this year. Mr. Liem stated this is the third year of the report being in this format, due to the changes from SGMA.  
  
Director Flores asked, in regard to groundwater production, if in the future, the report showed the water level changes from year to year. Mr. Wittry replied the water level information will be better on the report in March, but yes, we can try to include more information on this report next year.  
  
Director Tonascia asked why the M & I pumping is down and how often it is reported. Mr. Wittry stated it is reported quarterly and does not know why it's down and staff will investigate.
  - d. **Open Public Hearing**  
President Shelton opened the Public Hearing.

- e. **Close Public Hearing or continue to later date**  
With no questions from the public, President Shelton closed the Public Hearing.
- f. **Consider Adoption of Statement of Findings and Recommendations**  
With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Vice President Williams, the Board Adopted the Statement of Findings and Recommendations with 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Williams, Flores, Tonascia and Wright.
- g. **Consider Acceptance of 2023 District Engineer’s Report on Annual Groundwater Conditions and Recommendation on Groundwater Charges**  
With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Williams, the Board Accepted the 2023 District Engineer’s Report on Annual Groundwater Conditions and Recommendation on Groundwater Charges.

4. **CLOSED SESSION:  
Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
Title: General Manager  
Authority: California Government Code Section 54957**

*(The Board convened in Closed Session at 5:20 p.m.)*

5. **OPEN SESSION:  
Report action if any**

*(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:35 p.m.)*

President Shelton stated there was no action to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

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Andrew Shelton, President

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Barbara L. Mauro, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk