

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**

held at

**3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Monday, March 25, 2024
1:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Holcombe at 1:00 PM.

Directors Present:

Polly Holcombe, Carpinteria Valley Water District

Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District

Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District *

Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara

(* *Director Hayman arrived shortly after the start of the meeting.*)

General Counsel Present:

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

Staff Present:

Janet Gingras, General Manager

Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO

Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager

Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distribution Operator

Elijah Papen, Water Resources Analyst

Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II

Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Others Present:

Dana Hoffenberg, City of Santa Barbara

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of February 26, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda and asked Mr. Lyons to comment on the financial reports. Mr. Lyons reviewed revenues and expenditures of note, including remittances to E.H. Wachs, Manhole Covers Direct, Bartlett Pringle Wolf LLP and Geosyntec.

Director Hanson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion carried with a vote of five in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent: Hayman

Abstain:

4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- Fisheries Committee Meeting – March 19, 2024

Director Hanson reported out for the Fisheries Committee and noted that the Committee forwarded the items discussed to the Board for possible approval.

5. PROPOSED COMMENT LETTER TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Mr. Robinson presented a review of the California Fish and Wildlife Commission report and explained how COMB's data had been incorporated into the report. Board members requested a number of edits to COMB's comment letter. Following discussion, President Holcombe solicited a motion.

Director Sneddon motioned to approve the letter with the edits requested. Director Hayman seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

6. PROPOSED FISH PASSAGE AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS – FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Robinson presented a series of slides illustrating various fish passage crossings. The slides compared as-built photos of the appearances of the crossings as compared with their current appearance following the recent storms. He recommended various repairs and itemized the costs for each crossing. Mr. Robinson outlined funding plans to cover the repairs. He fielded questions from the Board.

Director Hanson provided the motion to include the projects in the upcoming budget. Director Hayman seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report and commented on COMB's application to change its drinking water discharge permit to one better suited to COMB operations. She provided an update on FEMA funding and reported that the IRWMP grant closeout is underway and that reimbursements should be released soon. Finally, she mentioned that surplus water remains available and fielded questions from the Board.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation Projection
- Winter Storm Damage Repairs and Reimbursement
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Papen presented the Engineer's Report, first commenting on climate and reservoir conditions. No triggers currently exist for deployment of the Emergency Pumping Facility. He reported briefly on Infrastructure Improvement Projects and advised that rehabilitation of the remaining laterals and structures in the South Reach would begin soon. Finally, Mr. Papen noted that the final Cachuma water quality report is expected next month from Geosyntec.

9. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report and noted that staff anticipates the start of the final phase of the South Coast Conduit rehabilitation. Valve exercising is nearly complete and weed abatement is ongoing. Mr. King reported that GPS coordinates for structures are being updated as each structure is visited, using the accurate new GPS unit.

10. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

- LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements
- Surcharge Water Accounting
- Reporting/Outreach/Training

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report, first providing an update on target flows and lake elevation. Mandatory monitoring efforts continue or are complete. As well, he noted that all fish accounts are full until the spill is over. Finally, Mr. Robinson advised that the annual reports are well underway. He fielded questions from the Board.

11. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson reported that Oak tree inventory efforts are now more than 50% complete. Weather conditions continue to negate any need for irrigation. He also mentioned the recent repair to the water truck.

12. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

- a. Cachuma Water Reports
- b. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions
- c. Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

Ms. Gingras presented the Cachuma Project Reports advising that they were routine. She reported that state water is now at 30% and reiterated that surplus water remains available due to the spill event.

13. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no requests from directors for agenda items.

14. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – April 22, 2024 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

16. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

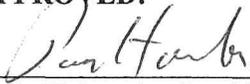
Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:



Polly Holcombe, President of the Board