

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
of the
CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD
held at the
Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board Office
3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA
Monday, June 23, 2008**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:44 p.m. by Vice-President Matt Loudon, who chaired the meeting. Those in attendance were:

Directors present:

Matt Loudon	SYR Water Conservation Dist., ID#1
Das Williams	City of Santa Barbara
Jan Abel	Montecito Water District
June Van Wingerden	Carpinteria Valley Water District

Others present:

Kate Rees	William Hair
Chip Wullbrandt	Seth Strongin
Kevin Walsh	Brett Gray
Tom Mosby	Steve Mack
Gary Kvistad	Lee Bettencourt
Janet Gingras	Bill Ferguson
Chris Dahlstrom (via phone)	

2. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes:

May 19, 2008 Regular Board Meeting

Director Williams moved to approve the May 19, 2008 Board minutes, seconded by Director Loudon, passed 3/0/4, Director Abel and Director Van Wingerden abstained and Director Evans was absent.

b. Investment Funds

Financial Report
Investment Report

c. Payment of Claims

Director Abel moved to approve the Investment of Funds and the Payment of Claims, seconded by Director Van Wingerden, passed 5/0/2, Director Evans was absent.

4. Reports from the Manager

a. Water Storage, Water Production Use, SWP Accounting

The monthly reports from Janet Gingras were included in the board packet.

b. Operations Report

The May report on operations from Brett Gray was included in the board packet.

c. Zaca Fire Water Quality Update

Brett Gray reported on the meeting he and Ms. Rees had attended concerning the water quality of Lake Cachuma due to the Zaca fire. The City of Santa Barbara has taken the lead in monitoring the water quality at the lake, taking water samples every other week. COMB and Goleta Water District are available to help the City when needed.

d. 2008 Spill/Surcharge Issues

Ms. Rees summarized the 2008 surcharge water table that was included in the board packet. The amount of surcharge for 2008 is 8,300 AF.

e. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions

Date 06/23/2008

Lake elevation	750.36 feet
Storage	189,131 acre feet
Rain (for the month to date)	0.00 inches
Rain YTD (for the season to date)	21.52 inches
Fish Release-Hilton Creek	18.2 - 24 acre feet per day
Month to Date Fish Release	425 acre feet
Month to Date Spill	0 acre feet
Year to Date Spill	22,239 acre feet

5. Quagga Mussel Cost Sharing Proposal

Director Williams indicated that the Board voted at its May 19th meeting to agendize this item for a special meeting rather than this regular Board meeting. Ms Rees said that staff had attempted to do so, but had been unable to find a date that worked for

all the Directors prior to our regular meeting date. Mr. Williams expressed his concern with voting on the Quagga mussel cost sharing proposal without a representative from the Goleta Water District present. Therefore, he moved to re-agendize this item to the July 28, 2008 regular Board meeting; there was no second so the motion died.

After additional Board discussion, Director Williams moved to re-agendize this item to either the July 21st Special Board meeting or the July 28th Regular Board meeting, at staff's discretion, seconded by Director Loudon, passed 4/1/2, Director Van Wingerden voted no, Director Evans was absent.

Director Abel moved to send to the County Board of Supervisors a letter with Counsel's Hair's analysis of the various contracts governing the Cachuma Project, a draft of which was included in the board packet, seconded by Director Williams, passed 5/0/2, Director Evans was absent.

6. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Activities

Ms. Rees reported that the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan grant application for \$25 million dollars was approved for full funding by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources. COMB's second pipeline project is on the project list to receive \$3,200,000. The County will enter into a contract with the State of California, and individual project participant contracts with the County will be drafted for Board approval at a later date.

7. Lauro Dam Retention Basin Enlargement – Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Brett Gray had included in the board packet a draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lauro Dam Retention Basin Enlargement. Staff will, at a later date, be recommending Board certification of this document including review of any public comment received by 5 p.m. on June 22, 2008. Mr. Gray is hoping to start construction of this project in late fall 2008.

8. Consider Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration for El Jaro Creek – Cross Creek Ranch Fish Passage Project

Ms. Rees reported that this project was included in the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan/Cachuma Project Biological Opinion EIR/EIS, so CEQA compliance was completed when the Board certified that document. However, because the scope of project subsequently increased due to substantial additional streambank stabilization, staff felt it was necessary to prepare an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration as well. The Draft IS/MND was posted on April 28, 2008 at the Santa Barbara Clerk of the Board for a 30 day public comment period. There were no comments received. A Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse and County Clerk upon approval of the project.

Director Abel moved to consider the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, independently find that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration by approving Resolution No. 464, and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the El Jaro Creek – Cross Creek Ranch Fish Passage project, seconded by Director Williams, passed 5/0/2, Director Evans was absent.

9. Consider Approval of Addendum to FMP/BO EIR for Quiota Creek Fish Passage Projects

Ms. Rees reported that the COMB Board certified the Final EIR for the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan/Cachuma Biological Opinion and approved the project in November 2004. The Quiota Creek Fish Passage Project was included in that document. Two project alternatives for the Quiota Creek fish passage improvements were evaluated, a bridge and a fishway, however changes in design options now indicate that a third alternative, a bottomless arched culvert, is preferred for several of the 9 crossings. Therefore, CEQA requires that an addendum to the EIR be submitted to the State Clearing House. Because there are no additional environmental impacts beyond those already discussed in the EIR for a bridge, CEQA does not require public circulation of the addendum.

Director Abel moved to approve the Addendum to the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan/Cachuma Biological Opinion EIR for the Quiota Creek Fish Passage Projects and authorize transmittal of the Addendum to the State Clearing House, seconded by Director Williams, passed 4/1/2, Director Loudon voted no and Director Evans was absent.

10. Proposed Use of Unexpended Funds from FY 2006-07 and FY 2007-08 for Fish Conservation Surcharge Risk Analysis and Development of Surcharge Operational Protocols

Ms. Rees recommended that the Board authorize the use of unexpended funds in the amount of \$95,000 from FY 2006-07 and \$100,000 projected from FY 2007-08 to cover the cost for Reclamation's Surcharge Operations Risk Assessment and Development of Operational Protocols, and Stetson Engineer's associated consulting costs. After discussion, the Board decided that different payment options for the estimated \$125,000 cost from the Bureau of Reclamation should be looked at first. They also thought that it would be prudent to immediately authorize use of \$60,000 in unexpended funds for Stetson Engineers to develop and provide various operational criteria to Reclamation. Reclamation and County Flood Control are looking into assistance with funding to help cover the cost of this work

Director Williams moved to use \$60,000 of unexpended funds from FY 2006-07 for the initial work for the Fish Conservation Surcharge Risk Analysis, seconded by Director Van Wingerden, passed 5/0/2, Director Evans was absent.

11. Proposed Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Final COMB Budget

Ms. Rees reported that there were no changes to the proposed FY 2008-09 Budget except the 3.9% COLA as discussed during the May meeting.

Director Williams moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Final COMB Budget, seconded by Director Van Wingerden, passed 5/0/2, Director Evans was absent.

12. Directors' Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

There were no additional requests from the Directors.

13. Meeting Schedule

- Special COMB Board Meeting July 21, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.
- The next regular Board meeting will be held July 23, 2008 following the 2:15 p.m. CCRB regular Board meeting, at the COMB office.

Ms. Rees announced that the new COMB website has been launched and the Agendas and Board Packets are available on the COMB website, www.cachuma-board.org

14. COMB Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Rees, Secretary of the Board

APPROVED:

Chuck Evans, President