

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

*held at*

**3301 Laurel Canyon Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

**Monday, January 22, 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 1:20 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

**General Counsel Present:**

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

**Staff Present:**

Janet Gingras, General Manager  
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO  
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager  
Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager

Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distribution  
Operator  
Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II  
Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II

**Others Present:**

Alex Pappas, SYRWCD (Parent District)  
Dakota Corey, City of Santa Barbara

Matthew Scrudato, COSB Water Agency  
Dana Hoffenberg, City of Santa Barbara

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of November 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting
- b. Minutes of December 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting
- c. Investment of Funds
  - Financial Reports
  - Investment Reports
- d. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda items and noted that the November and December Regular Board Meeting minutes would be voted on separately because Director Sneddon was not present at the November meeting and Director Hayman was absent at the December meeting. Mr. Lyons reviewed the Financial Statements and Paid Claims reports. He mentioned notable funds collected from the State of California OES and SYRWD ID#1. Several Paid Claims of note included remittances to Earth Systems, ACWA JPIA, State Water Resource Control Board, Tierra Contracting, Flowers & Associates and Geosyntec Consultants. He then fielded questions from the Board.

Director Hansen motioned to approve Consent Agenda item a. and Director Hayman seconded the motion which carried with a vote of four in favor and one abstention.

**Ayes:** Hanson, Hayman, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** Sneddon

Director Hansen motioned to approve Consent Agenda item b. and Director Sneddon seconded the motion which carried with a vote of five in favor and one abstention.

**Ayes:** Hanson, Sneddon, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** Hayman

Director Hansen motioned to approve Consent Agenda items c. and d. and Director Hayman seconded the motion which was carried with a vote of six in favor.

**Ayes:** Hanson, Hayman, Sneddon, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

#### **4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

Director Hanson reported that she and Director Hayman attended a Fisheries Committee meeting and received preliminary information on the status of a grant application with the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

#### **5. LICENSE AGREEMENT – U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

Ms. Gingras presented for the Board's approval a license agreement from the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the Modified Upper Reach Reliability Project. The section of pipeline was installed for better water conveyance and is to be considered as a COMB capital asset and restated in the financial statements during the next audit.

Director Hayman motioned to approve the execution of the license agreement and Director Hansen seconded the motion which passed with a vote of six in favor.

**Ayes:** Hanson, Hayman, Sneddon, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

## 6. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report which highlighted contracts for the second quarter of this fiscal year; O'Connor Pest Control, Earth Systems Pacific and Rain for Rent. Ms. Gingras reported on the ACWA JPIA Labor Law webinar attended by Mr. Lyons. Mr. Lyons discussed effective and upcoming laws, noting three that pertain to COMB. Ms. Gingras continued by noting upcoming updates to work plans in both the Operation and Fisheries Divisions and a scheduled virtual meeting to review updates to the Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP) with Water District General Managers and technical staff. She also reported that checks to Member Agencies from the Unexpended Funds had been issued. She finished by discussing organizational changes within the Bureau of Reclamation and then fielded questions from the Board.

## 7. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation Projections
- Winter Storm Preparation
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Mr. Degner updated on the past month's climate conditions, noting slightly below average percent-to-date rainfall. He discussed a substantial rain event that occurred in December, putting repairs and conditions of various systems to test, noting no damage. Mr. Degner also provided an update on 2023 winter storm damage, mentioning weekly meetings with FEMA, repair work relating to the 4683 Disaster has been completed, and one outstanding mitigation request for Toro Canyon. Mr. Degner discussed repairs to Lauro Reservoir Road, which held up in recent rain. He reviewed upcoming projects and finished his report by mentioning the lake water quality study and fielding questions from the Board.

## 8. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King provided the Board with an update on Operations activities, including construction, underground service alerts, and North Portal maintenance work. Mr. King discussed the pulling, cleaning, and recalibration of the water quality monitoring device in Cachuma Lake. He mentioned Confined Space and Resue Training attended by staff. Mr. King noted December storm activity, highlighting the success of recent system repairs, mentioning some flooding issues in the operations building, which were remedied. Mr. King finished by reviewing the Structure Maintenance Program and fielded questions from the Board.

## 9. FISHERIES DIVISON REPORT

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

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report noting that target flows continue to remain above minimums. He stated that the Fisheries Division has been performing all the required monitoring tasks,

specifically with lake profile. He also discussed stranding surveys noting two flow cuts made by Reclamation. Mr. Robinson also mentioned ongoing beaver dam surveys and explained that recent tributary project work held up well during December rain. He ended his report by noting that Fisheries staff is working on the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report. He then fielded questions from the Board.

**10. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM**

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson reported that due to recent rain, inventory on planted trees has been ongoing, and no watering or weeding has been needed. Additional forecasted rain will continue to allow for no watering over the next month, allowing inventory to finish. Mr. Robinson fielded questions from the Board.

**11. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS**

- Cachuma Water Reports
- Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions
- Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

Ms. Gingras reported that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

**12. DIRECTORS' REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

There were no requests from Board members. Ms. Gingras mentioned the WCB grant application will be taken to the Fisheries Committee, and that if needed, a Special Board Meeting may be required.

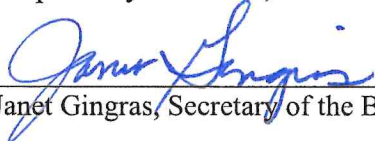
**13. MEETING SCHEDULE**

- Regular Board Meeting – February 26, 2024, at 1:00 PM
- Board Packages available on COMB website [www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)

**14. COMB ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Polly Holcombe, President of the Board