

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
of the  
CACHUMA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE BOARD**

**held at**  
3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA  
**Monday, December 21, 2015**

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**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by President Doug Morgan who chaired the meeting. Those in attendance were:

**Directors present:**

Doug Morgan	Montecito Water District
Harwood “Bendy” White	City of Santa Barbara
Kevin Walsh	SYR Water Conservation District, ID No. 1
Polly Holcombe	Carpinteria Valley Water District
Lauren Hanson	Goleta Water District

**Others present:**

Janet Gingras	Adelle Capponi
Tim Robinson	John Dorwin
Charles Hamilton	Phil Walker

**2. Public Comment**

Phil Walker spoke to sedimentation in the reservoir and other elements affecting the current state of the watershed, reiterating that the predicted El Niño storms – if they come – will likely not be sufficient enough rains to provide serious relief from the current drought.

Tom Fayram addressed the Board and informed them that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors had received the County Water Agency’s Long Term Water Supply Study and will expect the next update in September 2016. He also notified the Board that Member Unit Managers had been contacted for a meeting to help develop a new safe yield curve for the reservoir.

**3. Consent Agenda**

**a. Minutes**

November 16, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

**b. Investment Funds**

Financial Reports  
Investment Reports

**c. Review of Paid Claims**

**d. Review of Pending Claims for Payment**

Director Hanson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Holcombe asked General Counsel, Mr. Bill Carter, about the scope of involvement of COMB's prior General Counsel on recent legal invoices, and whether or not that same level of involvement would continue into the future. Mr. Carter replied that previous COMB attorneys, Mr. Tony Trembley and Mr. Bill Hair, had been consulted regarding topics for which they have a base of historical knowledge. He added that, hopefully, he will not continue to re-encounter as many historical issues in the future. Seconded by Director White, the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote:

**Ayes:** White, Walsh, Holcombe, Hanson, Morgan

**Nayes:** None

**Absent/Abstain:** None

#### **4. Verbal Reports from Board Committees**

- *Administrative Committee Meeting – December 11, 2015:* President Morgan highlighted each item on the referenced agenda, notifying the Board that two of the items are before the Board for information on today's agenda, that the Administrative Committee received a revised Draft Director Handbook for review, and that the Committee did not have time sufficient to address the final item on the agenda: "Accounting for Project Costs."
- *Fisheries Committee Meeting – December 11, 2015:* Director Holcombe thoroughly summarized the Fisheries Committee's discussion on each of the items on the agenda, providing the Board detailed information on the recent successful fish relocation operation at Hilton Creek and the overview of Fisheries project costs to date, which confirmed that no Fisheries projects implemented through COMB have exceeded \$1 Million Dollars in cost.
- *Operations Committee Meeting – December 15, 2015:* Director Walsh reviewed the items on the referenced agenda, informing the Board of the multiple opportunities that it may be prudent for the Board to consider taking advantage of now, with lake levels so low; the primary being a seismic study of the Tecolote Tunnel Intake Tower.

#### **5. Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 68 Compliance**

Ms. Janet Gingras, Interim General Manager, informed the Board of the new compliance standard requiring agencies to reflect unfunded pension liability on the Balance Sheet, adding that it would be more comprehensively presented at the January 25, 2016 Board meeting, in conjunction with the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Draft Financial Audit.

#### **6. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Assessments – Fiscal Year 2015-16**

Ms. Gingras outlined the Board memorandum explaining how the referenced assessments were calculated; there were no questions from the Board.

#### **7. North Portal Slope Stabilization Project – Phase I**

In the absence of Operations Division Manager, Mr. Dave Stewart, Ms. Gingras explained the need for the project. Director Hanson asked several questions about the project and requested that Ms. Gingras obtain written notification from the Bureau that its implementation by COMB is acceptable. Director Walsh moved to approve the suggested budget adjustment and

to authorize Ms. Gingras to execute a contact with Granite Construction, as recommended by the Operations Committee. Director White expressed some concerns regarding the impromptu nature of the project; however, Director Walsh assuaged that apprehension by going into further detail about how thoroughly the project had been vetted by the Operations Committee. Seconded by Director Holcombe, the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote:

**Ayes:** White, Walsh, Holcombe, Hanson, Morgan

**Nays:** None

**Absent/Abstain:** None

#### **8. Interim General Manager's Report**

- *Board Administration*
- *Cachuma Member Unit Managers Meeting*
- *Financial*
- *Operations Division*
- *Fisheries Division*

Ms. Gingras highlighted topics within her report as incorporated in the board packet, providing updates on each of the associated current and ongoing deliverables, and offered to field any questions from the Board.

#### **9. Operations Division Report**

- *Lake Cachuma Operations*
- *Operation and Maintenance Activities*

In the absence of Mr. Stewart, Ms. Gingras referred to his report as included in the board packet, summed up the month's tasks of the Operations Crew, and offered to field any questions from the Board.

#### **10. Fisheries Division Report**

- *LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements*
- *Tributary Project Updates*
- *Surcharge Water Accounting*
- *Reporting/Outreach/Training*

Dr. Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager, noted features as presented in his report in the board packet, providing extra detail to the Board on the Fisheries Division's recent relocation of steelhead in Hilton Creek, target flows, and meter calibration.

#### **11. Progress Report on Lake Cachuma Oak Tree Program**

- *Maintenance and Monitoring*

Dr. Robinson gave a concise review of the status of the project, notifying the Board that the "planting team" is intermittently working with California Conservation Corps (CCC), and about 500 trees have been planted thus far this season, with the hopes of having 700 or 800 into the ground by the end of the planting season.

## 12. Update on Fish Passage Improvement Project – Quiota Creek Crossing 3

Dr. Robinson gave a brief update on the status of the project, advising the Board that the bridge is now in use and that all work on the project went smoothly and was completed the previous Friday. Directors Hanson and Walsh complimented the final project, saying that it is a beautiful bridge and fits in superbly with the natural landscape of the valley.

## 13. Monthly Cachuma Project Reports

Ms. Gingras informed the Board that the Bureau is in the process of finalizing a decision not to charge evaporative losses to the member agencies with lake levels so low; she stated that once the decision is final, she will provide the monthly water reports to reflect that.

## 14. 2016 COMB Regular Board Meeting Calendar

The schedule of 2016 COMB Regular Board meetings was provided to the Board for information.

## 15. Directors' Requests for Agenda Items for Future Meeting

## 16. Meeting Schedule

- The next regular Board meeting will be held January 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Agendas and Board Packets are available on the COMB website at [www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)

## 17. COMB Adjournment

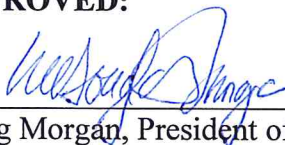
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

**APPROVED:**



Doug Morgan, President of the Board