

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

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

**Monday, June 23, 2025  
1:00 PM**

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**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Holcombe at 1:01 PM.

**Directors Present:**

Polly Holcombe, Carpinteria Valley Water District  
Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara  
Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District  
Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District

**General Counsel Present:**

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

**Staff Present:**

Janet Gingras, General Manager	
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager / CFO	Elijah Papen, Water Resources Analyst II
Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager	Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II
Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distribution Operator	

**Others Present:**

Dana Hoffenberg, City of Santa Barbara	Harwood White, Member of the Public
Matthew Scudato, County of SB Water Agency	Matt Young, County of SB Water Agency

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of April 28, 2025 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 statements & paid claims. Mr. Lyons reported receipt of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter budget assessments and discussed a number of paid claims of note, including April and May remittances to Otis Elevator Co., HDR Engineering and Applied Earthworks and May remittances to Flowers & Associates, Turenchalk and Peter Lapidus Construction.

Director Sneddon proposed the motion to accept the Consent Agenda followed by a second from Director Hayman. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

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

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

**4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

- Operations Committee Meeting – June 16, 2025

Director Sneddon reported out on the Operations Committee, advising that the Board would be presented with the action items in this meeting.

**5. FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**

- Election of President
- Election of Vice-President
- Appointment of ACWA/JPIA Representative and Alternate
- Appointment of General Counsel
- Appointment of Secretary of the Board
- Appointment of Treasurer /Auditor-Controller

The annual elections of the COMB Board took place with President Holcombe stepping down from COMB and nominating Director Sneddon for the office of President. Director Hayman seconded the nomination which was ratified with a vote of six in favor.

Director Hanson nominated Director Hayman for Vice President followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The nomination was ratified with a vote of six in favor.

Agenda items 5c-5f were addressed in a single motion provided by Director Hanson and seconded by Director Hayman. The appointments of Ms. Gingras as ACWA JPIA representative, Mr. Carter as General Counsel, Ms. Gingras as Secretary of the Board and Mr. Lyons as Board Treasurer and Auditor-Controller passed with a vote of six in favor.

**6. LAURO DAM INTAKE STRUCTURE ENGINEERING SUPPORT CONTRACT**

Mr. Degner provided a synopsis of the history of the dam's outlet works, including the 1981 modification in conjunction with City of Santa Barbara's Cater expansion. Reclamation performed a dive inspection and noted deterioration of the bearing plate. Mr. Degner presented the quote for engineering costs to the Board with a request to approve a contract with GEI Consultants.

Director Hayman motioned to approve the engineering contract followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

**7. 2023-24 WINTER STORM DAMAGE REPAIRS**

- Lauro Reservoir Inflow Structure Slide Repair
- Glen Anne Access Road Slide Repair
- Lauro Reservoir Multi-Benefit Flood Mitigation Project

Mr. Degner summarized the repair projects generated by the storms of 2023 and 2024. He discussed the likelihood of potential FEMA funding and staff's decision to approach Reclamation to request in-kind repairs only, foregoing mitigation repairs for now. Mr. Degner noted that Item #6a in-kind repairs were complete. Item #6b required Board approval to execute a sole source contract with Peter Lapidus Construction. Staff applied for a 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant for Item #6c. Mr. Degner indicated that funding from that source may yet be a possibility so no construction will begin until FEMA provides their funding decision. He fielded questions from the Board.

Director Hanson motioned to approve the sole source contract with Peter Lapidus Construction. Director Hayman seconded the motion which passed unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

## **8. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)**

Ms. Gingras initiated a Board discussion regarding a CWPP. Staff provided information regarding existing CWPPs and noted that, while COMB is not required to have its own plan, COMB's participation in the existing plans is essential. An in-depth discussion of risk and vulnerability to COMB's reservoirs and infrastructure followed with concern expressed for firefighting impact on water quality. The Board received public comment for future wildfire mitigation efforts.

## **9. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

- Administration
- Personnel
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report, first providing an update on the audit for Fiscal Year 2024-25. She announced that COMB had been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the sixth consecutive year for its FY 2025-26 Budget document. Ms. Gingras advised that the OPEB valuation will be a roll-forward valuation this year. She was happy to announce that Mr. Papen successfully passed his Fundamentals of Engineering exam, the first step toward becoming a licensed Professional Engineer. Ms. Gingras summarized Reclamation's technical discussion with COMB outlining Reclamation's plans for the Bradbury Outlet Works valves. Finally, she noted that Reclamation will be conducting 2024 Contract Compliance Reviews with the Cachuma Project Member Units. She fielded questions from the Board.

## **10. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Climate Conditions
- Winter Storm Damage and Repairs
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's report with a summary of current climate conditions and reservoir elevation. He provided an update on the Lauro Access House modification. Mr. Degner discussed the assessment of the Sheffield pipeline and illustrated the levels of severity of conditions within it. He presented some options and costs for repairs as well as some contingency plans in the event of a leak.

## **11. INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT JOBS ACT (IIJA) FUNDING APPLICATION**

Ms. Gingras opened a discussion to determine whether COMB should apply for a loan for large projects through the IIJA. COMB would submit the application for repair costs of the Sheffield Tunnel. The Board discussed the financial impact of accepting an IIJA loan. Following discussion and given the impending application deadline, the consensus was to submit the application and table acceptance of a loan for the future discussion.

Director Hayman motioned to approve a funding application to the IJA program. Director Hanson seconded the motion which carried with a vote of six in favor.

**12. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT**

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King provided a summary of the work undertaken by the Operations staff. He noted that staff time had been spent in monitoring Tierra Contracting's Hwy 192 repair projects. In addition to regular monthly tasks, staff participated in training exercises, safety inspections of outlying stations, brush clearing and valve exercising. Contractors were hired to repair the North Portal Generator, dam face clearing, pest control and asphalt repairs to reservoir roads.

**13. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT**

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

Mr. Robinson began the Fisheries report by noting that targets flows are being met by the Hilton Creek Water System. As a result of the seasonal drying of tributaries, fish rescues are ongoing in cooperation with CDFW. Mr. Robinson provided an update on the status of funding efforts for the Hilton Creek project and also noted that design work was in progress. He advised that staff is working on the Annual Monitoring Summary. Finally, he noted that the Hilton Creek pumping barge repairs are targeted for this summer.

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

- Maintenance and Monitoring
- End of Program Plan

Mr. Robinson reported that the annual oak tree inventory was complete. He advised that staff is preparing the final report in anticipation of an Oak Tree Committee meeting. As the program draws to a close, the numbers of trees should continue to be adequate to meet the remediation target.

**15. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS**

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

Ms. Gingras advised that the Cachuma Project reports were routine and apparent water loss was low.

**16. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

There were no requests from directors.

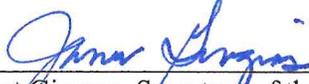
**17. MEETING SCHEDULE**

- **Regular Board Meeting – July 28, 2025 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website [www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)**

**19. COMB ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

**APPROVED:**

  
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Kristen Sneddon, President of the Board

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC**

**Posting of Agenda:** This agenda was posted at COMB's offices, located at 3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California, 93105 and on COMB's website, in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2. The agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered by the Governing Board. The Board reserves the right to modify the order in which agenda items are heard. Copies of staff reports or other written documents relating to each item of business are on file at the COMB offices and are available for public inspection during normal business hours. A person with a question concerning any of the agenda items may call COMB's General Manager at (805) 687-4011.

**Written materials:** In accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5, written materials relating to an item on this agenda which are distributed to the Governing Board less than 72 hours (for a regular meeting) or 24 hours (for a special meeting) will be made available for public inspection at the COMB offices during normal business hours. The written materials may also be posted on COMB's website subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the scheduled meeting.

**Public Comment:** Any member of the public may address the Board on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board. The total time for this item will be limited by the President of the Board. The Board is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public. No action will be taken by the Board on any Public Comment item.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board office at (805) 687-4011 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Board to make reasonable arrangements.

**Note:** If you challenge in court any of the Board's decisions related to the listed agenda items you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at any public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence to the Governing Board prior to the public hearing.