

**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, November 19, 2007

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m. by President Chuck Evans, who chaired the meeting. Those in attendance were:

Directors present:

Chuck Evans	Goleta Water District
Matt Loudon	SYR Water Conservation Dist., ID#1
Das Williams	City of Santa Barbara
Jan Abel	Montecito Water District
Robert Lieberknecht	Carpinteria Valley Water District

Others present:

Kate Rees	William Hair (via conference phone)
Brett Gray	Tom Mosby
Bob Roebuck	Charles Hamilton
Chip Wullbrandt	Chris Dahlstrom
Rebecca Bjork	Janet Gingras
David McDermott	Bill Ferguson
Gary Kvistad	

2. [CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9 (a). ONE CASE: CRAWFORD-HALL V COMB, SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, CASE NO. 1171135.] (10 minutes)

The Board went into closed session at 3.58 p.m. The Board came out of closed session at 4:18 p.m. There was nothing to report out of closed session.

3. Public Comment

Das Williams, as a concerned citizen spoke about two eminent domain initiatives that are being submitted for qualification on the ballot. He felt that the passage of these initiatives might create some problems for water supply.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes:

October 22, 2007 Regular Board Meeting

b. Investment Funds

Financial Report
Investment Report

c. Payment of Claims

Director Abel moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Director Williams, motion passed, 7/0/0.

5. Reports from the Manager

a. Water Storage, Water Production Use, SWP Accounting

b. Operations Report

The October report on operations from Brett Gray was included in the board packet. Mr. Gray highlighted the SCC pipeline inspections that have been conducted by the COMB field crew. He reported that approximately 10% of the pipeline in the upper reach of the SCC has been inspected and overall the pipeline looks to be in very good condition. The information gathered will be used for comparison to any changes that may occur to the infrastructure. Mr. Gray will have a full report for the Board after the inspections have been completed and the information compiled in a report.

c. 2006 Surcharge Accounting

Ms. Rees reported that the downstream water rights release ended on November 5, 2007 and were used conjunctively to meet fisheries target flows. Any further releases needed to meet target flows will come out of project yield until we have sufficient rainfall to generate natural base flow in Hilton Creek and the lower Santa Ynez River. The 2006 surcharge balance will continue to reserve 3,200 acre feet to supplement fish passage migration flows if favorable storm conditions occur during the rainy season.

d. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions

Date 11/19/2007

Lake elevation	725.6
Storage	124,404 acre feet
Rain (for the month to date)	0.03 inches
Rain YTD (for the season to date)	0.37 inches
Fish Release-Hilton Creek	12.1 acre feet per day
Month to Date Fish Release	187.8 acre feet
Month to Date Spill	0.00 acre feet

6. Meeting with Reclamation November 1, 2007

a. Prevention of Quagga Mussels at Lake Cachuma

Ms. Rees highlighted a meeting with Michael Jackson, SCC Area Manager, concerning the infestation of Quagga mussels into the California waterways. She summarized the Member Units' concern regarding significant impacts to Cachuma Project facilities that would occur if Lake Cachuma were to become infested with the Quagga mussels. At this time Reclamation is not proactively addressing the mussel issue and would like to find out what is being done at the state level. The Directors expressed the seriousness of the impact the mussel would have on the water supply if Cachuma were to become infested. Bob Roebuck, MWD General Manager, recommended that the Board direct legal counsel to draft a letter to the County Board of Supervisors expressing the seriousness of the situation and resulting high cost of a contamination. He also suggested that because mussels are transferred from infected waters via private boats that are allowed on the lake, we should request that the County cease boating activities on Lake Cachuma until they develop a plan that would eliminate the threat of a mussel infestation. Mr. Roebuck also felt that the County should be held liable for damages to all of Cachuma facilities if an infestation occurs. The Board directed Bill Hair, COMB's General Counsel, to draft letter to that affect to be reviewed by President Evans and Ms. Rees. Director Loudon suggested that a separate letter be sent to Reclamation stating the major concerns about possible infestation of Quagga mussels and impacts to the Cachuma water supply delivery system, and request that they notify us of any measures they are taking to protect our water supply.

Mr. Hair will draft the letters as instructed. Mr. Rees will prepare additional information on the Quagga mussel for the next Board meeting.

b. Ortega Reservoir Homeowners Association Access License

Ms. Rees also reported on another topic of discussion during the Reclamation meeting. The homeowners in the Ortega Reservoir area have long wanted to be able to use Ortega Ridge Road to access their properties. Since the covering of the reservoir, the water quality issue is no longer a concern to COMB. It was determined that the best method to accommodate the landowners request would be for COMB to grant the landowners a license to use the road. A draft license will be presented to the Directors at the next Board meeting.

7. Santa Barbara County's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
a. Prop 50 Round 2 Step 2 Grant Application Process

Ms. Rees reported that the Santa Barbara Countywide plan was called back for the Step 2 application. The step 2 grant application is currently being developed and will be submitted to the state by January 15, 2008. A detailed work plan and budget had been prepared for COMB by Boyle Engineering. After compiling the work plan, it was estimated that the project cost would be \$8.6 million instead of \$10 million which proportionately reduces the grant request from \$4 million to \$3.4 million. It was noted that the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP lacks environmental projects. With the COMB project now estimated to be a lower cost than initially determined, there is the possibility that a City of Santa Barbara project, which includes more environmental work, could be added to the project grant list. In order to accommodate adding this project, a portion of the total grant request will need to be designated for the City. With support from the other Directors, Director Williams moved to adjust COMB's grant request downward by \$600,000 due to the decrease in the project costs. The Board authorized Ms Rees to offer an additional \$400,000 reduction in COMB's request if the other agencies on the project list were unable to cut their grant request amounts sufficiently. By adding the City project, the entire grant proposal has a better chance of being successful. The decrease in the amount of funding requested by COMB would subsequently lower the cost COMB would pay to CH2M Hill for the grant application process. The motion was seconded by Director Lieberknecht, passed 7/0/0.

8. Zaca Fire Activities

Ms. Rees reported that she and Cathy Taylor, City of Santa Barbara senior engineer, had met with Barry Hecht of Balance Hydrologics, and reviewed his proposal. An estimated cost of \$74,000 had also been received from MNS Engineering for performing a Bathymetric Survey of Lake Cachuma next summer.

9. COMB Website Development

Ms. Rees presented highlights of the COMB website that is currently under construction by Rauch Communication. It is scheduled to be completed by the first of the year.

10. Disposition of Excess Funds From FY 2006-2007 and FY 2007-2008 Budget Augmentation

a. \$225,000 Post-Zaca Fire Protection Measures for Lake Cachuma

At the September 24, 2007 Board meeting, the Board of Directors authorized \$225,000 of the \$388,679 from the unexpended FY 2006-07 funds for post-Zaca Fire activities that might result from winter storms. The funds would be paid to the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District for installation of log booms (\$30k), Cushman Construction for removal of floating debris on the lake (\$120k) and Balance Hydrologics for the preparation of a post-fire Watershed Assessment

(\$25k). The remainder of the \$50k would be considered an unallocated cushion for additional restoration work.

b. \$50,000 IRWMP – Increase in Consultant Costs for Prop 50 Round 2 Step 2 Grand Application for 2nd Pipeline Project

Also at the September 24, 2007 Board meeting the Board approved participation in a second MOU for the continued administration of the Santa Barbara County-wide IRWMP and preparation of the Round 2 Step 2 grant application. The grant process will be more expensive than the anticipated \$35,000; therefore a budget augmentation of \$50,000 would be needed to cover these expenses and also to cover the cost of services of Boyle Engineering.

Director Williams moved to approve the recommendations:

1. Approve budget augmentation in the amount \$225,000 for post Zaca Fire activities and allocate costs among the COMB Member Units by Cachuma entitlement percentages.
2. Approve budget augmentation in the adjusted amount as discussed during Item #7, for Proposition 50 IRWMP Round 2 Step 2 grant application for the 2nd Pipeline Project and allocate costs among the South Coast Member Units only by entitlement percentages.
3. Designate a total of \$275,000 in excess funds from FY 2006-07 to be used for post-Zaca Fire protection measures for Lake Cachuma and Proposition 50 IRWMP Round 2 Step 2 grant application for the 2nd Pipeline Project.
4. Designate any remaining unexpended funds from FY 2006-07 to be constructively returned through offset to 4th quarter assessments.

Seconded by Director Evans passed 7/0/0.

11. Directors' Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Director Williams requested that at some time the subject of how eminent domain reform could affect our future operations be added to the agenda.

12. Meeting Schedule

The Board agreed to cancel the December 17, 2007 regular meeting, the next regular COMB Board meeting will be January 28, 2008 following the CCRB meeting at the COMB office.

The Board Packets are available on the CCRB-COMB Website, www.ccrb-comb.org

13. COMB Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Rees, Secretary of the Board

APPROVED:

Chuck Evans, President