

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**
held at
**3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

**Monday, March 27, 2023
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 1:02 PM.

Directors Present:

Polly Holcombe, Carpinteria Valley Water District
Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara
Kathleen Werner, Goleta Water District Alternate
Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District

General Counsel Present:

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

Staff Present:

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| Janet Gingras, General Manager | Elijah Papen, Senior Program Analyst |
| Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO | Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager |
| Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager | Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II |

Others Present:

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| Dakota Corey, City of Santa Barbara | Nicolas Turner, Montecito Water District |
| Mark Preston, Resident | Matt Young, SBCO Water Agency |
| Matthew Scrudato, SBCO Water Agency | |

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mark Preston posed a question regarding the Emergency Pumping Facility. Ms. Gingras advised that she could respond following the meeting.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of February 27, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda items, referencing the Minutes of the last meeting and inviting Mr. Lyons to comment upon the Financial Statements and Paid Claims. Mr. Lyons reviewed revenues and pass-through revenues and then directed the Board's attention to the Paid Claims report. He highlighted various expenditures of note, including remittances to Cushman Contracting Corp., State Water Resources Control Board, Flowers & Associates and HDR Engineering.

Director Hayman motioned to approve item 3a only, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion passed with a vote of four in favor and two abstentions.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Holcombe
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain: Werner

Director Hayman provided a second motion to approve items 3b and 3c. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which passed unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Werner, Holcombe
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:

4. PURCHASE OF FLEET VEHICLES

Ms. Gingras introduced this item, seeking board approval for the purchase of two vehicles, a dump truck for the Operations Division and an electric vehicle for the Fisheries Division. Mr. Degner provided background in support of the need for a new dump truck. The proposed vehicle has an added advantage in that it is rated to tow large equipment such as COMB's backhoe. Ms. Gingras advised that COMB has an employee with a Class A driving license, which will be required for towing large equipment. Mr. Robinson noted that COMB has waited a very long time to acquire an electric vehicle due to limited availability. The proposed vehicle, a Ford F-150 Lightning, has a long battery range and includes a charging station. Director Sneddon suggested that a pre-approval process be instituted so that staff can act quickly when opportunities such as these present themselves.

Director Sneddon motioned to approve the vehicle purchases. Director Hayman seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Werner, Holcombe
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:

5. RESOLUTION NO. 778 – COMB ANNEX TO THE 2022 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Ms. Gingras introduced COMB's annex for inclusion in the 2022 update to the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) and reported that the County consultant has confirmed that CalOES and FEMA have approved the County's plan which now pends for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. She invited Mr. Papen to comment. Mr. Papen noted that an approved MJHMP allows for pursuit of funding opportunities to mitigate future hazards. The update includes greater emphasis on cyber-threats and power outages and provides for mitigation funding under DR-4683, to repair January storm damages. Mr. Papen fielded questions from the Board.

Director Sneddon motioned to approve COMB's annex, followed by a second from Alternate Director Werner. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Werner, Holcombe
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:

6. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- Personnel
- Operations Division

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report with an update on second period US Bureau of Reclamation water rates, Cachuma Project spill and surplus water, and the pursuit of FEMA reimbursement for the January 2023 Winter Storms and Debris Flow. Additionally, Ms. Gingras, with great pride, listed recent staff certification accomplishments, noting that COMB now has five D3 certified operators. Finally, she reported the successful South Coast Conduit shutdown in the Carpinteria Reach.

7. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Water Quality
- January Storm Disaster Recovery
- South Coast Conduit Rehabilitation
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's report and noted it had been an incredible year of critical projects completed. He commented that 2022-23 is likely ranked as the fourth wettest year in Cachuma Project history. He discussed the South Coast Conduit shutdown in the Carpinteria Reach, noting that it was the most complicated shutdown that Mr. Degner has overseen. This shutdown, which fulfilled a long-standing Category 1 Bureau recommendation, had been many years in the planning due to its complexity. He noted that the Lillingston project is deferred to next year while other projects are proceeding well. Mr. Degner's report was received with compliments and thanks.

8. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. Degner presented the Operations Division report and acknowledged the cooperation of Carpinteria staff during the recent shutdown related to the South Coast Conduit AVAR/Blow Off project. He also mentioned that the shutdown included repair of the worst structure on the conduit, which staff had previously been unable to touch. Mr. Degner advised that staff was preparing to clean Ortega reservoir to facilitate its subsequent repairs. He fielded questions from the Board.

9. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

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

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report noting that target flows continue to be met and the upper release point at Hilton Creek is still operating on gravity flow. Staff continues routine monitoring efforts. Mr. Robinson reported that trapping will not proceed until COMB acquires both a CESA permit and a Scientific Collection permit. With respect to storm damages, Mr. Robinson advised that eleven fish passages need some form of repair. He is navigating both State and Federal repair funding paths. Finally, Mr. Robinson noted that all fish related accounts are fully charged for the first time since 2011 and will remain so until the spill ceases.

10. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson presented the Oak Tree report noting that a wind event at the dam had blown down some trees that had to be shored up. He reported that the annual inventory continues and that the parking lot at Live Oak was being repaired by a contractor hired by County Parks. He fielded questions from the Board.

11. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

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

Ms. Gingras presented the Cachuma Project reports and provided details of water balances, carryover losses and mid-year water allocations.

12. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no requests from Directors for future agenda items.

13. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: POTENTIAL LITIGATION

- a. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Name of matter: *Kimball-Griffith L.P. v. Brenda Wren Burman, et al.*, Case No. 2:20-cv-10647
– Request for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief
- b. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Name of matter: *Stephen Timothy Buynak, Jr. and Gloria Ann Buynak, as Trustees of the Buynak 1991 Family Revocable Trust v. United States Department of the Interior, et al.*, Case No. 2:22-cv-07271 – Complaint For Injunctive and Declaratory Relief to Enforce Plaintiffs' Riparian Water Rights
- c. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 3:18 PM.

14. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

- [Government Code Section 54957.7]
Disclosure of actions taken in closed session, as applicable
[Government Code Section 54957.1]

- 13a. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Name of matter: *Kimball-Griffith L.P. v. Brenda Wren Burman, et al.*, Case No. 2:20-cv-10647
– Request for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief
- 13b. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Name of matter: *Stephen Timothy Buynak, Jr. and Gloria Ann Buynak, as Trustees of the Buynak 1991 Family Revocable Trust v. United States Department of the Interior, et al.*, Case No. 2:22-cv-07271 – Complaint For Injunctive and Declaratory Relief to Enforce Plaintiffs’ Riparian Water Rights
- 13c. Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 4:34 PM. There was no reportable action for items 13a through 13c.

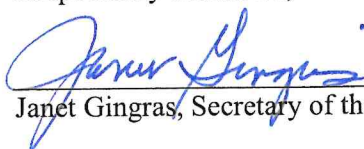
15. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – April 24, 2023 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

16. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

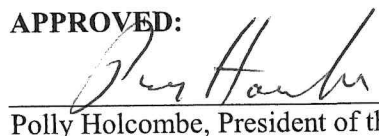
Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

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| √ | <i>Approved</i> |
| | <i>Unapproved</i> |

APPROVED:



Polly Holcombe, President of the Board