

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

**Monday, March 28, 2022
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 1:01 PM.

All attendees participated electronically pursuant to California Government Code sections 54953(b)(1), (b)(2), (e)(1) and (e)(3) (AB 361).

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	Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO	Shane King, Operations Supervisor
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Cathy Taylor, City of Santa Barbara	Matt Young, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Stephen Torigiani, Young, Wooldridge LLP	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of February 28, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda to the Board for approval. She summarized revenues received and expenditures made, highlighting a number of paid claims, including payments to CalPortland Construction, Flowers and Associates, Santa Barbara Office Interiors and Turenchalk Network Services.

Director Hanson motioned to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2022 Board Meeting, Items one through five. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which carried with a vote of five in favor with one abstention.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain: Hayman

Director Hanson motioned to approve the remainder of the Minutes of the February 28, 2022 Board Meeting, as well as the remaining Consent Agenda items. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- *Administrative Committee Meeting – March 15, 2022* - Director Holcombe reviewed the committee meeting agenda, noting that the items are brought before the Board in today's agenda.
- *Operations Committee Meeting – March 17, 2022* – Director Sneddon, in reviewing the committee meeting agenda, noted that the Board will hear all items today. She also acknowledged the importance of COMB's in-house expertise.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 746 – CONFIRMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY (HEALTH AND SAFETY)

Ms. Gingras presented Resolution No. 746 to authorize continued remote public meetings. Directors conducted a short discussion regarding the need to continue remotely. Director Hanson motioned to approve the Resolution, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion passed with votes comprised of five ayes one nay.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays: Hayman

Absent:

Abstain:

6. RESOLUTION NO. 747 - COMB 2022 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Ms. Gingras presented Resolution No. 747 and shared a slide show, defining Sustainability and COMB's commitment, actions and plans toward achievement of sustainability. She noted this is a living document which will have an added advantage of positioning COMB for future funding efforts. Ms. Gingras fielded questions and comments from the Board. Following discussion of certain elements of the Plan, the Board requested that Ms. Gingras review those elements of the Plan in committee and bring back to the Board for adoption at a future Board meeting.

7. ACWA/JPIA COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE (C2E) PROGRAM

Ms. Gingras presented the Commitment to Excellence (C2E) program for approval. She noted that it encompasses best practices for risk management, many of which are already in practice at COMB, as evidenced by consecutive years of premium rebates for low claims ratios. As well, as a member of this program, COMB could qualify for grant funds from ACWA JPIA. She fielded comments from the Board.

Director Hanson put forth a motion to approve the execution of the C2E certificate. Director Hayman seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

8. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - SCADA SYSTEM UPGRADE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Mr. Degner presented the SCADA System Upgrade and noted that this is the final step in the SCADA upgrade process. He advised that funds exist in the current budget to cover the hardware and software costs associated with the project. He provided support for the request for a sole-source Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Aspect Engineering Group.

Director Hayman motioned to approve the execution of the sole-source PSA, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

9. BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW – USBR REIMBURSABLE FUNDING

Ms. Gingras provided the Board with an update on the status of COMB’s application for a loan through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. She advised that the Denver office of Reclamation is conducting the review process and that COMB has received early positive feedback from Reclamation regarding the potential success of the application. Notification of Award in this initial round of funding is expected in May of this year. The Board requested that Ms. Gingras explore whether COMB could increase the amount of funding at a later date. As well, Ms. Gingras emphasized to the Board that, should COMB be awarded a loan, the Board would have the opportunity to accept it or not.

10. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- Meetings

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report, highlighting the receipt of a Department of Water Resources (DWR) award in the amount of \$2.25 million toward the Secured Pipeline Project, the refund of premium awarded by ACWA JPIA and the plan to present to IRWMP with hope of receiving round two funding. As well, she reviewed the status of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Finally, Ms. Gingras received congratulations from the Board for the DWR award.

11. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation Projections
- Ortega Effluent Pipeline Repair
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's report, reviewing climate conditions and lake elevation. He provided a chart illustrating evaporation rates for the last two years and projected lake elevation based upon current knowledge of import and export of water. He advised that a realistic window exists to install the secured pipeline in Summer or Fall of 2022, noting that installation of the pumping barge could then be delayed potentially until Spring 2023. Mr. Degner reviewed the repair of the Ortega reservoir pipeline and provided an update on the La Mirada isolation valve project. With regard to the Secured Pipeline, Mr. Degner reported that Makai Ocean Engineering is poised to request bids and COMB is working on the required permits. A lengthy discussion ensued, during which, Mr. Degner fielded a number of questions.

12. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report, advising that staff time was spent primarily on the La Mirada Isolation Valve and Ortega Reservoir Leak Repair projects. Additionally, during the leak repair, staff was able to address several of Reclamation's inspection requests. Finally, staff repaired the log boom at the North Portal.

13. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

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

Mr. Robinson provided the Board with information on target flows to Hilton Creek and the Highway 154 bridge, noting that dropping lake elevation continues to impact the amount of flow to these two measuring points. Normal monitoring efforts are ongoing. Staff has noted spawning activity in Hilton Creek. Mr. Robinson advised that he has been working with Reclamation on the Biological Assessment and is seeking additional seasonal staff, including an individual to monitor the berm at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River.

14. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

15. Mr. Robinson presented the Oak Tree report, noting that staff continues irrigation efforts due to lack of rain. He reported that grant funds had been received from Your Children's Trees foundation to offset the cost of the current year oak tree plantings. Mr. Robinson fielded questions from the Board.

17. 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, commenting that the State of California has reduced deliveries of State water.

18. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

Director Hayman requested that the subject of resuming in-person meetings be brought before the Board as an agenda item at the next meeting.

19. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – April 25, 2022 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

20. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gingras

Janet Gingras (Apr 26, 2022 16:00 PDT)

Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:

Polly Holcombe

Polly Holcombe (Apr 26, 2022 17:29 PDT)

Polly Holcombe, President of the Board