

**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 24, 2008**

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by President Chuck Evans, who chaired the meeting. Those in attendance were:

**Directors present:**

Chuck Evans	Goleta Water District
Das Williams	City of Santa Barbara
Jan Abel	Montecito Water District
Bob Lieberknecht	Carpinteria Valley Water District

**Others present:**

Kate Rees	William Hair
Chip Wullbrandt	Eric Ford
Charles Hamilton	Brett Gray
Tom Mosby	Rebecca Bjork
Chris Dahlstrom	Gary Kvistad
Bob McDonald	Phil Walker

**2. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**3. Closed Session/Conference with Legal Counsel Anticipated Litigation:  
Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code section  
54956.9(b) (one case).**

The Board went into closed session at 3:09 p.m. and came out of closed session at 3:26 p.m.

The report out of closed session was that the Board approved a letter to be sent to the County of Santa Barbara regarding a \$60,000 contribution toward the Quagga Mussel Inspection and Prevention Program.

*(The Board next considered item #9)*

**9. Cachuma Project Metering Issues in Carpinteria Reach of South Coast Conduit**

Ms. Rees briefed the Board on water metering issues in the Carpinteria reach of the South Coast Conduit. She reported that the meters and laterals installed in the 1950's have not been properly maintained over time due to the inability to effectively shut down the SCC for any length of time to do so. The meters are no longer accurate or reliable, and a number of the meters have been dysfunctional for many years. During July 2008, a discrepancy over several months was noted between COMB's metered water use for CVWD and CVWD's actual water sales, showing CVWD water sales greater than the metered water use. Meetings were held among COMB, CVWD, and MWD staff, and it was mutually decided, as an interim measure, to use the boundary meter to determine CVWD's water usage until a permanent solution had been agreed upon. Brett Gray reported on the collective effort among the staff engineers at CVWD, MWD and COMB to develop a recommendation for a permanent solution and several options are being evaluated. It has been acknowledged by all the agencies involved that rehabilitation of the laterals in this reach will be necessary given their age and condition.

Director Lieberknecht requested that staff report on how Cachuma water is metered from Lake Cachuma all the way to Carpinteria. This would be beneficial information for the current COMB Directors and for any new Directors on the Member Units Boards.

**10. COMB Capital Improvement Program/Bond Issuance Update**  
**a. CVWD Letter and Memo Regarding COMB CIP Program**

Included in the board packet was a letter from Charles Hamilton, General Manager of CVWD. Ms. Rees reported that Mr. Hamilton is seeking a review by the Member Units of all anticipated COMB expenses projected for the FY 09-10 Budget earlier than usual, as well as a Member Unit evaluation of COMB's Capital Improvement Program. This would enable the Member Units to plan their own budgets more effectively.

Bob McDonald, CVWD District Engineer, reviewed his memo which generally evaluated the COMB Capital Improvement Projects Program (CIP) from the perspective of the CVWD. There was discussion concerning the prioritization of the CIP projects and the financial burden that the bond would create for the Member Units. Ms Rees explained that the bond was structured to keep the debt repayment at approximately the same level as the special projects line item in the COMB budget (about \$1.2 million per year) until 2015. Therefore, the bond issuance would not trigger a potential increase in water rates for about 6 years. Directors Abel and Williams indicated that the COMB Board's CIP Committee had been working with staff for about a year on the CIP Program, prioritization of capital projects, and the proposed CIP bond issuance, and that CVWD's request to have greater Member Unit participation had come very late in the process. Ms Rees mentioned that COMB staff had presented the CIP Program, prioritization of

projects, and the proposed bond issuance to all of the individual Member Unit Boards, including CVWD. She also indicated that staff's intention was always to carry out as much capital improvement work as possible with bond funds, and that it was possible that some rehabilitation work in the Carpinteria reach could be included, largely because of grant funding from Prop 50 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pipeline project. The Board agreed to take comments on the memo under consideration.

In response to the request from Mr. Hamilton for a much earlier budget development process, Ms. Rees stated that COMB would begin its FY 2009-10 budget planning in January.

#### **11. Proposal to Form a COMB Operating Committee**

A letter from Mr. Hamilton was included in the board packet requesting that the COMB Board consider the formation of an Operating Committee fashioned after CCWA's Operating Committee. Ms. Rees thought this suggestion had merit, and it would allow the individual Member Units to have more direct involvement in developing, funding, and constructing COMB's CIP projects.

The recommendation before the Board was for the Board President to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a recommendation regarding the formation of a COMB Operating Committee.

President Evans appointed Ms. Rees (COMB), Charles Hamilton (CVWD) and Rebecca Bjork (City of Santa Barbara) as the Ad Hoc Committee.

*(The Board next consider item #4)*

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes:**  
October 27, 2008 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment Funds**  
Financial Report  
Investment Report
- c. Payment of Claims**

Director Williams moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Director Evans, passed 6/0/1, Director Loudon was absent.

*(The Board next considered item #7)*

#### **7. Reports From the Manager**

- a. Cachuma Water Reports**  
The water reports prepared by Janet Gingras were included in the board packet.

**b. Operations Report**

Mr. Gray's operation report for the month was included in the board packet.

**c. 2008 Surcharge Accounting**

Ms. Rees surcharge accounting report was included in the board packet.

**d. Lauro Debris Basin Progress Report**

Mr. Gray's progress report on the Lauro Debris Basin project was included in the board packet.

**e. Upper Santa Ynez River Operations Agreement Update (USYROA)**

Ms. Rees reported that the regular monthly report from the City of Santa Barbara on the USYROA was included in the board packet. The City has initiated the "Pass Through" mode of operation, and is working with Reclamation to develop a Warren Act Contract for storage of non-Cachuma Project water in Lake Cachuma.

**f. COMB Activities Related to Tea Fire**

Ms. Rees acknowledged the contribution of the staff from Montecito Water District and the City of Santa Barbara for their enormous effort in assisting with the fire fighting effort and providing water throughout the fire. COMB staff also assisted by keeping water levels high in Lauro Reservoir and water dropping helicopters took water from Lauro Reservoir as needed. It was agreed by all that no payment would be required for the water used from Lauro.

**g. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions**

**Date 11/24/2008**

Lake elevation	742.45 feet
Storage	166,255 acre feet
Rain (for the month to date)	0.4 inches
Rain YTD (for the season to date)	0.49 inches
Fish Release-Hilton Creek	23.6 to 16.58 acre feet per day
Month to Date Fish Release	500.5 acre feet
Month to Date Spill	0 acre feet
Year to Date Spill	0 acre feet

*(The Board next considered item #5)*

**5. COMB Board Elections Effective December 5, 2008**

The recommendation before the Board was to elect a new Board President due to President Chuck Evans leaving the COMB Board effective December 5, 2008. Should the Board Vice President, Das Williams, be elected as President, the Board was requested to elect a new Vice President of the Board.

Director Abel moved to nominate Das Williams as President of the Board, effective December 5, 2008, seconded by Director Lieberknecht, passed 4/0/3, Director Williams abstained, Director Loudon was absent.

Director Abel nominated Director Lieberknecht as Vice President of the Board, effective December 5, 2008, seconded by Director Evans, passed 5/0/2, Director Lieberknecht abstained, Director Loudon was absent.

**6. COMB Resolution No. 477 Commendation for Chuck Evans**

Vice President Williams presented Board Resolution No. 477 expressing appreciation and thanks to Director Chuck Evans upon his retirement from the Goleta Water District Board and from the COMB Board.

Director Lieberknecht moved to approve Resolution No. 477, seconded by Director Abel, a roll call vote was taken, passed 4/0/3, Director Evans abstained, Director Loudon was absent.

*(The Board next considered item #8)*

**8. Amendment to Bradbury Dam Safety of Dams Repayment Agreement**

Ms. Rees reported that the total cost of the Bradbury Dam Safety of Dams Modification Program had exceeded the original contractual amount of \$45,276,008 by \$3,045,539. The actual total is now \$48,321,547. COMB is responsible for paying 15% of the new total cost, or \$7,248,232. This is \$456,831 more than the original contractual amount. The Bradbury Dam Safety of Dams Repayment Agreement must be amended to reflect the higher total and repayment amount.

Director Williams moved to authorize development of an administrative amendment to the Bradbury Dam Safety of Dams Repayment Agreement between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board to amend the total cost of the seismic modifications to Bradbury Dam, COMB's 15% obligation for the total cost, and the annual repayment amount, seconded by Director Lieberknecht, passed 6/0/1, Director Loudon was absent.

*(The Board next considered item #12)*

**12. Santa Barbara County's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Activities**

**a. Prop 50 IRWMP Project Participant Meeting, November 20, 2008**

Ms. Rees included the agenda from the November 20, 2008 meeting, which dealt with Prop 50 administration. The Master Contract between the State of California and the County Water Agency has been completed, and will be signed and executed on December 19, 2008. The individual project participants' sub-contracts and MOUs have all been approved.

**b. DWR Prop 84 Workshop, November 21, 2008**

Ms. Rees reported that Prop 84 is the next step in the IRWMP process. The maximum amount the Central Coast Region can get is \$52 million. The workshop walked the participants through the processes involved with participating in Prop 84.

**c. Prop 84 – Components of New IRWMP MOU**

Included in the board packet was information put together by Rob Almy for the participation by local agencies in Prop 84.

**13. COMB/CCRB Comments on Draft Cachuma RMP/EIS**

Ms. Rees included in the board packet, joint comments from COMB and CCRB on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cachuma Lake Resources Management Plan, and highlighted the major comments.

**14. Directors' Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

There were no additional items requested.

**15. Meeting Schedule**

The next regular Board meeting will be held December 15, 2008 following the 2:15 p.m. CCRB regular Board meeting, at the COMB office.

The Agendas and Board Packets are available on the COMB website, [www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)

**16. COMB Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kate Rees, Secretary of the Board

**APPROVED:**

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Das Williams, President