

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD  
Monday, February 28, 2022  
1:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Holcombe at 1:00 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 (arrival approximately 1:10 PM)

**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:**

Joshua Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara	Kevin Walsh, SYRWCD ID #1
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 January 10, 2022 Special Board Meeting
- b. Minutes of January 24, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- c. Investment of Funds
  - Financial Reports
  - Investment Reports
- d. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras introduced the Consent Agenda and requested that Mr. Lyons comment on the Financial Reports. Mr. Lyons reviewed revenues and expenditures of note, including payments to Core & Main, Rain for Rent and the USGS Stream Gauge Program.

Ms. Gingras solicited a motion for Item 1.a. of the Consent Agenda which was provided by Director Hanson and seconded by Director Sneddon. The motion carried with a vote of five in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hanson, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:** Hayman

**Abstain:**

Director Hanson put forward a motion to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which carried with a vote of five in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hanson, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:** Hayman

**Abstain:**

#### 4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- ***Fisheries Committee Meeting – February 10, 2022*** – Director Hanson summarized the information provided at the Fisheries committee meeting. She noted that the stream gauge item is number seven on this agenda and is forwarded to the Board with full support. As well, Director Hanson commented that the now up-to-date Annual Monitoring Reports are very valuable resources that document COMB’s heroic efforts to maintain the steelhead habitats in the Lower Santa Ynez River.

#### 5. RESOLUTION NO. 744 – CONFIRMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOVERNOR NEWSOM’S DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY (HEALTH AND SAFETY)

Ms. Gingras presented the resolution as a routine item for approval. Director Sneddon motioned to approve the resolution, followed by a second from Director Hanson. The motion carried with a vote of five in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hanson, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:** Hayman

**Abstain:**

#### 6. RESOLUTION NO. 745 - RATIFICATION OF EMERGENCY CONTRACTS - ORTEGA RESERVOIR REPAIR

Ms. Gingras presented the resolution and briefly recapped the circumstances that required it to be put forth for approval. Mr. Degner then provided a detailed report of the emergency work accomplished to mitigate the effluent pipeline leak at Ortega Reservoir. He noted it was a difficult repair that presented various challenges that COMB and Montecito Water District staff addressed. Mr. Degner outlined the remaining tasks required to complete the repair of the pipeline. He stated that emergency contracts had been executed with Flowers & Associates in the amount of \$15,000 and Cushman Contracting in the amount of \$220,000. Further contracts will be executed with HydraTech Field Services and Houston and Harris. He addressed various concerns, including budgetary and IIP issues and fielded questions from the Board.

Director Hayman provided a motion to approve the two emergency contracts. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

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

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

## **7. PROPOSED USGS STREAM GAUGE EXPENDITURES AND CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

Mr. Robinson reviewed the history of required flow measurement at the Highway 154 Bridge, including an evaluation of the current site and its limitations. Noting that a new site approved by Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has been identified to measure stream flow that presents better conditions for accuracy and water quality monitoring, Mr. Robinson described the equipment that would be deployed and its construction costs. He advised that a new contract with the USGS will be required with an increase in annual costs and estimated that the project could be in place by the end of summer 2022.

Director Hanson motioned to approve the project expenditures and contract amendment. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

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

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

## **8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

- Meetings
- Operations

Ms. Gingras recapped the General Manager report, emphasizing increased vigilance that COMB and the IT consultant have undertaken, in light of the current situation in Eastern Europe, to defend against any potential malicious attacks perpetrated on COMB's computer networks. As well, she reported the status of IRWMP Round Two funding and its impact on the Secured Pipeline Project. Noting that sources of funding for the secured pipeline continue to be pursued, she indicated that the pipeline project is still scheduled to move forward, pending impacts from rainfall. She touched briefly on the Santa Barbara County Operational Area Emergency Managers' Meeting and the Ortega Reservoir emergency repair. Ms. Gingras fielded questions and requests from the Board.

## **9. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation Projections
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Mr. Degner provided the current climate conditions and forecasts, noting extremely dry conditions. He advised that Emergency Pumping System could be activated as early as November, 2022, depending upon conservative projections. Mr. Degner reported that the La Mirada Isolation Valve project is underway and that he plans to coordinate with stakeholders to take Ortega Reservoir offline. Finally, Mr. Degner, noted that water demands are higher than usual, due to lack of rain.

## **10. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT**

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report, noting that most of staff time had been spent in addressing the Ortega Reservoir Effluent Pipeline leak. He reported that manhole covers, along the Highway 192 Project, had been replaced resulting in a match of the sizes of the openings with the vault covers. Mr. King advised that normal valve exercising and calibrations had taken place, as well as work on the La Mirada Isolation Valve and responses to Dig Alerts.

## **11. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT**

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

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report, advising that, while flows to Hilton Creek were below target due to lake elevation, flows were still adequate to maintain the fishery. He reported that beaver dam surveys were complete and redd surveys continue. Migrant trapping is in place only at Hilton Creek where spawning is under way. Finally, Mr. Robinson updated the Board concerning PIT Tag monitoring with the handheld device as well as the upcoming installation of the PIT Tag station at Hilton Creek.

## **12. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM**

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson presented the Oak Tree Program report, advising that COMB is on target for completion of the project, news which was welcomed by the Board. He reported that irrigation continues due to dry conditions. Inventory and GPS tagging have been delayed as staff time has been occupied with watering efforts.

## **13. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS**

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

Ms. Gingras had no comments on the January water reports.

## **14. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

There were no agenda requests from directors.

## **15. MEETING SCHEDULE**

- **Regular Board Meeting – March 28, 2022 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website [www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)**

**17. COMB ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet Gingras*  
Janet Gingras (Apr 7, 2022, 13:28 PDT)  
Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

**APPROVED:**

*Polly Holcombe*  
Polly Holcombe (Apr 7, 2022, 13:34 PDT)  
Polly Holcombe, President of the Board