

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

**Monday, February 27, 2023
1:00 PM**

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

General Counsel Present:

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

Staff Present:

Janet Gingras, General Manager

Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO

Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Manager

Shane King, Operations Supervisor

Elijah Papen, Senior Program Analyst

Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager

Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Others Present:

Dakota Corey, City of Santa Barbara

Matthew Scrudato, SBCO Water Agency

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

**3. RESOLUTION NO. 776 – CONFIRMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY -
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOVERNOR NEWSOM’S DECLARED STATE OF
EMERGENCY (HEALTH AND SAFETY)**

Ms. Gingras presented Resolution No. 776 for discussion. Hearing none, President Holcombe called for a motion which was put forth by Director Hanson and seconded by Director Sneddon. The motion carried with a vote of five in favor and one opposed.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays: Hayman

Absent:

Abstain:

8. DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Ms. Gingras introduced Ordinance No. 4 regarding Director Compensation for discussion, approval and adoption. She advised that the required publications were made in a timely fashion. Following Board discussion and comments justifying the increase to compensation, the Board agreed to the amount proposed.

Director Hanson provided a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 4. Director Hayman seconded the motion which carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

9. RESOLUTION NO. 777 – DESIGNATION OF APPLICANTS’ AGENT – JANUARY 2023 STORMS

Ms. Gingras presented Resolution No. 777 for approval. She noted that it authorizes application to FEMA for reimbursement of expenses undertaken on an emergency basis, as well as designation of an agent, a requirement in order to apply for reimbursement. She fielded questions from the Board.

Director Hayman provided the motion to approve the Resolution, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

10. LAKE CACHUMA EMERGENCY PUMPING FACILITY SECURED PIPELINE PROJECT – FINAL REPORT

Mr. Degner presented the final report for the EPF Secured Pipeline project. He reviewed the project, including the final survey, noting that the primary contractor was off the lake on February 6th. Mr. Degner stated that the Notice of Completion had been provided. There are some final details to complete, such as grant reporting and permit requirements. Mr. Papen shared photos and GIS mapping of the project. Mr. Degner fielded questions from the Board.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Gingras provided the General Manager report, highlighting status of the ongoing FEMA process. FEMA has toured some of the damaged sites and staff has submitted a Request for Public Assistance. At the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Ms. Gingras reported the NMFS, Reclamation and staff toured some of the South Coast Conduit stream crossings, identified the approximate location of the secured pipeline, viewed various components of the Cachuma Project and Hilton Creek and visited some locations in the Lower Santa Ynez River.

12. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Lake Elevation Projections
- January Storm Disaster Recovery
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Mr. Degner presented the Engineer's Report, with particular emphasis on the status of the Bradbury Dam controlled release, the reservoir having reached full capacity. Mr. Papen shared dramatic photos of the release. Mr. Degner reported that Cachuma Project water allocations were expected to increase to 100%. He provided photos and discussed the various storm damages sustained to COMB infrastructure. Mr. Degner advised that staff would shift gears in work plans, focusing on the March South Reach shutdown and Ortega reservoir cleaning. The Lillingston project will be delayed. Finally, Mr. Degner noted that Phase II water quality sampling would occur in April and is expected to produce results showing changed conditions.

13. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division Report, advising that rain and debris removal, as well as protection of the conduit, had been staff's focus. He reported that level transducers at Ortega reservoir had been replaced. He touched on the sonar survey at Lake Cachuma and reviewed the routine Operations tasks accomplished. Mr. King noted that staff would be repairing the log boom at the North Portal and fielded questions from the Board.

14. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

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

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report with an update on the Lake Cachuma spill. He advised that there was plenty of flow to Hilton Creek and the Highway 154 bridge monitoring sites. Mr. Robinson further stated that trapping had ceased and staff was focusing on the Annual Monitoring Report. Finally, he reported that HDR Engineering would be on site to assess the fish passages for storm damages and potential repairs.

15. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson advised that work on oak tree inventory was progressing but noted two areas of concern, the parking lot at Live Oak Campground and the Mohawk area at Lake Cachuma Park. Storm damage to trees at both sites will be assessed to determine which trees are salvageable, should be relocated or must be replaced.

16. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

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

Ms. Gingras noted that the Cachuma Project Reports did not contain any unusual information. She stated that they would look quite different next month, given the inflow of water to the reservoir.

17. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

Director Hayman requested an update regarding any potential changes to planned operations or the Infrastructure Improvement Plan in light of the change in drought conditions.

18. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: EXISTING /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)(2)]
Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel
- d. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]
Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 3:15 PM.

19. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

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

- 18a. 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
- 18b. 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
- 18c. Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel
- 18d. Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 5:12 PM. There was no reportable action for any of items 18a., 18b., 18c. or 18d.

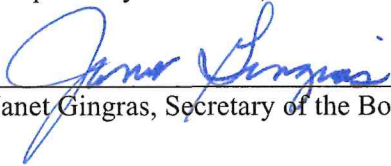
20. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – March 27, 2023 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

21. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:



Polly Holcombe, President of the Board