

## MEETING MINUTES

### SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, May 01, 2019, at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen Art Hibbits Steve Jordan Brett Marymee

Directors Absent: Mark Altshuler

Others Present: General Manager Kevin Walsh, Groundwater Program Manager Bill Buelow, District Administrator Amber Thompson, Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani, and approximately 4 members of the public

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and requested that Ms. Thompson call the roll. All Directors were present except for Director Mark Altshuler.

#### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Buelow submitted the minutes of the regular meeting of March 06, 2019 for Board approval. Director Marymee made a MOTION to approve the minutes. Director Jordan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously; Director Altshuler was absent.

#### **IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Frances Komoroske provided comment to the Board.

#### **VI. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ENGINEERING SURVEY AND REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, 2018-2019**

President Allen opened the public hearing. Mr. Buelow explained that the full report is available to the public on the District's website ( [www.syrwcd.com](http://www.syrwcd.com) ).

Mr. Buelow described various aspects of the report, including precipitation, surface water conditions, WR 89-18 water rights releases, groundwater pumping,

groundwater storage, and groundwater pumping rate changes during the 2017-2018 and first half of the 2018-2019 reporting years. New features have been added to the report including a list of terms with definitions on Pages iii-viii and blue text showing changes to production numbers summarized on Table 1 on page 13.

Mr. Buelow described that flow of the Santa Ynez River at the Lompoc Narrows in 2017-18 was 4,812 acre-feet but in 2018-19 was greater than 38,228 acre-feet. A 42% increase in revenue collected is credited to increased rates as well as staff efforts to collect revenue from severely delinquent accounts, which added wells not previously participating in the program. Additionally, staff worked with groundwater users to reclassifying water production for hobby-farms from the "Agricultural Water" rate to the "Other Water" rate, as defined by the Water Code. The Agricultural Water rate is only used for water production associated with growing products for market. Water used with pleasure animals should use the "Other Water" rate.

Data from Santa Barbara County Flood Control District shows departures from normal precipitation as negative for 10 of the past 15 months, therefore we still have drought issues despite the recent rains. Water production for the first half of FY 2018-19, as reported through April 03, 2019 is 23,832.93 AF which is a little lower than what was reported for the same period during FY 17-18.

The 2018 water rights release from August 6 through September 11, 2018 was the smallest BNA release since 1988, delivering a total of 8,054 AF to downstream users; 6,006 AF to ANA and 1,448 AF to BNA. Figure D-1 summarizes details of the release.

This is the first year the Santa Barbara County Water Agency staff (County) monitored water levels. As the CASGEM entity for Santa Barbara County, the Water Agency is no longer subcontracting USGS to perform the monitoring. The water-level data collected by the County is presented on Table 7.

The basin-wide accumulated dewatered storage for 2017-2018 and the first half of 2018-19 is 143,700 AF. As shown on Figure 7 the accumulated dewatered storage in all zones is stabilizing with the exception of the Santa Ynez Upland. Since 2005-06 the dewatered storage in the Santa Ynez Uplands has trended upwards.

Mr. Buelow pointed out two corrections that will be made via an errata page sent to the report recipients and a revised draft posted to the District's webpage. The corrections were reported as follows:

- Page 4, Item 3. Replace text table with text table on page 9;
- Page 12 Paragraph 2. First sentence preceding word 'next' insert phrase 'on-going fiscal year (2018-19) and', second sentence replace 2018-19 with 2017-18.

There was no public comment or question on the presented material. After discussion, Director Jordan made a MOTION to accept the report for review and continue the hearing to the June 5, 2019 Board meeting. Director Marymee seconded

the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Director Altshuler was absent. President Allen closed the public hearing.

**VII. LAFCO**

A. Ballots for Regular and Alternate Special District Member

Mr. Walsh presented the ballots for LAFCO Regular and Alternate Special District Members. He said that only the Presiding Officer of the Board is authorized to vote. Director Jordan made a MOTION directing President Allen to vote for Cindy Allen on both Regular and Alternate Special District Member Ballots. Director Hibbits seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Director Altshuler was absent.

B. Agricultural and Open Space Policies

Mr. Walsh presented the changes LAFCO is proposing to its Agricultural and Open Space Policies and explained the policy is set to preserve open space with annexation to cities. LAFCO requested comments. Discussion followed. No action is required or taken by the Board.

**VIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 689 SUPPORTING SB669, THE SAFE DRINKING WATER TRUST**

As requested by the Board at the last meeting, this Resolution was developed. After discussion, Director Allen waived the reading of the Resolution. After discussion, Director Marymee made a MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 689, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPPORTING SB 669 (CABALLERO), THE SAFE DRINKING WATER TRUST.

The motion was seconded by Director Jordan and the Resolution was adopted and passed on the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Allen, Jordan, Marymee

NOES, Directors: Hibbits

ABSENT, Director: Altshuler

History behind why this bill was written was provided by Counsel. Director Marymee made a MOTION directing staff to draft a letter of support following the template provided by ACWA to be signed by President Allen and sent with the Resolution to the Sponsor of the Bill as recommended by ACWA.

The motion was seconded by Director Jordan and it passed unanimously; Director Altshuler was absent.

## **IX. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

### **A. FY 2019-20 Preliminary Draft Budget**

Mr. Walsh presented the Draft Memo and Draft Budget for review with anticipation of the final budget to be presented for consideration at the June 5, 2019 Board meeting. After discussion, Director Marymee made a MOTION to receive the Draft Memo and Draft Budget for review and continue the discussion at the June 5, 2019 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Jordan and passed unanimously; Director Altshuler was absent.

### **B. FY 2019-20 Groundwater Charge Rates**

Mr. Walsh recommended that for FY 2019-2020, all Groundwater Charge Rates remain at the FY 18-19 level. Although it appears that the District will be operating at a deficit level for FY 2018-19 as well as FY 2019-20. Mr. Walsh noted the following positive financial assumptions for the next fiscal year: 1) timing of reimbursements from the Prop. 1 Grant expected is conservative and may be larger than planned, or expenses may be less; 2) expected revenues from property taxes and groundwater production are estimated but not expected to fluctuate much if at all; and 3) expenses for the next year are unlikely to fluctuate much. These plus District reserves are forecasted to be stable suggest there is no need for another rate increase this year.

### **C. FY 2019-20 Staffing Plan**

Mr. Walsh informed the Board that this item will be discussed in Closed Session.

## **X. REPORTS, ACTS BY BOARD MEMBERS, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, OBSERVATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS, AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING ACTION**

Director Marymee reported he is the new Chair of the EMA GSA. Director Marymee reported he attended a recent meeting of Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB). Director Allen commended staff on the revised look of Staff Memos and format of Board Meeting Agendas.

## **XI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting is scheduled as regular meeting for June 5, 2019.

## **XII. REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

No requests were made for items to be included in the next agenda.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss the following topics:

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing litigation (Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code) relating to adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Permits 11302 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and 11332 to the United States Bureau of Reclamation and complaints filed by the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance regarding the operation of the Cachuma Project and State Board Order WR 89-18; and proposed changes to the place and purpose of use of waters obtained through aforementioned permits for the Cachuma Project; and proceedings related to SWRCB Permit No. 15878 held by the City of Solvang.
- B. Conference with Legal Counsel –Anticipated litigation: Possible initiation of litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9(d)(4) of the California Government Code (one potential case).
- C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9(d)(2) of the California Government Code (one potential case).
- D. Public Employment (Gov't Code §54957(b)) Title: General Manager, Groundwater Program Manager, Surface Water Program Manager, Strategic Advisor, District Administrator

The Board emerged from Closed Session at 9:10 p.m. No actions were taken.

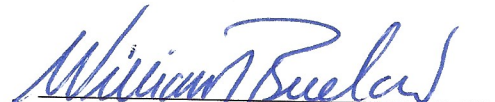
**XIV. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION/REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Open session reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

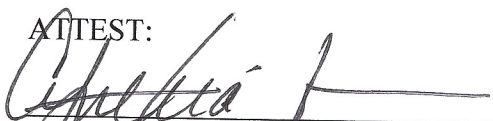
**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
William J. Buelow, Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Cynthia Allen, President