

## SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A regular or meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, 5 December 2018, at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen Art Hibbits Steve Jordan  
Brett Marymee

Staff Present: Bill Buelow Else Wolff  
Ernest Conant Steve Torigiani

Others Present: Amber Thompson Lorraine Woodwark

Absent: Larry Flinkingshelt

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

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. and requested the Secretary to call the roll. All Directors were present except Director Flinkingshelt.

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

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Buelow submitted the minutes of the special meeting of 14 November 2018 for Board approval. Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes. Director Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **VI. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

A. FY 2018-19 Financial Report, Monthly Accounts Payable Report and Investment Report

The Board briefly reviewed and discussed the FY 2018-19 financial report through October 2018 and accounts payable reports through 13 November 2018. On a MOTION by Director Marymee and second by Director Jordan, the warrant list was unanimously approved as presented (Nos. 4470-4557).

B. Creation and Status of District Policies

Mr. Buelow said that there is a lack of policies at the District and recommended the completion of an employee handbook.

C. District Long Range Plan

Mr. Buelow said there is nothing new to report.

D. Cannabis Cultivation

Mr. Buelow said there is nothing new to report.

E. Signatures for Rabobank Account

Directors Allen, Hibbits, Jordan, and Marymee signed a letter, dated 5 December 2018, authorizing them as signatories for District accounts with Rabobank per Resolution 680.

F. SDRMA Acknowledgement

Mr. Buelow said that the District received the President's Special Acknowledgement Award from SDRMA recognizing the District for having no "paid" claims in the Property/Liability Program and the Workers' Compensation Program in the last five consecutive years.

G. District Holidays 2019

Mr. Buelow shared the dates chosen for the 2019 staff holidays.

**VII. SURFACE WATER PROGRAM REPORT**

A. River Hydrologic Conditions/Water Rights Accounts

1. Cachuma Project Operations

Ms. Wolff said that since the last Board meeting, the U.S. Drought Monitor has upgraded drought status for the south coast of Santa Barbara

County from severe to extreme; however, the U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook indicates although the drought remains, it is likely to improve. She said that the probability of precipitation being above normal in the next three months is 33- to 40-percent according to NOAA. She noted some information reported is different from what was provided in the board packet, as board packet material was required to be submitted two weeks prior.

Reviewing the County's Rainfall Reservoir Summary, Ms. Wolff said that the antecedent index listed had decreased from around 11.0 to around 9.6 in the last two weeks; in other words, still dry, but moving in the right direction. She said that County-wide rainfall is 90% and for "Normal-to-date." With respect to the reservoir elevations, she said that Cachuma stands at 691.37 ft asl, equivalent to about 59,185 AF (or about 30.6% capacity). Gibraltar and Jameson Reservoirs are at about 64% and 58%, respectively.

Pointing out highlights of the Daily Operations Report, Ms. Wolff said that it shows the end of the District's successful 2018 Water Rights Release, which ended on 11 September 2018. The District released a total of 8,054 AF, using 6,606 AF of ANA to deliver 1,448 AF to the BNA. As of the October Downstream User's Report, there is currently 10,438 AF in the ANA account and -615 AF in the BNA account. Other highlights included: evaporation appears to be tracking within historic norms, CCWA was down for about 15 days in November for annual maintenance, and that about 3.5 cfs was being delivered to Hilton Creek through the Hilton Creek Watering System (HCWS) for steelhead. She said the USBR successfully tested the Hilton Creek Emergency Backup System (HCEBS) during a mock power outage and subsequent shutoff of the HCWS and that there was no significant change in flow delivery to Hilton Creek during the testing.

With respect to dewatered storage, Ms. Wolff said that October levels for between Bradbury Dam and the Lompoc Narrows, as well as the Lompoc Plain, are similar to the highest they have been for October, since the 2011 spill. At the same time, she said that the Climate Prediction Center reported about an 80-percent chance for El Niño this winter and 55-60-percent this spring in their ENSO Diagnostic Discussion.

2. Upper Santa Ynez River Operations

Ms. Wolff gave a brief update on Upper Santa Ynez River Operations.

B. SWRCB WR 94-5 Water Rights Proceedings

Ms. Wolff said there is nothing new to report.

C. Fish Management Plan/Biological Opinion (FMP/BO)

1. Fisheries Activities under 2001 Agreement to Support FMP/BO Compliance

Ms. Wolff said that she is currently reviewing the Draft Monitoring Report for the Cachuma Project Biological Opinion Reasonable and Prudent Measure 6 (RPM-6) for the 2018 Water Rights Release prepared by COMB.

2. Biological Opinion Reconsultation

Ms. Wolff said this topic would be discussed in Closed Session.

D. Projects and Activities that Affect District Operations

1. COMB's Site 2 Emergency Barge with Permanent Submerged Pipeline (to Tecolote Tunnel) Project

Ms. Wolff provided a brief update on COMB's efforts to install a permanent secured pipeline.

2. Cachuma Contract Negotiations

Ms. Wolff provided a brief update on Cachuma Contract Negotiations.

**VIII. GROUNDWATER PROGRAM REPORT**

A. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

1. GSA Updates

As previously reported, Stetson Engineers was selected as the consultant for the Central Management Area (CMA) and the Western Management Area (WMA). Mr. Buelow said that he and Mr. Conant are currently working on an umbrella contract with Stetson Engineers for the preparation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the CMA and WMA. The contract will have separate service orders for each of the management areas (CMA and WMA). It may also include a separate contract for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) between Stetson, SYRWCD, ID No. 1 and the City of Solvang for work as described in Item number 3 below.

Mr. Buelow said that GSA meetings in each of the management areas are scheduled for late January.

2. DWR Prop 1 Grant

Mr. Buelow said that, in a letter dated 28 November 2018, executed signature pages were mailed to the Department of Water Resources

finalizing Grant Agreement Number 4600012741 between the District and the State of California. The State will return a fully executed agreement soon.

3. Consultants Update

As previously reported, GSI, in partnership with GEI, was selected as the consultant for the EMA. Mr. Buelow reported that negotiations to add Stetson Engineers to the EMA consultant team had not been successful. Staff is exploring other options such as contracting Stetson Engineers with the District and other EMA Agencies (except the County of Santa Barbara), under a cost sharing agreement. This contract would ensure continuity amongst the three GSAs as is required by the coordination agreement and also keeps Stetson involved as consultant of record for the District.

B. Groundwater Production Reporting Program

Mr. Buelow said that approximately \$12,000 and \$4,000 was collected in delinquent account charges and new (previously unreported) producer charges, respectively. A total of \$200,000 was collected for the first half of the Fiscal Year, which was on plan.

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

There were no requests for items to be included on the next agenda.

**X. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting is scheduled as a regular meeting for 6 March 2019.

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

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

**XII. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 7:36 p.m. to discuss the following topics:

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing litigation (Subdivision (a) 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 – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9(b) of the California Government Code (one item).

C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Possible initiation of litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9(c) of the California Government Code (one item).

D. Public Employment Performance Evaluation (Gov't Code 54957 (b)) Title: Water Resources Manager

E. Public Employment (Gov't Code 54957 (b)) Title: General Manager and Strategic Advisor

The Board emerged from Closed Session at 9:05 p.m. President Allen announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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William J. Buelow, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Allen, President