

July 14, 2021
Special Meeting
5:00 p.m.

On March 18, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which enhances State and Local Governments' ability to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic; this meeting was conducted with some members participating via conference phone. Because of this, all voting was done by roll call vote.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Doug Williams, Vice President Joe Tonascia and Directors Sonny Flores, Andrew Shelton and John Tobias. Also present were District Manager/Engineer Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Assistant Manager Sara Singleton, Deputy District Engineer Garrett Haertel, Water Conservation Program Manager Shawn Novack and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

President Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Roll Call

Mrs. Mauro called roll. President Williams, Vice President Tonascia and Directors Flores, Shelton and Tobias were all present.

c. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board

d. Approval of the Agenda

With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Tobias, the Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton and Tobias.

e. Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Proof of Publication submitted by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Notice of Meeting on Proposed Groundwater Management Fee

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.

2. Public Hearing on the Proposed Groundwater Management Fee by the San Benito County Water District acting as the North San Benito County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

a. Presentation of Fees

Mr. Cattaneo, using a PowerPoint presentation, reviewed how District staff, with the assistance of Todd Groundwater, determined the proposed groundwater management fee. Mr. Cattaneo stated the authority for a Groundwater Sustainable Agency to charge these fees is in the Water Code 10730(a). The District will bill urban users by billing the service providers directly, those parcels in Santa Clara County will be billed directly to Santa Clara County and all other parcels will be billed through the County of San Benito's Tax Rolls.

Mr. Cattaneo showed a comparison of what SBCWD's fees were against other agencies. He also reviewed how much more county residents would pay if the state had to intervene, which was substantially higher than the District's proposed rates.

Mrs. Singleton added the 1st resolution the Board is considering is for levying the groundwater management fee and would be in place for 5 years. The 2nd is for the collection of fees through the tax rolls. This action must be taken by the Board on an annual basis. Also in the 1st resolution is the protest and appeal process.

Director Tobias asked how this item would be listed on the tax bills. Mrs. Singleton stated it would be listed as a Groundwater Management Fee.

b. Questions of Directors

There were no questions from the Board.

c. Open Public Hearing

President Williams opened the Public Hearing. There was no public in attendance requesting to be heard.

d. Close Public Hearing or continue to another date

President Williams closed the Public Hearing.

e. Consider Resolution 2021-13: A resolution of the San Benito County Water District Acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the North San Benito Groundwater Basin Levying a Groundwater Management Fee

With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Shelton, Resolution #2021-13, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the North San Benito Groundwater Basin Levying a Groundwater Management Fee* was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton and Tobias.

f. Consider Resolution 2021-14: A resolution of the San Benito County Water District Acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the North San Benito Groundwater Basin, Requesting the County of San Benito to Collect a Groundwater Management Fee on the Property Tax Rolls

With a motion by Director Tobias and a second by Director Flores, Resolution #2021-14, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the North San*

Benito Groundwater Basin, Requesting the County of San Benito to Collect a Groundwater Management Fee on the Property Tax Rolls was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton and Tobias.

- 3. CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Labor Negotiator
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
Agency Designated Representative: Jeff Cattaneo, District Manager
Employee Organization: SEIU 521 Office and Field Employees Unit**

(The Board retired into Closed Session at 5:37 p.m.)

- 4. OPEN SESSION:
Report any action from Closed Session**

(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:07 p.m.)

President Williams stated there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to report, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the July 28, 2021 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Doug Williams
Doug Williams, President

/s/Barbara L. Mauro
Barbara L. Mauro, Board Clerk