

December 15, 2021
Regular 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 via Zoom. Because of this, all voting was done by roll call vote.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, December 15, 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, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Michael Craig and Board Clerk/Office Specialist III Barbara Mauro. Finance Manager Natalie Sullivan participated via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Williams at 5:00 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
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; rebuttal will be limited to 3 minutes; no new business agenda items will be heard after 8:00 p.m.**
- d. Approval of Agenda**
With a motion and second, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approval of Minutes for: November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting**
- 2. Allowance of Claims**
- 3. Consider Resolution Proclaiming and Ratifying March 4, 2020 COVID-19 State of Emergency, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for all District Legislative Bodies for the Following 30 Days in Accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act**
- 4. Consider Resolution Recognizing David B. Dungan for 17 Years of Service**

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. Discuss San Felipe and Groundwater Rates for 2022-2023

Mr. Cattaneo, utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, gave the Board a presentation on the cost of water and inventory value of the District's current and future water supply for wholesale water over the next 4 water years.

6. Mid Pacific Water Users Conference, January 19th through 21st, 2022 in Reno, Nevada

a. Consider District Manager or Designee and Director Attendance

Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Mauro so she can register them for the conference.

7. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:

a. San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Cattaneo)

Per Director Tonascia, Mr. Cattaneo will cover this under his Manager's report.

b. Water Resources Association (Flores/Shelton)

Per Director Flores, water conservation in relation to the current drought was discussed and a meeting was planned for early next month. Mr. Novack added water conservation actions were discussed at the meeting and a special meeting was scheduled for January 6, 2022. If the drought continues, it is expected the State may ask for a mandatory water reduction of 25%.

c. Personnel Committee (Tobias/Tonascia)

As per Directors Tobias and Tonascia, the recruitment information was discussed. Mr. Cattaneo added, some interest in the positions has already been noted.

8. Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report

Mr. Craig showed a PowerPoint on a recent repair on Fairview Road, which ended up being a complicated repair. Mr. Craig noted to date, the District has had 29 leaks this year. Last year we had 22, but on average, it is usually between 18-21 annually. Asked why the increase and Mr. Craig stated it is likely due to the age of some of the pipes.

9. Board Organization

a. Election of Officers

Director Tobias made a motion to nominate Director Tonascia for President and Director Flores for Vice President; this motion was seconded by Director Flores. The Officers for 2022, Director Tonascia as President and Director Flores as Vice President, were approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Tonascia, Flores, Shelton and Tobias.

10. District Manager/Engineer's Report:

a. Reach 1 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo stated there was nothing new to report at this time.

b. Zone 3 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reported there is again a communications issue between the District and Hernandez Reservoir. He also reviewed the results of the recent rain in regard to the reservoirs.

c. Zone 6 Operations

Mr. Cattaneo reported the District will end the year with approximately 5600 acre feet of M & I water and approximately 800 acre feet of Ag water.

d. San Luis Delta Mendota Authority Activities

Mr. Cattaneo reported a budget workshop was held yesterday. The Authority is forecasting a -0- Ag water allocation and a 50% M & I water allocation; the refuges and the exchange contractors with a 75% allocation. This forecast would mean it is a Shasta critical year. Because the Authority's O & M rates are fixed, they will be going up with less water available. Currently, the rate is \$17.25/AF, with an anticipated increase of \$4.84 would mean a \$22.09/AF O & M rate for the next year. There will likely be 1 more workshop before the authority adopts the final budget.

e. Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Mr. Cattaneo reported there was a California Water Commission meeting today, which was on the feasibility of potential projects. The staff was recommending funding for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, but Mr. Cattaneo had not heard the outcome of the meeting.

f. City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan

Mr. Cattaneo reported he and Mrs. Singleton were working on the financials now that San Juan Bautista was joining the Water Supply and Treatment Agreements, with the City of Hollister and Sunnyslope County Water District. Currently, the treatment plant costs were divided 50/50 between the City of Hollister and the Sunnyslope County Water District Also, Mr. Cattaneo reported that last night, San Juan Bautista's City Council, approved the wastewater project at \$18 million and agreed to move forward. San Juan Bautista is hopeful that the EPA will fund ½ of the project.

g. Redistricting

Mr. Liem researched this item for the District. If a director should fall outside of the new boundary, he/she would serve the rest of their term and then be off the board. The District would then elect a director in the new area. Mr. Cattaneo stated the District will have 2 current board members in the same district, Director Williams and Director Tonascia. Mr. Liem stated, because their terms are staggered, Director Williams will complete his term that ends in 2022 and go off the Board at that time, while Director Tonascia will complete his term, which ends in 2024. The District will then need to elect a director in the new division.

11. CLOSED SESSION

As per Mr. Cattaneo, there was no Closed Session.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(a)

A. Center for Biological Diversity, ET AL v. United States Bureau of Reclamation, ET AL

(CASE NO.: 1:20-CV-00706-DAD-EPG)

12. OPEN SESSION

a. Report action, if any, from Closed Session

13. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the January 26, 2022 meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Joseph Tonascia
Joseph Tonascia, President

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