



**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Richard Ortiz, Chair
Claude Hoover, Vice Chair
Silvio Bernardi
Ken Ekelund
Mark Gonzalez
David Hart
John Huerta
Mike Scattini
Deidre Sullivan

STAFF:

David Chardavoine, General Manager
Robert Johnson, Assistant General Manager
Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager
Cathy Paladini, Finance Manager
Wini Chambliss, Clerk to the Board
Jesse Avila, Deputy County Counsel

**SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
INTERLAKE TUNNEL PROJECT WORKSHOP**

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

**AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE CENTER
1428 ABBOTT STREET, SALINAS**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISH QUORUM – 9:05 AM

Directors Present: Ortiz, Hoover, Bernardi (@ 9:50 AM), Ekelund, Gonzalez, Hart and Huerta

Directors Absent: Deidre Sullivan, Mike Scattini

A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (led by Director Claude Hoover).

3. INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT TEAM

General Manager David Chardavoine introduced Ron Drake (EPC Consultants); Michael Pressler; John Hollenbeck, Howard Franklin and German Criollo, who have been working together on the Interlake Tunnel Project to determine its feasibility.

Mr. Chardavoine informed attendees of the purpose of the day's workshop: discuss project feasibility to determine whether the Board of Supervisors can support/fund the Interlake Tunnel Project.

4. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Mr. Drake provided a brief history of the existing surface water supply, including two

reservoirs, the Salinas River and the Salinas River Diversion Facility.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND FUNCTION

The concept of the tunnel is to take water that would have been spilled back into the ocean and capturing water into Nacimiento, moving it to San Antonio and storing it there for future use. The tunnel would be a gravity flow tunnel. Tunnel maximum capacity would be 1700 cfs.

Additional storage could be achieved by raising the spillway by about 10 feet, providing additional storage for flood control and conservation releases. This is actually modifying the spillway which includes a probable maximum flood and hydrologic model analysis; seismic analysis; outlet capacity requirements analysis; and evaluation of spillway and dam by DSOD.

6. EVALUATION OF TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

Mr. Drake reviewed the hydrologic model fundamentals which incorporates water supply requirements and water rights limitations; and, provided a summary along with a summary of project benefits.

7. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE AND PERMITTING FEASIBILITY

Mr. Drake reviewed the schedule for a focused EIR under CEQA regulations, as well as obtaining permits; and, also outlined the following preliminary environmental impacts: surface, noise, biological, paleontological, geologic/seismic hazards, water resources/flooding and recreational/public facilities.

8. EVALUATION OF COST AND FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY

Initially, project costs were estimated at \$25 million. The true cost is \$48 million, not including the spillway modification. The cost of the Spillway modification is estimated at \$15 million.

Financing options:

- Prop 218 tax assessment on beneficiaries;
- Grant funding - US Dept. of Agriculture Regional Conservation Partnership Program;
- DWR IRWM Grant;
- California Infrastructure Financing Act;
- Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Water Bond).

9. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND SCHEDULE

Mr. Drake then reviewed the following schedules:

- Project Development;
- Procurement of engineering and environmental services;
- Final design and geotechnical engineering;
- Environmental clearance and permitting; and,
- Financing for Proposition 218 vote.

Cost estimate to complete critical path = \$2.3 million.

10. NEXT STEPS

- Obtain authority to proceed from WRA Board of Directors (December 8, 2014)
- Obtain authority to proceed from WRA Board of Supervisors along with funding of interim financing in the amount of \$2.3 million (December 9, 2014)

The white bass issue may halt the project. The law may require revision.

11. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Drake entertained questions on material presented and also fielded questions/comments submitted on comment cards.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Laura Cabrera, on behalf of Assembly Member Alejo, read a letter into the record. Bill Ritz.

13. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

- a) Modifications to San Antonio reservoir should be included in this project.
- b) Flood control benefits are very important; but, cost of benefits should be investigated further.
- c) Benefits of this project should be better quantified and communicated.
- d) Meetings of this nature should be held in other locations for greater public access.

14. ADJOURNMENT @ 11:50 AM

SUBMITTED BY: Wini Chambliss
APPROVED ON: October 26, 2015

Wini Chambliss, Clerk to the Board