

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

David Hart, Chair  
Ken Ekelund  
Richard Ortiz  
Mark Nielsen  
David Pozzi  
Mark Gonzalez

John Baillie  
Benny Jefferson  
Dean Benedix  
Michael Tozzi (Parks)  
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

**TIME:** 1:30 PM  
**DATE:** Thursday, August 6, 2015  
**PLACE:** Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
Board Room  
890 Blanco Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 755-4860

**(Corrected) MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:32 PM by Chair David Hart.**

Members present: David Hart, Ken Ekelund, David Pozzi, John Baillie, Benny Jefferson, Bill Caps (*for Mark Nielsen*), Michael Tozzi, Mark Sandoval

Members absent: Richard Ortiz, Mark Gonzalez, Dean Benedix

A quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JULY 2, 2015**

**Committee Action:** On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Ken Ekelund, the Committee approved the minutes.

**4. REVIEW THE STATUS OF BOTH RESERVOIRS; REVIEW RELEASES AND RELEASE SCHEDULE**

Germán Criollo, Associate Hydrologist, provided a status report. Nacimiento Reservoir elevation is 728.20 feet and 87,740 acre-feet of storage, 23% of capacity, and current release is 60 cfs. San Antonio Reservoir elevation is 653.50 feet and 14,480 acre-feet of storage, 4% of capacity, and current release is 5 cfs. End of flow in the Salinas River is approximately at river mile 86.

**5. RECEIVE REPORT ON RESERVOIR RELEASES**

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, provided an update on the meetings between Agency staff and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). On July 31, 2015, the Agency provided a letter to NMFS requesting consideration of release option plans for San Antonio and Nacimiento for a 60-day period. The Agency received a response from NMFS on August 4, 2015 stating that the release options provided are outside the scope of analysis of the Salinas Valley Water Project biological opinion and would not be exempt from Endangered Species Act take prohibitions.

Staff is currently developing four additional analyses for release options which will be presented to the Board of Directors at a Special Board Meeting scheduled for August 11, 2015. A proposal for San Antonio and a separate proposal for Nacimiento will be presented to the Board of Directors at that meeting.

The San Antonio release proposal is being presented to allow necessary maintenance and repairs. There was discussion of options for conducting a fish survey at San Antonio and requesting NMFS to provide the Agency a technical assistance letter if no steelhead were found during the fish survey. This technical assistance letter would cover the Agency for take if San Antonio releases would be increased to bring San Antonio to dead pool.

Comments were provided by Bill Stevens from NMFS, via conference call-in, and public members **Rodney** Braga and Bob Martin.

**Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Benny Jefferson, the Committee unanimously approves making a recommendation to the Board of Directors to direct the Agency to maximize releases from San Antonio Reservoir in order to reach deadpool, to allow maximum accessibility and ensure worker safety, for making necessary repairs prior to the rainfall season, if it is found through a fish survey that maximizing releases will not result in a “take” of threatened or endangered species.**

**6. RECEIVE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE OPERATIONS POLICY MANUAL FOR SAN ANTONIO AND NACIMIENTO RESERVOIRS**

Brent Buche, Deputy General Manager, provided a verbal report and stated a draft document will be presented to the Committee next month for review and comment.

**7. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD SEEDING**

There was no update.

**8. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AT THE RESERVOIRS**

**A. NACIMIENTO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT**

Chris Moss, Senior Water Resources Engineer, gave a report and provided a hand-out.

**B. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DAM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT PRIORITY LIST**

Chris Moss provided an update.

**9. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING INTERLAKE TUNNEL PROJECT**

Brent Buche provided a verbal report. Agency staff plans to meet with NRWMAC and landowners in August. Staff will meet with California Department of Fish & Wildlife in Sacramento on August 18, 2015. Interviews for engineering and environmental consulting firms are scheduled for Monday August 10, 2015 at the Agency.

**10. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:**

**A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Mark Sandoval, CalParks, and Mike Tozzi, Parks Department provided an update.

**B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES**

Brent Buche provided a report.

**C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN**

Michael Tozzi provided a brief report.

**D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES**

No representative present to provide update.

**11. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 3, 2015 at 1:30 PM at the Agency.

**12. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART AT 3:36 PM.**

**SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA**

**Approved on: September 3, 2015**