

**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
Richard Riddle (Parks)
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

TIME: 1:30 p.m.
DATE: **Thursday, May 7, 2015**
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:34 p.m. by Chair David Hart.

Members present: David Hart, Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz, David Pozzi, John Baillie, Benny Jefferson, Dean Benedix, Casey Nielsen (Parks), Mark Sandoval, Bill Capps (NRWMAC)

Members absent: Mark Nielsen and Mark Gonzalez

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and David Pozzi, with Mark Sandoval and Ken Ekelund abstaining, the Committee approved the minutes.

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

Jason Demers, Hydrologist, provided a status report. Approximately 28 cfs has been recorded at the gage in the Salinas River near Bradley. Staff will provide photos showing

the vegetation growth in the Nacimiento River that causes the readings at the Nacimiento River below the dam USGS gage to increase over time without actual changes to releases.

The Committee asked about water temperatures at Nacimiento River. The Agency has instruments located at five locations in the river to monitor the temperatures. As required, the data is reported to NOAA Fisheries.

Nacimiento Reservoir elevation is 734.85 feet and 104,845 acre-feet of storage, 28% of capacity, and current release is 30 cfs.

San Antonio Reservoir elevation is 656.25 feet and 16,163 acre-feet of storage, 5% of capacity, and current release is 5 cfs.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING

Germán Criollo, Associate Water Resources Hydrologist, stated there are no new updates. The Committee provided suggestions to staff that included reviewing the 2009 mitigated Negative Declaration and coordinating with San Luis Obispo County towards developing a plan.

Bill Stevens, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), spoke to the Committee via conference call. The Committee asked Mr. Stevens last month to check if funding for cloud-seeding was available from NOAA. There are no funds available. Staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a division of NOAA, are not aware of cloud-seeding programs being part of NOAA programs.

6. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AT THE RESERVOIRS

Chris Moss, Senior Water Resources Engineer, provided an update on operations and maintenance activities at the reservoirs. Nacimiento and San Antonio were inspected two weeks ago by the State of California Division of Safety of Dams. They were content with the performance of both dams. Minor concrete spalling was discovered on the spillway at both Nacimiento and San Antonio dams and will need to be repaired. At San Antonio, there is corrosion on a drainage pipe and may be leaking and will be examined and possibly replaced. Staff anticipates starting the digging process within the next two weeks.

Maintenance work activities set to occur at San Antonio includes cleaning out the left abutment drains, which is performed every two years. In addition, both large valves at San Antonio will be exercised and the activity will be coordinated with NMFS staff.

A. NACIMIENTO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT

There are no significant activities occurring at the plant. Unit 2 has been operating continuously. With releases of approximately 30 cfs, staff anticipates Nacimiento reaching an elevation of 728 feet sometime between July and August 2015, when Unit 2 will be shut down again. The monthly revenue generated from Unit 2 is approximately \$7,000.

7. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING INTERLAKE TUNNEL PROJECT

A. INTERLAKE TUNNEL OPERATION CRITERIA

Germán Criollo provided an update on the Interlake Tunnel Project. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting was held on April 16, 2015 at Heritage Ranch Community Services District at Nacimiento for consultants planning to submit proposals for preliminary engineering and environmental compliance services for the Interlake Tunnel Project. There were approximately 65 attendees that included representatives for 27 engineering firms. The meeting concluded with a tour of San Antonio and Nacimiento tunnel portals.

The proposals are due June 5, 2015 and staff anticipates presenting a recommendation for approval to the Board of Directors in July 2015. A Project Labor Agreement is in the process of being developed. Dean Benedix offered to assist the Agency with reviewing the proposals.

The Committee was provided for their review a hand-out of draft reservoir and interlake tunnel operational criteria.

Dave Hart reported the Ad Hoc Committee that includes members of the Board of Directors and Board of Supervisors met and discussed options for the white bass located in the Nacimiento Reservoir. This will be discussed at a scheduled meeting with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. The Reservoir Operations Committee suggests reaching out to legislative representatives to discuss policy changes.

Dean Benedix stated that a letter was recently sent to the Agency regarding SLO County representatives participating in meetings related to the Interlake Tunnel Project.

8. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mark Sandoval, CalParks, provided an update on the reservoirs. Business has increased a bit. Nacimiento increased 10 feet through last winter and staff has been working on informing the public that Nacimiento has water surface area for recreation. The Wildflower Festival held last weekend at San Antonio was successful although smaller than last year. A concert is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend at North Shore and lodging at South Shore remains open. The rest of the new floating restrooms have been delivered to both reservoirs and are in place at Nacimiento. The ones for San Antonio will be placed once the elevation rises up to the launch ramps.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager & Chief of Operations and Maintenance, reported on easements and Agency leases. Last month, the Committee requested a list of easements and leases awaiting review by County Counsel. This has been discussed with County Counsel at the Board of Directors and Personnel & Administration Committee meetings and he is working on it. There has been no action recently on any of the Agency leases.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

Casey Nielsen, Parks Department, provided a report. Staff from Parks Department, Agency, and SLO County visited Lake Piru on April 24, 2015. The staff at Lake Piru have been very active in educating the public of the infestation situation by providing information to visitors when they enter and leave the lake.

Activities at San Antonio and Nacimiento include providing recertification classes for vessel screening and Level 1 training for community volunteers. The new general manager of Heritage Ranch has been supportive on the mussel prevention program. There were 598 boats screened and 420 banded boats for a total of 1018 boats that were inspected in March 2015.

Dean Benedix expressed concern about the possibility of Park Rangers being laid off at Nacimiento and the effect it will have on the Quagga/Zebra Mussel Inspection Program. He encouraged the Agency to stay in contact with SLO for support of the inspection program. The Committee suggested bringing this to the attention of the Board of Directors and the Board of Supervisors.

D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Dean Benedix, San Luis Obispo County, provided an update on SLO County activities. The Nacimiento Water Project pipeline went back on-line April 7, 2015. Almost 1,000 acre-feet of water have been delivered this month.

9. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 4, 2015 at the reservoirs. The Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Dragon Grill Restaurant at Nacimiento and tour the proposed sites for the Nacimiento and San Antonio tunnel portals after the meeting. The Committee suggested omitting some agenda items out for the June meeting to direct focus to the reservoir and tour.

10. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART @ 3:05 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

Approved on: June 5, 2015