

**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: 10:00 AM
DATE: Friday, June 5, 2015
PLACE: *Dragon Lake Grill @ Lake Nacimiento Resort
10625 Nacimiento Lake Drive
Bradley, CA 93426*

TOUR OF INTERLAKE TUNNEL PORTALS

(Corrected) MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 10:12 a.m. by Chair David Hart.

Members present: David Hart, Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz, Mark Nielsen, John Baillie, Benny Jefferson, Dean Benedix, Jon Burnett (Parks), Mark Sandoval.

Members absent: David Pozzi and Mark Gonzalez.

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Randall Tognazzini, boundary representative for Tri Counties Club, requested taking over a portion of the lease for Lease Area 3b and combining it with another Tri Counties Club property issue.

David Chardavoyne, General Manager, responded that the Agency will have a contract for the consulting services of Tom Shepherd to be effective on July 1, 2015 to assist the Agency staff in resolving the various issues involving Agency property around the reservoirs.

Phil Humfrey addressed the Committee. He is representing Betty Eyraud, who has owned a cattle ranch at Nacimiento prior to the construction of the reservoir. She was promised an easement to her property and has been waiting 55 years and would like to see this settled.

Richard Heath addressed the Committee. He stated his family has been on the ridge between the reservoirs for five generations and he is concerned primarily about dewatering issues. He stated his property was trespassed on and spray-paint markings were made and is concerned about the way the tunnel project is being handled.

Jeff Green, landowner on Interlake Road, also expressed concerns of trespassing on his property based on markings he observed on his property.

Brent Buche, Deputy General Manager, responded. Any markings not on Agency land are unrelated to this project. The Agency has not hired an engineer or environmental consultant, as the deadline for the submittal of proposals is June 5th. The general areas that have been considered for the interlake tunnel portals are located on Agency land at Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs.

David Hart read a letter addressing Item 5, from Mission Ranches Company signed by John Romans, in support of the Salinas Valley Water Project Biological Opinion with regards to the year-round operation of the reservoirs.

David Hart also acknowledged a letter dated June 5, 2015, from Salinas Valley Water Coalition, signed by Nancy Isakson, President, that requests this Committee recommend to the BOD changes to releases, an analysis on releases, and preparation of an operation manual.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 7, 2015

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Mark Sandoval, the Committee approved the minutes.

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

Jason Demers, Hydrologist, provided a status report. At the direction of the Agency's Board of Directors on May 26, 2015, Nacimiento releases were increased to a target rate of 60 cfs. This is discussed in further detail under Item 5. The release schedule reflects this change, and previous target releases for the remainder of the season were removed pending direction by this Committee and the Board.

Nacimiento Reservoir elevation is 733.30 feet and 100,695 acre-feet of storage, 27% of capacity, and current release is 60 cfs.

San Antonio Reservoir elevation is 655.70 feet and 15,805 acre-feet of storage, 5% of capacity, and current release is 5 cfs.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTION TO STAFF ON NACIMIENTO RESERVOIR RELEASES AND RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ADOPT A RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CALENDAR YEAR

Germán Criollo, Associate Hydrologist, provided a report on the Board of Directors' direction to staff on Nacimiento Reservoir releases. On May 26, 2015, the Agency Board of Directors (BOD) gave direction to staff to temporarily increase Nacimiento Reservoir releases from 30 to 60 cfs. The BOD further directed staff to present the action to this Committee to discuss and provide a recommendation to the BOD for the adoption of a permanent release schedule for the remainder of the calendar year.

The Committee discussed the impacts of four release options presented to them. Impacts analyzed were reservoir elevations, hydro-electric power generation, and estimated groundwater recharge based on the downstream reach of releases along the Salinas River. None of these release options staff analyzed provide sufficient amounts of water to operate the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF).

The Committee also discussed the presence of beaver dams in the San Ardo Oil fields area impeding free flow of water in the river. Bill Stephens, from NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), stated that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has jurisdiction over beavers. Mr. Stephens also inquired about the type of winter that would take to produce enough reservoir inflow to operate the SRDF and to have fish flows in the Salinas River. NMFS would like to keep as much water in the reservoirs as possible so that fish flows have a better chance of occurring next winter.

The Committee discussed their advisory role of the Committee to the Board of Directors and the complexity of factors that need to be considered to operate the reservoirs.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Mark Nielsen and Mark Sandoval, the Committee recommends Nacimiento releases remain unchanged, at the current 60 cfs until the next Committee meeting. The Committee will compile a list of questions for Agency staff to address at their next meeting. And, the Committee requests that the Board of Directors gives the Committee the authority to implement the Committee's decision following their July 2nd meeting.

The questions compiled by the Committee are:

- **Forecast of reservoir elevation projections and other impacts through September 2016 for releases of 25, 40, and 60 cfs based on dry, normal, and wet winter inflow scenarios.**
- **Legal limitations to remove beaver/beaver dams**
- **Clarification on whether releases over 60 cfs are conservation releases**
- **Report of staff work being done to monitor groundwater impacts in the Upper Valley after Nacimiento releases were increased to 60 cfs**

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

Brent Buche, Deputy General Manager, provided an update on operations and maintenance activities at the reservoirs. San Antonio activities include a dam inspection performed by the California Division of Safety Of Dams (DSOD). Due to low water levels, DSOD would like the Agency to finish the inlet structure to the outlet pipe (trash racks) and Agency staff is coordinating with NMFS before the elevation reaches dead pool. The target date for the completion of this work is October 2015. The annual reports on the piezometers have been submitted. Other maintenance activities involve vegetation management and rodent control. The Agency is currently working on the installation of additional survey monuments on the face of Nacimiento dam, as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

A. NACIMIENTO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT

Brent Buche reported that Unit 2 at the Nacimiento Hydroelectric Plant will be operated until the elevation reaches 728 at which time it will be shut down due to insufficient head to operate properly at that capacity.

7. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING INTERLAKE TUNNEL PROJECT

A. INTERLAKE TUNNEL OPERATION CRITERIA

Germán Criollo provided an update on the Interlake Tunnel Project. At the last meeting staff distributed to this Committee a draft reservoir and Interlake Tunnel Project criteria for review and input. NMFS provided input on flows and minimum releases for the month of February. Staff added a note stating that combined releases could be much higher than 70 cfs if triggers from the Biological Opinion would be met in February.

Dave Chardavoyne, General Manager, stated the proposals for design and environmental consulting are due by 3 pm on June 5, 2015. A screening committee will review the proposals over the next three weeks and a selection committee will conduct interviews in early July. **Confidentiality agreements prevent the disclosure of any confidential information per Homeland Security and FERC.** Staff is still working towards a solution to the issues involving the White Bass in Nacimiento Reservoir.

Mark Nielsen, Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee (NRWMAC), had comments on the draft reservoir and Interlake Tunnel Project operations criteria handed to the Committee at their previous meeting, and also provided input on the way this project is being conducted. NMFS also has questions about the operations of the project and would like to start discussions with the Agency regarding this subject before the EIR process gets underway. **NRWMAC requests a meeting to discuss technical details relating to the design parameters and other options regarding the Interlake Tunnel Project.**

A meeting to discuss issues with owners of properties being crossed by the proposed interlake tunnel alignment was tentatively scheduled for July 7th.

8. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mark Sandoval, CalParks, and Jon Burnett, Parks Department provided an update on the reservoirs. Attendance during the Memorial Day weekend was slightly better than last year. There are still concerns about misinformation on the status of Nacimiento Reservoir. San Antonio is scheduled to close on July 1, 2015.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Brent Buche, Deputy General Manager, reported on easements and Agency leases. An update was provided on the easements and leases being reviewed by County Counsel and the Committee was provided a hand-out listing the status of these items.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist, provided a report. The Department of Fish & Wildlife will be conducting plankton tows on Nacimiento Reservoir this year. Staff will

contact them about San Antonio. Samples will not be collected by Agency staff this year.

Phil Humfrey, NRWMAC, provided an update. This year to date, four mussel training classes have been conducted by San Luis Obispo County, Monterey County, and NRWMAC. One class was for new inspectors and three classes were for recertification of existing inspectors.

D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Dean Benedix, San Luis Obispo (SLO) County, provided an update on SLO County activities. Last month SLO County utilized 1,300 acre feet of water for delivery to four major agencies within SLO County. SLO County expects to continue at this rate and will likely maximize deliveries this summer. There is concern about the potential reduction in inspectors for mussel inspections at the reservoirs.

9. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 2, 2015 at the Agency. Agenda items will include cloud-seeding.

10. ADJOURN MEETING TO TOUR OF THE INTERLAKE TUNNEL PORTALS

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

Approved on: July 2, 2015