

**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, July 2, 2015
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
890 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:30 p.m. by Chair David Hart.

Members present: David Hart, Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz, Mark Nielsen, David Pozzi, John Baillie, Jill Ogren (*for Dean Benedix*), Michael Tozzi, Mark Sandoval

Members absent: Mark Gonzalez and Benny Jefferson

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Boyer asked about the status of the selection process for consultants and requested a definition of the confidentiality of the agreements relating to the Interlake Tunnel Project.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 5, 2015

Mark Nielsen provided a correction to Item 7, third paragraph: *“NRWMAC requests a meeting to discuss technical details relating to the design parameters and other options regarding the Interlake Tunnel Project.”*

David Chardavoyne stated Item 7, second paragraph, third sentence should read as follows: *“Confidentiality agreements prevent the disclosure of any confidential information per Homeland Security and FERC.”*

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

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

Jason Demers, Hydrologist, provided a status report. Nacimiento Reservoir elevation is 730.90 feet and 94,400 acre-feet of storage, 25% of capacity, and current release is 60 cfs. San Antonio Reservoir elevation is 654.75 feet and 15,200 acre-feet of storage, 5% of capacity, and current release is 5 cfs.

There have been no changes to releases since the last Committee meeting. Approximately 59 cfs is reaching the Salinas River at the Bradley gage. End of flow in the Salinas River is at river mile 85.4, about 5 miles upstream of the Highway 101 bridge near San Lucas.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTION TO STAFF ON NACIMIENTO RESERVOIR RELEASES

Germán Criollo, Associate Hydrologist, provided a report on the Board of Directors' direction to staff on Nacimiento Reservoir releases. Staff gave an update on the Committee's action from the last meeting and the Board of Director's action at the June 25, 2015 meeting. Staff also provided a summary of forecasted impacts based on four different release options and three reservoir inflow scenarios forecasts.

Jesse Avila from the County Counsel office provided a legal opinion regarding increasing Nacimiento releases above minimum fish flows without maintaining contiguous flow of at least two cfs to the Salinas River Lagoon. County Counsel advised against increasing Nacimiento flows above 60 cfs if the Salinas River Lagoon flow requirements wouldn't be met.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Mark Sandoval, and opposed by Mark Nielsen, the Committee recommended keeping the releases from Nacimiento Reservoir at 60 cfs.

6. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD SEEDING

Jill Ogren, San Luis Obispo (SLO) County, reported on cloud seeding. Not much progress was done since last month. A presentation on feasibility of a cloud seeding program will likely be made to the SLO County Board of Supervisors and staff will ask for direction.

7. 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. A quarterly report on planned maintenance activities will be presented to the Committee at next month's meeting.

A. NACIMIENTO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT

Unit #2 at the Nacimiento Hydroelectric Plant will be shut down when the elevation reaches 728, which staff estimates will occur around late July or early August of this year.

8. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING INTERLAKE TUNNEL PROJECT

David Chardavoyne, General Manager, provided an update. The Agency has received proposals from five engineering and four environmental consultants. There are two screening teams currently reviewing the proposals. Interviews for both engineering and environmental consultants are scheduled for August 4th and 5th of 2015. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors and Board of Supervisors for approval in September 2015.

The Agency is working on solutions to the White Bass and all options are being evaluated. In a meeting with California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), the Agency was advised to develop a plan for removal of the White Bass from Nacimiento Reservoir. NOAA Fisheries would also like the White Bass removed. Agency staff has also met with the Toxic Substance Control Board to discuss mercury levels at San Antonio. They expressed concern about contamination of the food chain and would also like the White Bass removed from Nacimiento.

9. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mark Sandoval, CalParks, and Mike Tozzi, Parks Department, provided an update on the reservoirs. They are prepared for the Fourth of July holiday weekend and a large turnout is expected. San Antonio closed on July 1, 2015. Parks will keep one staff member there to minimize the maintenance for when it is re-opened. Revenue at Nacimiento has been 15-20% better than last year. Advertising is being done to draw in visitors to Nacimiento and hope to attract the San Antonio regulars.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Brent Buche stated there are no updates on easements and Agency leases. The Nacimiento and San Antonio grazing lease payments are due at the end of July 2015 and invoices are being mailed out soon. Payments are due regardless of whether there are cattle on the lease areas. The Committee urged the Agency to negotiate a deal with Tri Counties soon and to finalize the contract for liaison staff who will work on property management issues of the Agency's land.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist, provided a report. The CDFW is preparing on activities relating to grants collected from boating fees. CDFW will conduct workshops on grants requirements and staff will be looking for opportunities to submit grant proposals.

D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Jill Ogren, SLO County, provided an update on SLO County activities. Normal operations are taking place with Nacimiento Project water deliveries of 1,293 acre feet during the month of June.

10. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 6, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the Agency.

11. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART AT 3:14 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

Approved on: August 6, 2015