

**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, January 8, 2015**
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:32 p.m. by Chair David Hart.

Members present: David Hart, Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz, Bill Caps (*for Mark Nielsen*), John Baillie, Benny Jefferson, Wade Horton-SLO (*for Dean Benedix*), Casey Nielsen-Parks Dept (*for Richard Riddle*), Mark Sandoval

Members absent: David Pozzi, Mark Gonzalez

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Baillie requested the Board Members of this Committee start the process of developing a document to present to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to declare an extreme drought and mandate or restrict water use in Monterey County. He stated that the Governor has requested a 20% reduction and there's only been a 10% reduction in water use. He also stated the process of developing a document takes about 90 days and requests the Board members of this Committee meet with the full Board of Directors to discuss this issue to have a document developed by April 1, 2015 for presentation to the BOS.

Dave Hart stated that a drought contingency plan was discussed at the last joint BOD/BOS meeting.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 4, 2014

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Richard Ortiz, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

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

Jason Demers, Hydrologist, provided a status report. The combined total releases from both reservoirs is 35 cfs and the USGS gage has recorded 33 cfs in the Salinas River near Bradley. There was a significant amount of rainfall in December 2014 with Salinas receiving approximately seven inches. Six inches was received around the reservoirs, and the Santa Lucia range received more than 20 inches. Nacimiento reservoir increased by approximately 28,000 acre-feet in storage and San Antonio increased by approximately 300 acre-feet.

Staff will develop a draft of the release schedule for 2015 and it will be presented to this Committee for review in March or April.

The California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) has made corrections to their website and now includes rainfall amounts for the rain gages in our area. The stage level for the Salinas Lagoon has also been corrected.

Ken Ekelund stated that during the December rain events the reservoir levels were unavailable on the Agency's website and asked if real-time reservoir levels could be made available to the public. Staff stated this can be done using the pressure transducers the Agency utilizes for ALERT monitoring (flood control). Staff will be able to work on a grant application in the next month or so to make the data available in the future.

The Committee reviewed the reservoir inflow forecast. Most of Monterey County is in the Extreme Drought category. The area around the reservoirs remains in the highest drought stage – Exceptional Drought. The December 2014 rainfall amount was above normal rainfall. El Niño neutral conditions will continue through January with a 65% chance of El Niño developing during the northern hemisphere winter season. For January-February-March, the NWS is predicting a 40-50% chance of above normal rainfall for this area. They also predict a 50-60% chance of above-normal temperatures which is already occurring.

At Nacimiento there is enough water in storage to operate the SRDF for two months if we have enough water in San Antonio in March 2015.

NACIMIENTO elevation is 727.80 feet and 86,760 acre-feet of storage, 23% of capacity, and current release is 30 cfs.

SAN ANTONIO elevation is 648.50 feet and 11,762 acre-feet of storage, 4% of capacity, and current release is 5 cfs.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING

German Criollo, Associate Water Resources Hydrologist, reported on possible options for cloud-seeding opportunities. The Agency has contacted other water agencies about interest in partnership on cloud-seeding with Monterey County. Santa Clara Valley Water District is

not interested and San Benito County does not have funding. Santa Cruz County has not responded. San Luis Obispo (SLO) County is interested in partnering with Monterey County.

The Committee discussed the Agency's fund reserve and the possibility of a partnership with SLO County for cloud-seeding. The Committee stated that if an EIR partnership with SLO County doesn't work out, the Agency can submit a mitigated Negative Declaration.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Benny Jefferson and John Baillie, the Committee unanimously recommends to the Board of Directors to keep the money in the reserve funds for cloud-seeding, continue to seek opportunities and pursue the Negative Declaration.

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

A. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Chris Moss, Senior Water Resources Engineer, provided an update on O&M activities. The Committee reviewed the work list for Nacimiento and San Antonio. Items discussed include the following.

NACIMIENTO:

At Nacimiento, approximately twelve survey monuments for the settlement survey are being added. DSOD has imposed additional restrictions for all inflatable dams after failures occurred at two other inflatable dams in California in recent years. The additional requirements for Nacimiento include the installation of alarms to be placed at the control unit. These items must be done before water can be stored behind the gates. If the elevation reaches 801 (one foot above top of spillway) the gates must then be lowered all the way. As long as the elevation is below 801 the gates can be raised (we can regulate flow). Staff anticipates receiving the price quotes for the work soon and anticipates the work to be completed this fiscal year; by the end of June 2015.

SAN ANTONIO

The trash racks to the inlet are currently being designed and will be replaced. Two of the survey monuments for the settlement survey are being replaced. The piezometers are being flushed and the work is expected to be completed next week. Other work that will take place will include flushing the abutment drains.

B. NACIMIENTO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT

Chris Moss, Senior Water Resources Engineer, provided an update on Nacimiento Hydroelectric Plant activity. The Committee reviewed a chart on power production. The amount earned from Unit 2 from July 1-November 11, 2014 was about \$30,000. As was reported last month, Generator Unit 2 was shut down November 11, 2014 due to insufficient pressure to operate. Unit 2 can be restarted when the reservoir elevation reaches 728 and if the elevation is rising.

There was a question about financing from the Northern California Power Authority (NCPA) about a replacement unit. Staff stated NCPA had been contacted and they expressed interest.

7. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING REQUEST FROM THE USDA FOREST SERVICE TO ACCESS NACIMIENTO AND SAN ANTONIO RESERVOIRS WITH FIXED WING WATER SCOOPER AIRCRAFT FOR FIRE-FIGHTING

Chris Moss, Senior Water Resources Engineer, provided a verbal report. The Agency has received a request from USDA Forest Service to access Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs with fixed wing water scooper aircraft for fire-fighting purposes. The Committee wondered about the previous whereabouts of the equipment and expressed concern about possible contamination. Staff will provide updates as additional information is obtained.

8. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Casey Nielsen, Parks Department, provided a report. A total of 451 boats were inspected at the lakes in November 2014. There has been more interest in recreation/boating. San Antonio has been challenging for boat inspection due to unmanned gates during the week. Signs are posted and a staff person is on-site at the shop. The Wildflower Festival is still scheduled to occur in the spring. A contract was recently approved for concert promoter Lightning in a Bottle and approximately 15,000 people are expected to attend.

Mark Gonzalez, CalParks, also provided an update. Staff at the lakes is minimal. There were a few guests that stayed during the week of Christmas. The Nacimiento store remains open but the restaurant closed after Labor Day. Staff has discussed the idea of opening the restaurant for breakfast and see if that brings enough business. Some other ideas discussed include promoting bike trails, nature-related events, offering bike rentals and a Valentine's Day special.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Dave Hart stated Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, left his position at the Agency in December. As requested by this Committee last month, Mr. Keehn had compiled a list of the easement issues awaiting County Counsel review, including the situation with property owner Ms. Betty Eyraud. Board members and Agency staff are working with County Counsel to get this resolved.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist, provided a report. The Committee was provided copy of the Notice entitled "*2015 Quagga & Zebra Mussel Prevention Program, Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio*". The Notice describes the requirements for inspection of vessels and lists the public launch ramp hours. This will be posted at both lakes and the Agency's webpage. It will also be provided to SLO County for posting on their website. Changes for 2015 include the addition of kayaks, pedal boats, and canoes. The Prevention Program is updated every year to reflect any changes that have occurred. On other related activities, this year there will be about 150 screeners that will be recertified and will attend an inspection training course.

D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

The new SLO County Public Works Director, Wade Horton, provided an update. As was previously reported, the Nacimiento Water Project water deliveries have been off-line since June 2014. The SLO County Board of Supervisors has recently awarded the construction contract for the installation of new pipes to fix the leaks. The goal is to have the Nacimiento Water Project back on-line April 1, 2015.

9. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 5, 2015 at 1:30 pm at the Agency. Agenda items will include an update on cloud-seeding plans. Chris Moss stated the General Manager David Chardavoyne has requested the Interlake Tunnel Project consultant hold a public outreach presentation on the project. The presentation would be held at the lakes for the community. The date has not been determined yet but will be set within the next several weeks.

John Baillie suggested this Committee schedule a meeting at the lakes in April or May.

10. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART @ 2:50 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

Approved on: February 5, 2015