

**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, November 6, 2014**  
**PLACE:** Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
Board Room  
893 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, Casey Nielsen, *(for Richard Riddle)*, Nate Merkle *(for Mark Sandoval)*

Members absent: Mark Gonzalez, Benny Jefferson, Dean Benedix

A quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Baillie commented on the Interlake Tunnel Project and stressed the importance of the project being carried out in the most cost-efficient manner. Mr. Baillie expressed concern about non-support from property owners if the project becomes too costly.

Staff announced a workshop on the Interlake Tunnel Project scheduled for Wednesday November 19, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., location still pending. The Agenda, available next week, will include a technical memo outlining the tasks that have been completed to-date. A second workshop will be scheduled at a later date.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 2, 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 summary of current releases and conditions at both reservoirs. The USGS gage is recording approximately 32 cfs at the Salinas River near Bradley. Since the last meeting, the county has received two measurable rainfall events. On October 25-26 approximately 0.20 inch of rain fell in Salinas, with up to 0.50 inch of rain in the coastal mountains. Rainfall received between October 31-November 1<sup>st</sup> was approximately 1.00-1.50 inches in the Valley, with up to 2 inches in the higher elevations. There were no measurable flows from Nacimiento and San Antonio Rivers above the reservoirs as a result of these storms. The Committee asked if that Agency knew how much storage would be left in Nacimiento Reservoir if we had maintained 60 cfs minimum releases. Mr. Demers indicated he would provide an answer at the next Res-Op meeting.

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, stated that staff will begin evaluating winter inflow forecasts, focusing on San Antonio Reservoir to estimate the amount of inflow that will be needed to operate the Salinas River Diversion Facility.

**NACIMIENTO** elevation is 715.85 feet and 60,665 acre-feet of storage, 16% 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 TEMPERATURE SURVEY ON THE NACIMIENTO RIVER**

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, provided a report on temperature monitoring on the Nacimiento River below Nacimiento Dam. River water temperatures are cooling from summer highs, currently in the 20° C and below range; which is the range of temperatures we like to see for steelhead habitat. Staff does not expect temperature issues through the remainder of the winter. It was announced that the Agency's Biologist has resigned his position. That loss of staff may result in the Agency reducing temperature reporting to bi-monthly or quarterly instead of the monthly reporting requested by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). NMFS is not as concerned with winter temperatures and has indicated that the reduction in reporting frequency is acceptable.

**6. RECEIVE REPORT ON WATER QUALITY SAMPLING AT SAN ANTONIO RESERVOIR**

Tamara Voss, Hydrologist, provided a report on the results of water quality sampling at San Antonio Reservoir last month. The survey was undertaken to address Committee and BOD concerns of the potential for increased pathogen concentrations as a result of low water levels and increased wildlife presence at the reservoir.

Two samples, surface and depth, were collected at three sites in San Antonio. The samples were analyzed for Enterococcus, Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform, and E. coli. The sample locations were 1) by the dam, 2) the middle of the reservoir, and 3) by Harris Creek. Results are listed below:

- E. coli results were <10 for all sites/both surface and depth.
- Fecal Coliform results were either <2 or 2 for all sites/both surface and depth.
- Enterococcus results were <10 for all samples/all sites.
- Total Coliform results: Site 1 was 122/1376 surface/depth  
Site 2 was 109-63 surface/depth  
Site 3 was <10/171 surface/depth

All results were either below test reporting levels or less than CA health standards for impact to human health.

The cost for the six tests (two samples at each of the three sites) was estimated at approximately \$2,600 (including labor). The Agency does not have a revenue source identified for this or future testing. Casey Nielsen stated this testing was requested by the Wildflower Festival promoter due to water quality concerns that surfaced on social media, and that this testing is not routine for the event. Committee members suggested a program for annual sampling, especially prior to events such as the Wildflower. Mr. Nielsen suggested a possibility for cost-sharing with the Agency on future sampling at the reservoirs. Staff explained that routine (general mineral) sampling is conducted at the reservoirs in order to assess agricultural suitability and assess the risks of Quagga/Zebra Mussel infestation. Staff reported that water quality conditions in both reservoirs are very favorable to Quagga/Zebra Mussel infestation.

**7. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING**

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, provided a report. Agency staff has not had communication with other Counties regarding cloud-seeding efforts. Agency staff will contact the surrounding counties (Santa Cruz) to discuss interest in cost-sharing for cloud-seeding activities and report out next meeting.

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

Chris Moss, Senior Water Resources Engineer provided a report on various Operations and Maintenance activities.

**A. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**

A list of maintenance “work items” for Nacimiento and San Antonio Dam, which include dam safety regulatory compliance items, was presented for review by the Committee. The list categorizes 48 “work items” for Nacimiento and 29 “work items” for San Antonio Dam. The categories included; priority (high/medium/low) regulatory reference (operations/maintenance/improvement), frequency of maintenance occurrence, estimated staff man-hours, and estimated consultant contractor supplies cost. The Committee discussed budget and other sources of revenue for these maintenance items and requested quarterly updates on the status of the maintenance “work items” list. Staff committed to another update in January, with quarterly updates to follow.

**B. NACIMIENTO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT**

A Power Production Analysis was presented and discussed. Staff discussed options for future modifications to the Hydroplant in order to maximize power generation within the parameters of our current and projected releases and reservoir elevations.

The Committee was reminded that a new power purchase contract became effective on April 1, 2014. Two shut-downs will be scheduled for maintenance at Nacimiento. The first shut-down will be for approximately four (4) hours in order to conduct maintenance on the switchyard transformer. The second shut-down will be for approximately three to four (3-4) days and includes several maintenance items: fire alarm repair, valve installation on the hydraulic power units, re-installment of accumulators, installment of ground-fault relay, and Unit 1 runner maintenance will be performed. Minimum flows will be maintained during these planned shutdowns. Planned maintenance shut downs must occur outside of the May thru October period.

**C. DAM SAFETY REPORT**

The Committee received a report on the safety of Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams. As a new requirement of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Agency must develop and maintain an “Owner’s Dam Safety Program.” The program was developed and documented; then presented to and adopted by Agency’s Board of Directors in April 2014. The “Owner’s Dam Safety Program” documents that both dams have been deemed safe for continued operation. The programs main components include on-going maintenance and surveillance. These plan components were discussed with the Committee. Improvement plans for dam safety were also discussed with the Committee. The program report document was provided to FERC and the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). The jurisdiction for Nacimiento Dam is the Agency, FERC, and DSOD. Jurisdiction of San Antonio Dam is the Agency and DSOD. Reporting requirements by FERC at Nacimiento are much more extensive than DSOD reporting requirements.

**Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Ken Ekelund, the Committee received reports presented in Item 8: A, B and C.**

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

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

Casey Nielsen, Monterey County Parks Department, and Nate Merkle, CalParks, provided a status report. Mr. Nielsen thanked Elizabeth Krafft for her efforts on preparing and submitting the grant application for the Quagga / Zebra Mussel Program. Mr. Nielson also reported that there have been problems with the gate cable being cut at San Antonio by visitors exiting the park after hours. Parks is recruiting for a new director and hopes to fill the position in January 2015. Mr. Merkle reported that it was a difficult season for both lakes, especially San Antonio. Revenue for Nacimiento was 50% of normal for the summer. “Shallow Water” markers have been placed throughout Nacimiento but there have still been vessels running aground. During the winter, CalParks staff will be involved with maintenance projects and developing different marketing strategies for the reservoirs.

**B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES**

Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, provided an update to the Committee. The owner of a 24-acre parcel adjacent to the Agency’s Lease #2 at Nacimiento is requesting documentation of the easement to their parcel as they are considering the sale of that

parcel. The parcel owner is seeking verification of that easement from the Agency. Staff will update the Committee as the request is reviewed.

Staff updated the Committee on a previously reported a fiber-optic cable installation along the Tank Road, at San Antonio, which was originally scheduled to begin in June, 2014 by the U.S. Army. The project has not yet begun. The Army will add the Agency to a contact list and keep the Agency updated on the progress of the project.

There was discussion of an easement request which is currently being reviewed by County Counsel. Staff will continue to maintain contact with the property owner in an attempt to develop a solution. Also discussed was the possibility of a lease agreement with Tri-Counties.

#### **C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN**

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist, provided a report. Grant applications to the State Department of Boating and Waterways were due on October 20, 2014. After review, the Agency submitted, with the Parks Department, only one application for \$200,000 for Parks to provide education and outreach programs and enforcement. It was initially thought that we'd be able to submit two separate applications, one for the Agency and one for Parks, but it was learned that only thirteen grants would be dispersed statewide, and we'd likely be competing against ourselves. It was also learned that applicants must own or manage the lakes for which they are seeking grants, making SLO County ineligible for grant funding programs at Nacimiento or San Antonio reservoirs. Agency, Parks, and SLO staff will be meeting in two weeks to discuss planning for the Quagga/Zebra Mussel program next season. Committee members asked about the results of water samples collected at the reservoirs through October. Staff relayed that samples were negative for indications of infestation. The Agency will begin sampling again in April 2015. CA Fish & Wildlife will continue providing support for this sampling effort.

#### **D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES**

There was no SLO representative present – no update provided.

#### **10. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 4, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Agency.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART @ 3:10 P.M.**

**SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA / HOWARD FRANKLIN**

**Approved on: December 4, 2014**