

**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, December 4, 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,
Mark Gonzalez, John Baillie, Dean Benedix, Mark Sandoval

Members absent: Benny Jefferson, Richard Riddle

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Humfrey, Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee (NRWMAC), representing Betty Eyraud, made a statement about the easement delay for Ms. Eyraud. Since 1959, she has been trying to get an easement to her property. Prior to Nacimiento reservoir being built, the Eyraud family had a cattle ranch in the area and they had access to their property along the river via a road that they built and maintained. When the Nacimiento reservoir was built in 1959 the Eyraud family lost their access and at that time the Agency agreed to grant them an easement. That was 55 years ago and Ms. Eyraud is still waiting for that easement.

Mr. Humfrey provided the Committee with copies of the following documents: Handout #1: A letter from the Agency dated 1998 stating the easement is approved and will be issued, and Handout #2: the Board of Directors Minutes dated 2004 stating the easement is unanimously approved.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2014

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Ken Ekelund, 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 USGS gage has recorded 35 cfs in the Salinas River near Bradley. The inflow from rainfall received to date is approximately 500 acre-feet into Nacimiento reservoir and 100 acre-feet into San Antonio. Currently, there is a flow of 700 cfs at the Nacimiento River below the Sapaque River gage.

The National Weather Service (NWS) outlook for December, January, February is a 33-40% chance of above-normal rainfall. The outlook indicates there is a 58% chance of an El Nino weather pattern for this season. The Committee reviewed charts showing the projected inflows for Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs. The charts are developed and updated by staff each month using current 3-month weather outlooks from the NWS.

NACIMIENTO elevation is 715.10 feet and 59,240 acre-feet of storage, 16% of capacity, and current release is 30 cfs.

SAN ANTONIO elevation is 648.10 feet and 11,561 acre-feet of storage, 3% of capacity, and current release is 5 cfs.

In response to questions from the Committee last month, the amount of water conserved from reduced releases from Nacimiento is 11,000 acre-feet.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist/Program Manager, reported on possible options for cloud-seeding opportunities. Staff has contacted the counties of Santa Clara and Santa Cruz. San Benito County has stated they have a limited budget. Santa Barbara County was contacted by SLO and they provided information but were not willing to include us in their current program. Their program is doing well and did not require an EIR and they do not want to jeopardize that.

The Committee encouraged the Agency to seek partnership with other agencies on cost-sharing and strongly urged staff to recommend to the Board of Directors to consider resuming a reserve fund for cloud-seeding. The Committee will discuss this again next month prior to making a recommendation to the BOD.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Ken Ekelund and John Baillie, the Committee strongly urges the Board of Directors to consider resuming a reserve fund for cloud seeding.

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

Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager & Chief of Operations and Maintenance, provided an update on operations and maintenance activities at the reservoirs. The piezometers at San Antonio are in the process of being flushed; this procedure is done on an annual basis. The Agency has obtained prices on the trash racks that will be replaced at San Antonio. A purchase order will be issued for the fabrication of the trash racks. Staff has completed updating the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Nacimiento Dam and the document has been provided to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the California Department of Water Resources - Department of Safety of Dams (DSOD). An orientation meeting on the EAP is scheduled for Agency staff next week and another meeting that will include staff from other pertinent agencies will be scheduled.

The Nacimiento Hydroelectric Powerplant was shut down in mid-November due to insufficient pressure to operate.

7. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mark Sandoval, CalParks, provided a report. There has not been much activity to report. There is minimal staffing at CalParks, including Parks rangers. There has been flow into the lake from local runoff in the resort area.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, provided an update to the Committee. Mr. Keehn expressed thanks to Mr. Phil Humfrey for the public comment on behalf of property owner Ms. Betty Eyraud. The Agency has received different opinions on easements from each County Counsel who has reviewed the situation. Agency staff has been in communication with the road association to discuss possible solutions including issuing an annual license to property owners who would want secured access to their property. This method would ensure the Agency maintains a record of individuals who have access across Agency property.

In 2004 Ms. Eyraud presented her request for an easement to the Agency's Personnel & Administration Committee and it was approved by that Committee but did not go to the Board of Directors. At that time staff worked with County Counsel on the development of the legal documentation. The documentation did not go to the Board of Directors for the final approval. Now, County Counsel indicated too much time had passed since the property owner was offered the easement. There is a problem with the gifting of public funds. The Committee stated they would commit to work with Staff and County Counsel to get this resolved.

Property owner, Jim Irving, has contacted the Agency for confirmation of an easement to his property. It appears that the granting of the easement dates back to 1957. His property is a 24-acre parcel next to Agency land. This Committee has requested staff to look at lake front properties that the Agency may purchase.

The Committee requested a list of all property issues awaiting County Counsel review so that this delay issue can be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist, provided a report. A meeting was held recently between Ms. Krafft, staff from San Luis Obispo County (SLO), NRWMAC, and Parks Department to review last year's program and discuss proposed changes and expectations for next year's program. Changes to SLO's residential vessel program for 2015 include the addition of kayaks and canoes, and also a choice for boat owners to opt out of the program if they have unusable ramps. Another change includes establishing a deadline for renewal into the vessel program.

The Agency has received a request to install new Mussel Prevention signs around the reservoir. Larger print and re-wording are being considered for the new signs. There are also plans to develop new boater information packet about the program. Screening protocols will be updated and posted on the Agency's website. Approximately 120 screeners from SLO County will be recertified.

Staff provided answers to questions from the Committee: The grant funding is expected to be awarded in March 2015. Staff believes that SLO County Parks Department had planned on applying for grant funds. SLO County Public Works was not eligible for grant funds for Nacimiento.

Dean Benedix, San Luis Obispo County, added that a new 4x8 sign was placed at Nacimiento Lake Drive near Paso Robles.

Phil Humfrey added that NRWMAC is looking forward to being involved with developing the new boater information packet that will include new information about the lakes, mussels, and impacts of mussel infestation. NRWMAC has also discussed expanding the education program to include the non-boater community, plans for public service announcements, and the distribution of educational information to the community.

D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Dean Benedix, San Luis Obispo County, provided an update. SLO County has a new Public Works Director, Wade Horton, who is scheduled to begin on December 8, 2014. He previously worked with the City of San Luis Obispo.

On December 2, 2014 the SLO Board of Supervisors approved a \$1.1 Million project on the Nacimiento Water Project. The project involves the installation of a new 22-inch diameter pipe inside the existing 30-inch pipe that is leaking. The new pipe, made of high-density polyethylene material, will provide approximately 85% capacity of the original project. The project contract includes a \$50,000 incentive clause for early completion, and we anticipate a start-up date of March or April 2015. A parallel pipe, to gain full capacity, will likely be done at a later date.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 8, 2015 at 1:30 pm at the Agency. A report on Nacimiento hydroelectric revenue will be provided each month, and updates on the list of maintenance items will be provided quarterly beginning in January. Both items will be reported as part of the O&M Activities agenda item.

9. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART @ 3:12 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

Approved on: January 8, 2015