

**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
Paavo Ogren
Tom Shepherd/Richard Riddle (Parks)
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

TIME: 12:00 PM
DATE: Thursday, June 5, 2014
PLACE: Dragon Lake Grill @ Lake Nacimiento Resort
10625 Nacimiento Lake Drive
Bradley, CA 93426

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 12:00 P.M. by Chair David Hart.

Members present: David Hart, Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz, Mark Nielsen, David Pozzi,
Mark Gonzalez, John Baillie, Benny Jefferson, Tom Shepherd,
Richard Riddle, Mark Sandoval
Members absent: Paavo Ogren

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 1, 2014

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and David Pozzi, the Committee approved the minutes, with Ken Ekelund abstaining as he was absent from the May meeting.

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

Jason Demers, Hydrologist, provided a status report. At the direction of the Board of Directors (BOD) and following guidelines recommended by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Agency has begun ramping down releases from Nacimiento Reservoir. Releases will continue to be gradually reduced to a target of 25 cfs. This target release rate will be maintained as long as conditions within the Nacimiento River remain conducive to fisheries habitat. Currently, the combined releases from both reservoirs are 55 cfs. Releases

will continue at San Antonio Reservoir into “Minimum Pool” in order to perform necessary maintenance to the intake structure.

NACIMIENTO: elevation 723.10 feet; 75,725 acre-feet of storage; 20% of capacity; 50 cfs release.

SAN ANTONIO: elevation 653.60 feet; 14,510 acre-feet of storage; 4% of capacity, 5 cfs release.

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

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, provided a report on this item. The Agency presented three release options to the Board of Directors (BOD) at their June 2, 2014 meeting. One option was to make maximum conservation releases from Nacimiento Reservoir to recharge the Salinas Valley groundwater basin. Under this option, minimum pool at Nacimiento Reservoir would have been reached by mid-August 2014. The second option was to maintain current releases of 60 cfs with minimum pool being reached by March 2015. The third option was a gradual reduction of minimum releases from 60 cfs to 25 cfs, which was recommended by the Agency, and was accepted by the BOD. The BOD and Committee was informed that releases below 60 cfs are not covered for “take” under the Agency’s Biological Opinion with NOAA Fisheries for the operation of the Salinas Valley Water Project; although recommendations for this action were provided by NMFS. These recommendations included ramping rates for release reductions, temperature monitoring, and additional species surveys throughout the summer. The Agency is currently moving forward with implementation of these recommendations. The target release rate of 25 cfs will be maintained as long as conditions within the Nacimiento River remain conducive to fisheries habitat.

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist, discussed environmental compliance issues related to the decrease in Nacimiento releases. The Agency plans extensive monitoring as releases are gradually decreased to 25 cfs. Each decrease will be followed by a period of time to allow for flow stabilization, followed by an evaluation before proceeding with further decreases. The Agency is currently monitoring the water temperature in the Nacimiento River at two locations; five (5) and ten (10) miles below the dam. Two (2) additional gages will be added today, with spacing between gages of approximately 2.5 miles throughout the river. In addition, a series of snorkel surveys will be conducted during the summer to determine the existence, location, and health of steelhead and steelhead habitat. Staff will be consulting with NMFS on these activities.

Howard Franklin stated the target goal is to minimize releases to 25 cfs, and if possible, maintain that rate. It was again stressed that conditions will be monitored throughout the summer and flows may be adjusted above the targeted 25 cfs, depending on results of the various monitoring observations. An updated version of the proposed Release Schedule for 2014 was handed out and reviewed for recommendation to the full Board for approval.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Benny Jefferson, the Committee unanimously accepted the proposed 2014 Release Schedule and recommends approval by the Board of Directors.

6. DISCUSSION OF E-MAIL REQUEST TO RESTRICT LAKE ACCESS AT OAK SHORES

Gina Boring, homeowner, representing the private boat dock community of Oak Shores at Lake Nacimiento, discussed a request to allow private dock owners at Oak Shores to relocate their boat slips 100 feet beyond the log boom. The Committee questioned Ms. Boring about Oak Shores dock permits and log boom easement, then provided her suggestions on next steps. The Committee expressed concern that moving the Oak Shores Log Boom would block access of some homeowners to the lake. Ms. Boring was pleased that speed restrictions have been placed on the lake. The Committee recommended that the issue be brought to the attention of the Personnel & Administration Committee. The Committee agreed to view the current Oak Shores dock placements during their Nacimiento Reservoir boat tour.

7. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING

There was no report on cloud-seeding. Concern was expressed that the local papers might run an article on cloud-seeding that would be of concern to Big Sur residents. A suggestion was made to update Supervisor Potter on any discussions of potential cloud seeding this winter.

8. DISCUSSION ON EXTENDING MOU WITH THE BAY AREA CONSORTIUM FOR THE PREVENTION OF QUAGGA/ZEBRA MUSSELS

Elizabeth Krafft discussed extending the 2010 MOU with the Bay Area Consortium for prevention of quagga/zebra mussels. The Agency entered into an MOU with various public agencies in the Bay Area, including Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, to provide a regional approach to prevent the introduction of zebra and quagga mussels. The current MOU expires in 2015 and the Agency is seeking approval from the Board of Directors to extend it to 2020. Legislation to provide grant funding for vessel inspection programs throughout the state was passed in 2013. When awarding grants, priority is given to applicants who have prevention plans in place and funding will favor regional participation. The MOU demonstrates a regional planning effort.

The Committee asked for an update on Lake Piru. San Luis Obispo County makes a weekly public request to Lake Piru for a list of boats that have visited the lake. This information is provided to the Agency and NRWMAC. Monterey County Parks Department has been using this list to monitor boats coming to Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. The Committee expressed concern about the lack of decontamination stations at the lakes and that some launch ramps are not being monitored during certain periods. The Committee recommended that improvements in decontamination technologies be revisited.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Benny Jefferson, the Committee recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Agency to continue participation in the Bay Area Consortium and authorize the General Manager to sign an MOU to extend to 2020.

9. 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. San Antonio activities include routine maintenance on the Howell Bunger valve and other general maintenance. The Agency is in the process of obtaining costs estimates on stainless steel trash racks for San Antonio versus other types of material and coatings. Nacimiento activities include routine maintenance. During the reduction of releases at Nacimiento, staff has been in close communication with the hydroelectric technician to monitor any impact to the hydroplant operations.

10. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mark Sandoval, CalParks, provided a report. The restaurant was opened for the season two weeks ago. There has been misinformation in the news media about the level of Nacimiento Reservoir. The Concessionaire is advertising through various media to correct this misinformation. Memorial Day weekend was about 55% of normal.

Tom Shepherd, Monterey County Parks Department, provided an update on activities. The Parks Department Director, Michael Ferry has resigned his position, which is being filled in the interim by Monterey County Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs and Assistant CAO, Nick Chuilos. Due to revenue shortfall, fourteen (14) positions are proposed for elimination to the Board of Supervisors. Thirteen of these positions are at the lakes. If all proposed cuts are made, there will be three rangers remaining for South County. Concern was expressed by the Committee as to the impact of this reduction in the event of the return of normal inflows to the Reservoirs.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, provided an update to the Committee. Commenting on Parks Department's report he noted that the water rights to Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs has a recreational component and it is therefore necessary to maintain the recreation component at both reservoirs.

Some lessees are planning to place cattle back on their lease blocks. Also, some of these lessees are planning to request a reduction of lease fees because of the drought and low lake levels.

As was reported last month, the U.S. Army will begin the installation of fiber-optic cable lines along Tank Road in July.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

The report was provided during Item 8.

D. UPDATE ON SLO ACTIVITIES

There was no report provided. Paavo Ogren Director of Public Works for San SLO County and Committee member has submitted his resignation to SLO. Committee members emphasized the need to identify his replacement.

11. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 10, 2014 at the Agency office.

12. ADJOURN MEETING TO TOUR LAKE NACIMIENTO

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. and the Committee toured Lake Nacimiento.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The tour ended at 3:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

Approved on: July 10, 2014