

**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
San Luis Obispo County Representative
Tom Shepherd/Richard Riddle (Parks)
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

TIME: 1:30 p.m.
DATE: **Thursday, July 10, 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, Mark Nielsen, David Pozzi, Benny Jefferson, Richard Riddle, Nate Merkle (for Mark Sandoval)

Members absent: Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz, John Baillie, Mark Gonzalez, San Luis Obispo County Representative

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist provided a handout about the El Nino forecast. The NWS recently updated their forecast on the chances of El Nino conditions for the 2014-2015 rainfall season. The probability of El Nino conditions developing is currently at 80%. If it does occur it would likely be weak to moderate, and likely produce normal-to-below normal rainfall.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 5, 2014

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members David Pozzi and Mark Nielsen, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

4. REVIEW THE STATUS OF BOTH RESERVOIRS; REVIEW RELEASES AND RELEASE SCHEDULE; AND, DISCUSS SALINAS RIVER DIVERSION FACILITY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE 2014 SEASON

Jason Demers, Hydrologist, provided a status report. The end of flow in the Salinas River at Bradley is 29 cfs. A brief update on the snorkel survey to monitor fish populations and temperatures in the Nacimiento River was provided. The water temperature at Nacimiento was approximately 50 degrees near the dam and about 70 degrees downstream near the confluence of the Salinas River. A full report will be submitted to NOAA as required.

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist provided an update on releases. Both reservoirs will maintain minimum releases through the calendar year. The Release Schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for 2014 has been adopted by the Board of Directors at their June 30, 2014.

NACIMIENTO elevation is 721.35 feet and 71,900 acre-feet of storage, 19% of capacity, and current release is 26 cfs.

SAN ANTONIO elevation is 652.25 feet and 13,700 acre-feet of storage, 4% of capacity, and current release is 5 cfs.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist stated that before Paavo Ogren left his position with SLO, he was coordinating with Santa Barbara County to schedule a meeting to discuss cloud-seeding. Dean Benedix will be the representative for the next 4-6 months until a permanent person is appointed.

Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager & Chief of Operations and Maintenance, stated there is a reserve for cloud-seeding. Staff is currently evaluating this reserve to determine whether to use the funds to repair the valve actuators at the Low Level Outlet Works at Nacimiento.

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 Agency's newest engineers, Mark Foxworthy and Elise Ramirez, are receiving training on proper reservoir operations procedures for the Obermeyer Gate at Nacimiento Dam. In anticipation of heavy rains this winter the Agency is ensuring its engineers are fully trained in all aspects of dam operations. The Agency has obtained cost estimates on stainless steel trash racks for San Antonio. Staff is evaluating plans for all items that need repairing at San Antonio. Other activities include routine maintenance including rodent and weed abatement. The FERC Part 12 report has recently been completed and will be provided to FERC. The report includes recommendations on items to be repaired. A draft will be provided to the Committee.

7. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Tom Shepherd, Parks Department along with Elizabeth Kraft of the Agency, are currently attending the Mussel Consortium. Nate Merkle, CalParks, and Richard Riddle, Parks Dept. provided a report. The 4th of July weekend was great and there were a lot of visitors. Mid-week days are not good; there are usually just a few boats on the lake. There has been advertising to try to attract more visitors to the lakes. A County Subcommittee has been meeting to discuss budget cuts/layoffs possibilities for the Parks Department. At Nacimiento the North ramp has been closed completely. Parks has not experienced issues or complaints regarding this closing. A fatality that occurred at the marina at Nacimiento during the 4th of July weekend was discussed. Also, KION will be doing a story on the water levels at the lakes.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, provided an update to the Committee. Forty years ago the Agency had property at Nacimiento that we were supposed to develop into campgrounds. That did not occur and the property went back to BLM. That land was eventually released by the BLM, which subdivided and sold the land for development. The Agency maintains the floodage easement for land within the 825 elevation.

The Board of Directors recently granted a continued lease fee reduction for an additional year for the lessee of Lease #3 at San Antonio. The Agency has contacted the other lessees to inform them that they can submit a request for a lease fee reduction. One lessee has responded as of this date.

Mark Nielsen reported on the Interlake Fire. There were eight fires along Interlake Road starting near the entrance to South Shore to the City of Paso Robles. The fires included one at Heritage Ranch close to homes; the largest fire involved 52 acres at Bryson/Hesperia. All were caused by sparks from an overloaded utility trailer bouncing along the road. The responsible party has been cooperative and has filed documents to help pay for the damage.

The Committee has asked for an update on the Tri-Counties property issue. Staff stated the Agency's general counsel who was working on the issue, has retired, and new counsel needs to get updated on the case.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist is currently attending a Mussel Consortium meeting. Howard Franklin provided an update. An email statement from County Parks was read into the record stating that during the 4th of July weekend at Nacimiento; Monterey County Parks Department Rangers conducted over forty-seven vessel enforcement stops at Nacimiento for various violations. All the vessels that were stopped had the proper mussel screening documents.

Mark Nielson expressed concern about the lack of a decontamination station located at Nacimiento and San Antonio. Dave Hart suggested addressing this issue when the grant

applications come up. Some Committee members expressed concern about the water runoff from the contamination station. Staff requested information on decontamination units from Mark Nielson.

D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Dean Benedix will be the representative for the next 4-6 months until a permanent representative is appointed by SLO County.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Due to minimal activities during the next month, the Committee decided to not meet in August 2014. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 4, 2014 at 1:30 P.M. at the Agency. Items to be discussed will include decontamination stations.

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members Benny Jefferson and Mark Nielsen, the Committee unanimously approved to cancel the August 2014 meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART @ 2:08 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

Approved on: September 4, 2014