

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

David Hart, Chair  
Ken Ekelund  
Fred Ledesma  
Mark Nielsen  
David Pozzi  
Mark Gonzales

John Baillie  
Benny Jefferson  
Paavo Ogren  
Tom Shepherd (Parks)  
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.  
**DATE:** **Thursday, January 9, 2014**  
**PLACE:** Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
Board Room  
893 Blanco Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 755-4860

**MINUTES**

***(Amended)***

**1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:30 p.m. by Chair David Hart.**

Members present: David Hart, Ken Ekelund, Mark Nielsen, David Pozzi, John Baillie,  
Benny Jefferson, Paavo Ogren, Tom Shepherd,  
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

Members absent: Fred Ledesma, Mark Gonzales

A quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Baillie stated last month he provided a copy of a letter by Dianne Feinstein, Dept. of Interior about NOAA Fisheries' regulations in the San Joaquin Valley. Due to the local drought conditions in our area, he suggests the Agency prepare a similar letter requesting NOAA Fisheries evaluate the figures and develop criteria for drought conditions. He feels the current minimum releases are a waste of water and should be reserved because we are in a drought. He would like to see this discussed at the Board of Directors meeting.

He also recommends an evaluation of the cost benefit ratio for water releases because the water is not reaching the north. When the reservoir was built in the 1950s a cost benefit factor was developed to determine the fees for landowners in the Salinas Valley who would benefit from the reservoirs. The fees for North Monterey County landowners were higher than South County because the benefits would be greater in the North.

Robert Johnson, Assistant General Manager and Chief of Water Resources Management, stated a cost benefit analysis was also used to determine fees for the CSIP and SVWP.

Mark Sandoval joins the Reservoir Operations Committee as a regular member, replacing interim CalParks representative Tim Colvin. Mr. Sandoval became the General Manager of CalParks in November 2013 and is working at San Antonio and Nacimiento.

Robert Johnson stated he will now be the staff liaison for the Basin Management Plan (BMP) Committee and will no longer be involved with the Reservoir Operations Committee on a regular basis. Brent Buche will now be the staff liaison for the Reservoir Operations Committee.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON DECEMBER 5, 2013**

**Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Mark Nielsen, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.**

**4. REVIEW THE STATUS OF BOTH RESERVOIRS; AND, REVIEW RELEASES AND RELEASE SCHEDULE / DISCUSS POSSIBLE RELEASE OPTIONS**

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist/Program Manager, provided a status report. Flow was observed in the Salinas River near Elm Street in Greenfield. There are no flows to Soledad, Chualar or Spreckels. Both reservoirs are at minimum releases to meet the fisheries requirement. San Antonio is about 6,000 acre-feet (AF) below minimum pool (**San Antonio Minimum Pool is at elevation 666 feet and 23,000 Acre-Feet Storage. Dead Pool is 10,000 AF.**)

The Committee reviewed elevation projections for Nacimiento and San Antonio and discussed scenarios for next season based on forecasts. If SRDF demands are similar to the 2013 season, using a combination of releases from both Nacimiento and San Antonio, there will only be enough water to operate the SRDF for about one month. With the forecasted inflow, there would be water to operate the SRDF for the month of April. If we opted to wait to begin the SRDF until later in the season when demands are higher, it would require a greater amount of water from both reservoirs for the flow to reach the destination. In a best case scenario for this option, if we waited until June or later, there would be 1-2 weeks of operation for the SRDF.

The Committee asked about costs for obtaining additional water from Nacimiento by using pumps. The Committee also requested discussing cloud-seeding possibilities and asked it be placed on the agenda for next month.

**NACIMIENTO** elevation is 727.25 feet and 85,413 acre-feet of storage, 23% of capacity, and current release is 60 cfs.

**SAN ANTONIO** elevation is 656.40 feet and 16,260 acre-feet of storage, 5% of capacity, and current release is 10 cfs.

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

Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager and Chief of Operations and Maintenance, provided an update on operations and maintenance activities at the reservoirs. An annual settlement survey is scheduled to be conducted next week by Monterey County Public Works. Other activities occurring involve routine maintenance at both dams.

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

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

Tom Shepherd, Monterey County Parks Department, provided a status report on lake recreation activities. Parks staff have been discussing different scenarios and considering various actions including reduction of temporary summer employees and transferring permanent employees to other parks as needed. It is unlikely North Shore would have water next season. The annual Triathlon/Wildflower Festival still take place in May 2014. Staff has met with concert promoters to discuss the possibility of renting out North Shore at San Antonio for an event for the Memorial Day weekend.

Mark Sandoval of Cal Parks stated that things are uncertain about what the conditions of the lakes will be in the summer. Staff is aware that North Shore will likely remain closed and South Shore is unknown at this time.

**B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES**

Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, provided an update to the Committee. The Agency has received a quarterly report from one of the leases. He is not running any cattle at this time. There has been on-going trespassing at this parcel including people driving off the easement road when driving through the parcel. Two large signs are being considered to be placed at the major entrance and exit locations.

**C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN**

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist/Program Manager, and Tom Shepherd provided an update. In December 2013 Lake Piru in Ventura County was found to be infested with Dreissenid Mussels. It is the first lake in Southern California that's been infested, outside of the Colorado River system. The Committee suggested developing a plan of action in the event the lakes become infested. Agency staff is in the process of preparing a draft response plan and have met with State Fish & Wildlife to seek input. Agency and Parks staff will be attending a meeting of the Bay Area Consortium on January 21, 2014 and will seek ideas for improving our inspection programs.

**D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES**

Paavo Ogren, San Luis Obispo County (SLO), provided an update on SLO County activities including restrictions for agriculture and resident development, and feasibility studies for water supply.

**E. UPDATE ON WINTER OUTLOOK**

Howard Franklin provided a three-month outlook. A few systems that could bring showers and rain are forecasted for January 20-23. The outlook for January is forecasted to bring 50% of normal rainfall amounts, February is forecasted for 55-65%, and March 70-80%. There will not be much rain in January/February but if the forecasted rainfall amounts for March materialize, it could add approximately 40,000 acre feet of storage to Nacimiento.

**7. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Agency. Items for discussion include cloud seeding options and a presentation by Committee member Ogren.

**8. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART @ 3:08 P.M.**

**SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA**

**Approved on: February 6, 2014**