

**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 (Parks)
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

TIME: 1:30 p.m.
DATE: **Wednesday, March 5, 2014**
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:32 p.m. by Chair David Hart.

Members present: David Hart, Richard Ortiz, Mark Nielsen (by phone), John Baillie, Paavo Ogren, Tom Shepherd, Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

Members absent: Ken Ekelund, David Pozzi, Mark Gonzalez, Benny Jefferson

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Tom Shepherd, the Committee approved the minutes with one abstention.

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

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist provided a status report. Both reservoirs are making minimum fisheries releases as required by the Flow Prescription, 60 cfs and 10 cfs respectively from Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. San Antonio Reservoir is below minimum pool elevation. The recent rains increased the elevation at Nacimiento by 3.25 feet elevation and 7,745 acre feet of storage. San Antonio Reservoir increased by a half foot in elevation and 325 acre feet of storage.

The Agency presented this Committee's recommended options for Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) operations to the Board of Directors on February 24, 2014. A majority of the Board members were in favor of the Committee's recommendation; if the potential for

operation of the SRDF for two to four weeks was present, the Agency should make releases in an attempt to operate the SRDF. With additional rainfall expected to occur, the BOD directed this Committee to review the updated conditions and develop a recommendation on the potential operation of the SRDF.

The Committee reviewed reservoir levels, stream flow, and SRDF operations from 2012-2013 and projected data for the current season, 2013-2014. Agency staff stated the current conditions would not support the operation of the SRDF. The Committee discussed reducing minimum releases from both reservoirs and presenting a formal proposal to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

COMMITTEE ACTION: By motion of Richard Ortiz and seconded by John Baillie, the Committee unanimously approved to recommend to the Board of Directors that the Agency not attempt operation of the SRDF for the 2014 irrigation season (April - October) based on lack of water in the Agency's two reservoirs, Nacimiento and San Antonio, and insufficient rainfall.

COMMITTEE ACTION: By motion of John Baillie and seconded by Paavo Ogren, the Committee unanimously approved requesting Agency staff to make a formal proposal to NMFS that a reduction in minimum flow criterion at Nacimiento Reservoir be made from 60 cfs to 25 cfs. Additionally the committee recommends to the Board of Directors that at their March 31st meeting action be taken to reduce minimum releases from both reservoirs.

NACIMIENTO elevation is 727.80 feet and 86,760 acre-feet of storage, 23% of capacity, and current release is 60 cfs.

SAN ANTONIO elevation is 656.05 feet and 16,033 acre-feet of storage, 5% of capacity, and current release is 10 cfs.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON AGENCY DISCUSSION WITH NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES ON POSSIBLE RESERVOIR OPERATION DROUGHT CONTINGENCIES

This was discussed under Item 4.

6. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING

Paavo Ogren, San Luis Obispo County (SLO), provided a report. Staff from Santa Barbara County is willing to meet with SLO and Monterey County staff in May 2014 to discuss cloud-seeding plans for next year.

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

Chris Moss, Senior Water Resources Engineer provided an update on operations and maintenance activities at the reservoirs. The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) conducted an inspection of both Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and results were good. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is scheduled to conduct the 5-year safety inspection tomorrow, March 6, 2014.

There were two earthquakes that occurred near the coast recently. The first was 4.1 on the Richter magnitude scale and the second was measured at 3.8. Protocol requires dams to be inspected when an earthquake of 3.5 magnitude or larger has occurred and is within a thirty-five (35) mile radius. *(The inspections of both reservoirs are routine inspections and are not due to the recent earthquakes.)*

8. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Tom Shepherd, Monterey County Parks Department, and Mark Sandoval, CalParks, provided a status report on lake recreation activities. The recent rainstorms were a welcome event. Activities involve clean-up after the rains, and discussion of scenarios for the approaching season. San Antonio remains open without ramp accessibility. An event is planned for North Shore. The annual Triathlon/Wildflower Festival Wildflower is scheduled for May 2014 at San Antonio.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, provided an update to the Committee. The lessees also welcomed the recent rains. It was reported there were twenty-five dead sheep found near the area of Heritage Ranch at Nacimiento. Also, the US Army has plans to install fiber-optic cable underground along Tank Road. Staff has concerns about possible erosion. Tom Shepherd will provide staff the emails from US Army.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist provided a report. The inspection programs are ready to begin at the reservoirs. Forty-one boats from Ventura County's Lake Piru, which is infested with mussels, have shown up at Nacimiento Reservoir within the last year.

D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Paavo Ogren provided an update. At the March 11, 2014 SLO Board of Supervisors meeting a local drought emergency will be officially declared. On March 7, 2014 a group that includes SLO County Supervisor Frank Mecham and Monterey County Supervisor Simon Salinas will be touring the Salinas River Diversion Facility. The tour will be conducted by Agency staff.

9. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 3, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Agency. Agenda items will include the BOD decision on reduced releases/SRDF operation, and discussion on plans for a Committee meeting in South County.

10. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART @ 2:52 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

Approved on: April 3, 2014