



Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
February 14, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held February 14, 2018 at the Casitas Municipal Water District located at 1055 Ventura Ave. in Oak View, California. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. President Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Roll Call

Directors Baggerly, Word, Hicks, Bergen and Kaiser were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were five staff members and seven members of the public in attendance.

2. Public comments (Items not on the agenda – three minute limit).

Richard Hajas addressed the board stating that after reviewing Steve's response to Mr. Summer we may both have a little bit of a communication problem. Several members of board have expressed frustration with the community and their concerns that Casitas may not be doing enough on the water shortage. It appears Casitas plan is based on the goal of having a minimum supply. It appears to us you believe there is enough water on average but we will periodically have shortage. You have a five stage plan. For extra insurance you are looking for additional supply such as the HOB0 to ensure enough water for the basic needs of community. Our proposal has a different goal. It would have a minimum storage level to prevent the need of the five stage plan. We will have dryer cycles in the future. Our plan hopes to prevent chronic stage 3 and 4 conditions. Look at how much more water we believe we need on average, 6,000-8,000 af per year. The sources you are considering do not provide that amount of water. Casitas needs to reach an agreement with the community on the definition of the problem. Residents of Ventura are not subjected to stage 5. Communities with greatest interest are Ojai valley and Rincon. Those that suffer the most are your direct customers. The threat of stage 4 and 5 damage quality of life. There may be alternatives. We are hopeful for all of us to have a basic discussion of the nature of the problem and come to agreement on the defined problem.

Ron Calkins informed the board that he has been a resident in the Ojai Valley for over 40 years. I worked for the City of Ventura as the Director of Public Works from the early 1990s to 2010 when I retired. I was responsible for the water utility. Water is my favorite issue to deal with. Your major focus is on demand management and you are doing a great job. You need to focus on supply management. Most Ventura water agencies are slow on the uptake for supply management. Lake inflow is restricted for the benefit of Ventura River and the ecosystem. The lake is at lowest level ever. What is the source if the lake runs dry? All options are on the table. One option is should we use state water. We have paid for our part for over 50 years and have no benefit to show for that. I see you are selling your allocation to United. There was debate in '90s should we do state water or ocean desal. The debate no longer makes since in terms of 2018 realities. The drought is more severe with no relief in sight. Now it is not a question of should we import state water but shouldn't we have the plumbing in place to use various water supplies. A water pipeline from Ventura to Camarillo allows opportunity to weather drought conditions. There are benefits to water exchanges with Ventura. Negatives are is state water too expensive. The existence of a pipeline does not require the use of state water. We are talking about infrastructure. Thank you for your time and I urge you to support and contribute resources on proposed pipeline to tie east and west water agencies. Ron was asked to describe the difference between demand and supply management. Ron answered that Demand Management is to focus on what can you do for conservation and what to reduce production and consumption of water. You have done a great job of that. Supply management is what you are going to do to provide water. Casitas along with other west county agencies and Calleguas need to work together to put the plumbing in place. One water agency would have been tied together decades ago. East and West county need to help each other.

3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum mentioned that we need to continue working on these issues and it is a topic that has been discussed for many years such as the plans for a super district many years ago. We need to follow through into future meetings and move to committee level for regular discussion and get down to facts and figures of what we are talking about on a project like this. He then informed the board that yesterday began the public negotiation for the California Water Fix and how to put together that agreement including shared costs for the water contractors and the central valley. There will be an increase in state water discussions in the near future and I have been involved in the last 4 years in these discussions.

4. Board of Director comments.

Director Bergen reported that she met with Richard Hajas and Larry Yee. We have to get down to nuts and bolts. We authorized \$200,000 to the intertie project and I suggest we need a feasibility study. We need a financial analysis

for the cost of water and look at legalities in terms of water rights. Some of this is ongoing. City is doing the intertie and feasibility. What it would take to get water east to west and up the hill to casitas?

Director Hicks added one wildcard is environmental if we put more water in the lake they want more water for the fish.

Director Baggerly suggested paying special attention to the advisory groups report and establish an ad hoc committee to review that and meet more than once a month to review the report. He also requested that the quagga mussel committee that is scheduled for Presidents Day be set for February 26th.

5. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

None

6. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes from the January 24, 2018 meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of a purchase order to Dell Computers in the amount of \$39,684.59 for the purchase of replacement file servers.

The Consent Agenda was offered by Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Baggerly and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

7. Review of District Accounts Payable Report for the Period of 1/18/18 - 02/07/18.

APPROVED

Director Hicks questioned the payment to Fred Pryor and Mr. Wickstrum explained that this is for online training that is available for our employees throughout the year. Director Hicks then requested a copy of the most recent invoices to Mr. Long as it appears he is charging about \$300 for oil changes. Director Kaiser questioned if there is any type of post or reinforcement of the training. Mr. Wickstrum responded that having qc after the training has not been established at this point.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Kaiser, the bills were approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

8. Presentation of the Casitas Water Adventure 2017 End of Season Report.

Aaron Wall presented the End of Season report and showed a presentation of some of the work that the department performs. It was another successful season with 82,442 customers in a shortened season of 74 days. The season was shortened due to challenges in finding qualified staff to become lifeguards. There are less kids in the valley and we have to attract youth from Ventura. Minimum wages are increasing by a dollar each year. We have to have 70-80 lifeguards each season. Last year we had over 203 documented first aids. Most are with a Band-Aid. We had seven calls for service and two transports. Aaron reminded the board that the waterpark is there to provide an alternative to swimming in Lake Casitas. The waterpark operates like an enterprise fund and is operating in the black.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Bergen, the annual report was accepted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

9. Resolution setting a public hearing for March 14, 2018 to hear input from the public on the proposed modification to rates and fees for the Casitas Water Adventure. ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

10. Recommend approval of Amendment No. 1 to Agreement for Special Event, Ojai Wine Festival to amend subsection1 (c) to allow for VIP attendees to be in the VIP area from 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. for a champagne toast. APPROVED

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Kaiser, the above recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

11. Recommend approval of an agreement with United Water Conservation District for purchase of 2018 Table A State Water Project Water.

Moved to Committee

The board discussed concerns with selling table A water to United Water Conservation District because of the quagga mussel issue. Typically the desire has been to be cooperative and sell this within the county if feasible. Director Baggerly expressed that he felt Casitas would be an enabler of the agreement and that the responsibility would rest on Casitas for the release of that water infested with invasive species that we have been fighting against for ten years. He felt that would be in violation of California Department of Fish & Wildlife code and that it is probably a discretionary project and subject to CEQA. He felt that United would get the advantage and Casitas would get the risk.

Pat Baggerly representing the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County expressed concerns over the proposal stating that there was no environmental review or mention of it. There are endangered species in the Santa Clara river. As you are aware UWCD reported to CMWD in Dec 2013 invasive species were discovered. Last year United purchased and released water and after that quagga mussels were found in creek and lake. If more water is purchased the quagga mussels could move further downstream. Casitas has written numerous letters to try to prevent the spread of quagga mussels in Ventura county. United thought that the velocity of the downstream release would kill the mussels but a few months later the mussels were found downstream. What United tells you does not protect the environment. When farmers lose the ability to water crops because their pipes are clogged up with quagga mussels they will have all kinds of issues. Pleasant Valley stopped taking water from United.

Director Kaiser moved that this move to the Quagga Committee for further investigation. The motion was seconded by Director Bergen and passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

12. Information Items:

- a. Water Conservation Update for January 2018.
- b. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report for November 2017.
- c. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report for December 2017.
- d. Lake Casitas Monthly Status Report for January.
- e. Letter from Department of Water Resources regarding California WaterFix.
- f. Letter from Michael Swimmer regarding availability of water and General Manager's response.
- g. Memo regarding the completion of the emergency pipeline replacement at the Padre Juan Crossing in the Faria Beach area.

- h. Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce Gala 2018.
- i. Finance Committee Minutes.
- j. Water Resources Committee Minutes.
- k. Recreation Committee Minutes.
- l. Executive Committee Minutes.
- m. Water Consumption Report.
- n. CFD No. 2013-1 (Ojai) Monthly Cost Analysis.
- o. Investment Report.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Baggerly the information items were approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

President Word moved the meeting to closed session at 4:05 p.m.

13. Closed Session

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

(Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9

Name of Case: Santa Barbara Channelkeeper v. State Water Resources Control Board; City of Buenaventura

San Francisco Superior Court, Case number CPF-14-513875

Mr. Word moved the meeting back into open session at 4:18p.m. with Mr. Mathews stating that the Board met with general counsel to discuss case and no action was taken.

14. Adjournment.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Mary Bergen, Secretary