



Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
February 28, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held February 28, 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, Robert Kwong. There were four staff members and 28 members of the public in attendance.

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

None

3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that there would be a meeting tomorrow with OES to discuss FEMA damages for assistance due to the Thomas Fire. There was a loss of a bridge on the canal and there is interest by the Ojai Land Conservancy to get that back in place. We would like to see it replaced with steel instead of wood.

Rain is in the forecast of up to three inches in the south facing mountains. We are prepared to divert if we are able and if the water quality is such that we can.

Mr. Wickstrum then informed the board of the passing of an employee, Will Gomes who worked for the district as an APSO and in Guest Services. The General Manager asked that we dedicate this meeting to him understanding from his father that the lake was an important place for him. He was a valued employee who was respected by his peers.

4. Board of Director comments.

None

5. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

Director Baggerly reported on his attendance at the Watershed Coalition of Ventura County meeting. There was discussion from Calleguas Municipal Water Company complaining about the fiscal aspect of the information that they get from the Watershed Coalition. Director Hicks attended the City of Ventura economic overview meeting.

6. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes from the February 14, 2018 meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of annual air conditioning maintenance services for Lake Casitas Recreational area in the amount of \$4,596.00 to BMI Pac West of Santa Maria.

The consent agenda 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

7. Review of District Accounts Payable Report for the Period of 1/08/18 - 02/21/18.

APPROVED

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Baggerly, the accounts payable report was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

8. Appeal of Roger Wilde requesting relief of his water conservation penalty in the amount of \$625.00.

Denied

Mr. Wilde appeal to the board and explained that he received a bill for 139 units of water and that does not make sense. The house is a two bedroom, one bath home that was only occupied for five days. There is no landscaping and no pool or spa. I contacted everyone involved. There is no leakage, perhaps the water was stolen. Historically we use 9 or less units. He asked that the conservation penalty be waived.

President Word explained that staff has declined the adjustment based on policy. Director Baggerly asked if you are alleging that a theft has occurred of your water did you report it to the police? Mr. Wilde responded that he has not.

Director Bergen explained that we have to be consistent on our policy for these issues.

Mr. Wilde expressed his disagreement and said there is no possible conceivable way this happened. Mr. Wilde offered to pay for the water but is contesting the conservation penalty. There was no intent to use the water.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Bergen, the request was denied by the following roll call vote:

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

9. Request of Malcolm Knight for relief for his October and November Water Conservation Penalty of \$345.00. Denied

Mr. Knight appealed to the board for relief of the conservation penalty he incurred explaining that the meter is on county property 350 feet away from the house and not connected to his property at the end of the driveway. The pressure regulator ruptured across the fence in neighbor's yard. He asked for forgiveness of the penalty but not the cost of the water. I don't think you should fine someone for something they have no control over.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Baggerly, the request was denied by the following roll call vote:

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

10. Request of Laura Shell for relief on water consumption for the month of December. APPROVED

Ms. Shell appealed to the board for relief on the water consumption as she owns a large property on east end near meditation mount and there is a tar pit that has continued to smolder. The fire department asked that we continue to put water on the pit. She requested that the water be considered at the lower rate.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Baggerly and due to the Thomas fire as the precipitating factor an average of two months prior will be used. This was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

11. Hydrology Report for Water Year 2016 – 2017.

Jordan Switzer presented the Hydrology report for 2016 – 2017 Water Year discussing the inflows and outflows of water.

12. Presentation of the Ojai Valley Water Advisory Group's Report on State Water.

Richard Hajas presented the Ojai Valley Water Advisory Groups report on State Water. Informing the board that a group of four volunteers makes up the advisory group, Larry Yee is the founder and members include Rosalie Zavalla and Peter Thilke and myself. We were formed in May of 2017. The mission of the group is to take a fresh independent and objective look at our water supply options. There is misinformation on how water works. We took a fresh independent look at water supply options. We have no allegiance to anyone and don't care if people like us or not.

Early on we tried to educate on the issues. We were surprised on the questions on logistics of water supply. It is difficult for people to understand the volume of water you deal with. We looked at long term solutions and realistic options and who has the authority to implement solutions. Our early conclusion is we need additional water supply.

The group suggested that Casitas work collaboratively with Calleguas and the City of Ventura to address water concerns for each entity. It could be an opportunity to pool water resources and prevent water shortages in western Ventura County. The time to act is now – people are afraid, there are low lake levels, and fear of running out of water. We need a solution on the horizon to calm our fears. We ask that you down with Ventura and Calleguas and talk about it. Initiate a joint feasibility study to evaluate the proposal, take the lead and act with urgency. Take advantage of the current people at Calleguas. Act urgently. You are very methodical and deliberate a lot. You did an excellent job with Golden State and were able to settle without going to court. You saved us a lot of money. This is urgent. Once Calleguas decides on their alternative that window will close.

Larry Yee advocated for the board to enter into a cooperative relationship with Ventura and Calleguas for more diverse water supply. We care deeply about the valley and its future. We strongly believe this is an excellent plan, a win-win for the county with benefits for citizens, provides each of the three what they need and they could not do it on their own. It avoids going to drought stages 4 and 5. It will cost more, cost are within reason and affordability, it is a paradigm shift from how you do business. The window of opportunity won't be open long. There is urgency to act now. This plan needs to be front and center, join now

and exercise the responsibility for which you have been elected and the community will thank you.

Bruce Keubler, a member of Ventura River Board of Directors informed the board that their board passed a motion to direct their General Manager to work with this group and to encourage Casitas to review the project. As an individual Mr. Keubler stated he supports everything Mr. Hajas said and urged the board to move quickly.

Rosalie Zavalla thanked the board for putting this on your agenda. Ms. Zavalla expressed her support of the three sisters plan as it is based on real data and conservative estimates. There are benefits for all entities and suggested getting to the table now to explore it with a feasibility study.

Bert Rapp expressed support of exploring the concepts and that the ability to move water to casitas may be important to future generations.

Ellen Sklarz urged the board to form an ad hoc committee to look at the proposal and bring in Richard Hajas or someone like him who is integral to the plan.

Randy Haney reminded the board of a football analogy he used in front of them two years ago stating we are in the third quarter, heading into the fourth. Here is a plan and it may not be the only plan but so far it is the best. He asked that the board seriously look at this and treat it as urgently as you can.

The board thanked the group for the plan. Director Bergen expressed the need to have a feasibility study to know the facts and figures and also the intentions for Calleguas and Ventura. Director Baggerly added there are ancillary issues that will affect negotiations. State Contractors contracts may be changing. The Channelkeeper lawsuit may have a dramatic effect on the lower Ventura river and water purveyors in the watershed. There are a number of things coming at us from all sides. It is not an easy negotiation. We need to get moving on it.

13. Recommend formation of an Ad Hoc committee for the purpose of State Water issues. APPROVED

President Word asked Director Bergen to join him on this committee.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Kaiser the Ad Hoc Committee was established by the following roll call vote:

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

14. Resolution supporting the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018.  
ADOPTED

The resolution 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

15. Recommend signing a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration between agencies.  
APPROVED

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

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

16. ACWA Request for Contributions for the No Drinking Water Tax Education and Outreach Campaign.  
APPROVED

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Hicks the request was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

17. Information Items:

- a. Finance Committee Minutes.
- b. Investment Report.

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

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

18. Adjournment.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

---

Mary Bergen, Secretary