



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

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held March 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, Bergen, Hicks and Word were present. Director Kaiser was out. Also present were Michael Flood, Assistant General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were one staff member and 14 members of the public in attendance.

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

Angelo Spandrio spoke to the board stating the three sisters plan is not simply hooking up to the state water project. The three sisters plan is an expansion of the Ventura plan. Richard Hajas is qualified to generate such a plan. He has been involved in planning, funding, design and build water resource projects in the county. I studied the three sisters plan and financial analysis in detail using my assumptions I validated Richard's conclusions and charts. Financial analysis shows nominal cost increases. City of Ventura is taking care of their own water security. Ventura is installing new 30 inch diameter pipeline where needed in case Lake Casitas goes dry, and they have their wastewater recycling program. Their water future looks rosy. Calleguas hired Kennedy Jenks to evaluate options throughout eastern Ventura County. They are being proactive. We want our water agency to be proactive. I suggest you immediately enter into a contract with Kennedy Jenks to study bringing state water to Foster Park with the three sister plan. It needs to be done now. Meet with the other two sisters. If you don't have the time or expertise then hire a consultant to do it. There is opportunity to assist Calleguas in their quest for additional storage. You need to show Calleguas that the three sister plan is the best alternative. Get the plan out of its current pigeon hole.

3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Flood said that agenda item 10 will take care of my comments.

4. Board of Director comments.

Director Baggerly commented that when Richard Hajas was here making his presentation afterwards the discussion by board members said a feasibility study was a good idea. We put that concept on the state water ad hoc committee. Ideas for consultants include Corolla, AE Com, Larry Walker and Associates MWH Global and Stantec. An economic study for these projects needs to be done and I would like that to go to the finance committee. People seem to forget that Casitas is very much involved with intertie project, which is phase one of the three sisters project. The Notice of Preparation has been released for public review. Send comments to City of Ventura, Project Manager Betsy Cooper at 501 Poli St. Ventura, CA. Comment period ends March 30. You should read the notice of prep for EIR that might be done later this year for the intertie. We are also not just sitting around waiting for the EIR to be completed. We have the hobo project that could produce a conservative level more than half or more of our annual water usage for the district. 8,000 AF of water. Possibility of another well and a concept of desal for deep water wells in the Ojai basin. We are working to develop local water to be independent from an unreliable state water project. We need to be resilient and on our own dime when we can't get that state water. It does not mean the three sisters project is the only game in town. We need to make sure we fix our web page. People can't find the info they need.

Director Hicks added regarding diversions if past history holds true we divert every five years. That concerns me. People of Ojai get people excited, until we have to stop letting the water out for the fish. I'm really worried about our situation and my opinion is this lake will go dry if we keep doing what we are doing.

5. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

President Word attended the AWA meeting on quagga issues. It sounds like they are having difficulty in getting permitting agencies to agree on what they can or can't do. We met with Calleguas and city of Ventura and they are both fully aware of our interest and desire to participate. They are aware of what we need to make a connection that will work sending water east and west. Their time table does not end at June 1<sup>st</sup>. We have talked to both of them and they are very encouraging for us to continue the way we are working to work out the details and a feasible plan that will work long term.

Director Baggerly reported on his March 15 attendance with Jim and the General Manager to the CEQA scoping meeting for the notice of preparation for EIR for the Intertie. On the 16<sup>th</sup> I attended the Supervisor Bennett cooperation committee. Steve gave a good presentation of what Casitas is doing and how we are preparing for this water shortage emergency. Cooperation was evident.

6. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting.
- b. Memorandum from Quagga Mussel Committee Members Russ Baggerly and Pete Kaiser regarding concerns and consequences regarding the proposed sale of Table A water to United Water Conservation District.
- c. Revised Quagga Mussel Committee Minutes of February 26, 2018.
- d. Recommend approval of Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$5,010 to Oilfield Electric for District Office Lighting Replacement, Specification 17-396.
- e. Recommend approval of a purchase order to DTC in the amount of \$9,982.49 for the District and Recreation Phone System Upgrade.
- f. Recommend approval of a contract to Clean Lakes Inc. in the amount of \$5,450 to prepare a Notice of Intent and Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan for coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Biological Pesticides and Residual Chemical Pesticide Applications from Aquatic Animal Invasive Species Control.

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

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

7. Review of District Accounts Payable Report for the Period of 3/08/18 - 3/22/18.

APPROVED

Director Hicks suggested that he would like to review the repairs on the trucks. Ms. Collin suggested he contact her to do so.

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

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

8. Request by Mr. Robert Goddard for natural disaster relief of water consumption costs of \$308.99.

APPROVED

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

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

ABSENT: Directors: Kaiser

9. Request by Sue Peterson for natural disaster relief of the conservation penalty of \$270.00. APPROVED

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

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

President Word requested to discuss Item 14 d outside of the information items.

Mr. Flood reported that financial issues, reduced water supply and additional water supply are continuing to be discussed and meetings will be ongoing with Calleguas and the City of Ventura. Director Baggerly added I think that we need to try to help people understand what the administrative process is like for government. I'm getting emails that say please adopt the three sisters project now. That is not the way it works. There is an entire process and it takes time. There is the notice of preparation of the draft EIR for Calleguas, Ventura, and Casitas State Water Intertie. We cannot adopt a project without the EIR. A lot of work has been done by Kennedy Jenks to develop the EIR. More investigations will be done and then public hearings will be held on the project. The City of Ventura is the lead agency. There will be a public hearing and everyone will have some sort of presentation on the environmental document. We can't move ahead out of sequence. We want to do it right.

President Word added when we met with Calleguas and City we are pushing to move forward as quickly as possible. They acknowledge that we have participated for over a year and a half to work out the details. Flow studies are being done to move water east and west. It is still up to the city of Ventura and Calleguas to pull these forward. They still are key players in this. It depends a good part on what they want to do. They want to work with us and be as fair as possible. Both are interested to have a supply of water available for emergency use and reliable water.

A member of the public stated that the drought has been going on for six years. Understand what you are saying. Director Baggerly added we have been in this process for a year and a half. Director Bergen added in our meetings with Calleguas and Ventura there is a willingness to work together and good understanding that the East/West connection goes all the way to Casitas. We will cover the extra part to get it to Casitas. We have to define the hydrology and capacities, review the project and alternatives and then get to the costs. We have to have the project defined and it is in process.

Greg, a member of the public said I understand things take time. It would be helpful if there was some transparency with charts and diagrams and accountability to deadlines. Where are we with the Hobo's? What are the steps to get it done and who is responsible with the target dates. Can there be specifics and timelines and hold people responsible for hitting those targets. If we get the web site improved there is some document or charts give accountability and responsibility. Who is responsible? How do we get that out of all of the projects rather than trusting. Director Baggerly added we are not the lead agency but we can get some links from the city on our site.

Larry Yee of the Ojai Water Advisory Group stated the three sisters plan captures the essence of a regional cooperative assistance plan. Pool the resources in order to provide for more secure water future. Recognize the plan is complicated. State water is one part of the plan. A critical part. For you to solely focus on state water part of that plan. President Word interjected stating I take exception that the only thing we are looking at is the state water project. Mr. Yee responded the only part of the three sisters project is the state water. Before we sent it out to the other entities we sent it to Steve Wickstrum a week ahead of time. We were willing to make revisions based on Steve's input but received no response from Steve. Then we sent a notice out via email to Russ and Steve requesting a meeting to sit down and discuss and received zero response. That is no way to run a public agency. The WAG group has been meeting since last May. We met every other week, 1-2 hours at each meeting. I went to the Water Resources committee yesterday and of the 45 minute meeting you may have spent five minutes of talking about our future. There is a lot of concern and even anger coming your way. They do not know what you are doing. There has hardly been any response to us.

Director Hicks stated I would disagree with you. I organized with Mike Anderson a year ago to hook up with state water. At a meeting in Ojai a year and a half ago 300 people were there and there was a lecture and asked how many hook up to state water. Myself and one other guy raised our hands. Mr. Yee stated the state water project is one part of that plan. To say we take the state water as the first step or first stage and wait until that is settled. Think how to develop a cooperative future.

Maria Lucas, homeowner explained that a real estate agent said you are going to stage 4 and we have missed the boat in selling your house. People are fleeing Ojai because of water. It is very adversarial. Could we figure ways out to work on this together? We have some good ideas. The biggest problem is the community thinks what the future of the water is different than charts the district is giving us. From a homeowner we are scared to be stuck in Ojai, lose our homes, lifestyle and community and orchards. I am upset about it and see that we are sitting here and not in agreement at all in the fundamentals. If we could come together and agree on that then maybe we can work together better. Start on graphs on future of our water. If we can agree on fundamentals and go over the three sister plan together. We believe this is our best hope for our future.

Maybe this is a state of emergency. Think we have to work better together. I don't see that today. You are working and we are working together. Director Baggerly responded that the WAG group wants us to concentrate only on their project. Ms. Lucas said can we start with the assumption of what the water future is. Have an underlying assumption on what the urgency is.

Director Baggerly agreed that we all need to listen better. All I hear back from the community is to adopt the three sister plan. Phase 1 has been a year and a half in the process. We are not the lead agency. We are doing what we can. The state water project is integral to the three sisters project. No one wants to listen to what we are doing or understand how long it takes to get through a process. The city of Ventura is the lead agency for the first step of this process that we have been in for a year and a half. Ms. Lucan added that the assumptions of the community and your data are not in sync.

Mr. Mathews added this was an information item. Comments could have been done in public comments. Not sure this is the proper place to do it. Director Baggerly responded that we need to have this discussion.

Eugene Rooke explained that he has spoken with a number of you and Mary, you called me back. I disagree with a number of things you have said. Mary you were elected in 2010. You have been here a long time. You had a long time to take action. The drought in this area has been around. Director Baggerly said I do not accept that. Mr. Rooke added you say the hobo project could supply half of the water but Jordan Kear, your consultant says it is only to be an emergency water supply, not a regular water supply. Fracking is an art. You can't only talk about what you need in phase one. You have to talk about all three phases. You have to have an agreement that this is the deal. I have not heard any support of the three sisters plan. Who is authorized to negotiate a deal? When are you going to stand up and be counted to support the three sisters plan? If you don't support it say it. Other districts won't take you seriously.

Robin Gerber, Ojai resident thanked Mr. Hicks for the invitation to activism. I agree we need to know what you are doing, who is authorized and how the whole plan is moving forward. This is a failure of leadership and it starts with your general manager. I ask you how are you directing that person and making sure Mr. Wickstrum is doing his job? This is a transparency issue. Communication is a big problem. The anger you are hearing is because we don't know what is going on. Who is in charge, what is being done and where are the timelines.

Greg Shrogue challenged board and staff to take the leadership position and have us help behind. Director Hicks said we tried and called NMFS and they said no. That is what we are dealing with. They don't see any other view than their own. Mr. Shrogue suggested starting early enough looking towards next year and have the community help.

Barb Rugo of Ojai agreed with the other speakers. There is a sense of urgency. We are scared and read about Captetown. There is no timeline here and no sense of urgency. We have been in drought for six years. It is time to step on the pedal.

Director Baggerly added all of you should realize the state water project intertie is the three sisters project first step. We are already doing what you want us do to. The project is on its way. The Ad hoc committee is in discussions with the city and Calleguas, that is taking place. A member of the public suggested why not make Richard Hajas your consultant to bring your heads together rather than butting them.

10. General Manager's comments regarding March 2018 diversions.

Mr. Flood explained that the storm came in a couple of pulses. The first one was moderate with muddy water going down and running through the screens and diversion and gave water to fish and the canal. The second pulse was much stronger and that brought down a lot of debris which plugged the screens. We were out there working 24/7 to clean the screens off and restart start it and they would plug again. We contacted Rick Bush at NMFS and Mary Larson at CDFW. The response from Mary was we cannot pull screens to divert water. This event was nature's response to a catastrophe in the watershed and we will continue to deal with it as we have in the past. Usually we would not put this water into diversion. We will continue to work with regulators and work toward a better design. Those would be redesigned screens and possibly traveling screens. Travelling screens tend to harvest fish. All in all we got only a portion of the water down the canal. Santa Ana and Coyote creeks provided a lot of water into the lake with the turbidity screens doing their job. The storm brought us in total about 2,500 acre feet. That can take care of a portion of our evaporation in the lake this year. We would like to see more but that is probably what we have for now. President Word added to pull the screen has some negative consequences. Mr. Flood asked for the public patience as well as there is usually a reason why there is no water in the canal. President Word thanked staff for manning the facility 24/7.

11. Recommend negotiation of a one year exchange of State Water Contract Table A Water between Casitas Municipal Water District and San Geronio Pass Water Agency. APPROVED

Mr. Flood explained that the district normally will sell its water to the turn back pool which allows us to sell to State Water Contractors. Pool A was \$35/AF and the second pool was \$17/AF. Water goes to all of the contractors. We use the sale to reduce the tax roll. The City of Ventura has been working with San Geronio to do a transfer or exchange. They take the water this year and pay costs to get water to them and on reverse a certain amount of water needs to come back. 40% return of water in a future year. For the one year transfer it is \$1.5 million to the city. In talking to the city as well as considering our own

options, this is a good proposal to bring to the board. Director Baggerly added if we had taken advantage of turn back pool money it would lower the tax obligation, is that true of this transfer? Mr. Flood explained that has not been decided yet. There are costs with the State Water Project in searching out water security plans.

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

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

12. Request Ventura County Watershed Protection District to approve the one year assignment of State Water entitlements held by Ventura Water and Casitas Municipal Water District to an agency that is outside of Ventura County. APPROVED

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

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

13. Recommend approval of a Purchase Order to ERS Industrial Services, Inc. in the amount of \$56,650.56 for the removal, cleaning and reinstallation of media in pressure filter #6. APPROVED

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

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

14. Information Items:

- a. Water Conservation February Update.
- b. Quagga Committee minutes.
- c. Finance Committee minutes.
- d. State Water Ad-hoc Committee.
- e. Investment Report.

The information items were offered by Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Hicks and passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors: Baggerly, Bergen, Hicks, Word

NOES: Directors: None  
ABSENT: Directors: Kaiser

15. Adjournment.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

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Mary Bergen, Secretary