



Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
April 11, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held April 11, 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, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks and Word were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were three staff members and six members of the public in attendance.

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

Laurel Moore, owner of Azu in Ojai addressed the board expressing her concerns as a terrified business owner who could be looking at three-four years from now we will be out of water. I have not heard of any plans other than we hope it will rain and fill up our lake. This is my first time here and I think this is the beginning of a huge amount of merchants that don't want to see their businesses turn into dust in the next four - five years. I don't want to see business or real estate investment collapse. I am anxious to see what you have planned.

Eugene Rooke, Ojai resident addressed the board stating your main water source is Lake Casitas. You are still operating using a 2004 plan largely written by Steve Wickstrum. The plan assumes more water than we have. 40 inches of rain per year is unrealistic. We need more water, not just increased drought restrictions. You are not transparent. You don't say specifically what you are doing. Estimates I made from your newsletter and your data. Steve Wickstrum said to the Ventura County Star in November that he is often asked how long will it be until the lake goes dry. We, your customers, are doing our part. Demand has been reduced by 40% to 12,000 AF last year. You supplied that demand. Groundwater was 1500 AF and the balance was from the lake. Annual take from the lake, I'm tired of hearing it depends. Your original target was 18,000 AF/year. We will be at stage 4 drought in October and that is 14,000 AF of water, Stage 5

is 12,000 AF per year. 2011-2016 drought years average take was 20,000 AF per year. Are you going to turn off people's taps? How many years are left? The last newsletter said there was 70,000 AF in the lake. Minimum pool is 1,000 AF. Working with 70,000 AF, in October divide 18,000 12,000 or 20,000 into 70,000 AF and you get 4-6 years until lake is dry. I will use five. What happens when lake goes dry? You have 1,500 from groundwater supply to meet 10,000 af demand. You have five years until you can meet 15% of your demand. Your time is running out and you are not doing much. It is a question of survival and the impact of actions and inactions. Our home values, businesses and agriculture. You hope for rain. You have a big problem and you are not acknowledging it or taking responsibility for it. You are not doing your job and you hope we won't realize how bad things are. Some say you are pursuing sources. I don't believe it. The HOB0 is no solution. It is an unknown emergency supply. You only just authorized an ad hoc committee. Last march you said Ventura is the lead agency. Ventura rejected your scope of work you wanted to pipe water to casitas. What negotiations are under way with the other districts to arrange other water sources? You chose not to participate while Calleguas and Ventura are working together. Casitas, what I don't understand is why are you satisfied that Calleguas and Ventura will have water and you want to go it alone. Engage and find someone dedicated to find other water supplies, promote Casitas participation and to negotiate on your behalf with your approval. Engage to find new water supplies. You demonstrated what you are doing now is not working. There are no new water supplies. We need active leadership that reports to the public. Hire someone – just do it. Your five years are counting.

Angelo Spandrio read the following. The Brown Act says in part that "...government bodies subject to the requirements of the Brown Act must provide public notice of their meetings, post agendas of the subjects to be discussed at those meetings, and provide public access to those meetings." One of your board members recently said that: "At the last meeting we were limited by the Brown Act which requires that items for discussion be on the agenda." I would very much like to see changes made to the way future agendas are composed. Items concerning our water future should be regular items on your agenda.

1. This will allow board members to discuss the future of our water, present motions and vote on those motions.
2. This will allow the public to be prepared to discuss specific agenda items concerning their water since public interest in this subject is rapidly growing.

I would like to see the following 5 subjects specifically placed on each future agenda:

1. HoBo Project Status
2. State Water Project Ad Hoc Committee Report
3. Drought declarations and modifications to the WEAP – Mr. Wickstrum has said that we can expect lake storage to decrease by around 13,000 AF

over the next 6 months or so leading to a State 4 Drought Declaration in October. Stage 5 is 10,000 AF later.

4. Ojai System:
  - a. # of wells on line and flow rates in each
  - b. Depth to water in those wells
  - c. Status of well refurbishment
  - d. Condition of the distribution system in Ojai
5. Search for other water sources such as the Ted Moore connection.

For each of the above subjects, the person(s) most versed in the subject should present the status, present the future action items to be taken and solicit discussion/guidance from the board. An occasional statement "NO REPORT" may be the report...

When I say that the above subjects should be specifically placed on the agenda, I'm speaking of them to be placed on the agenda in such a way to promote discussion/decisions among the board members, allow the Board to give the General Manager direction to promote public involvement. The above subjects should not be buried in agenda items such as General Manager comments, Board of Director comments, Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended, Consent Agenda or Information Items.

Please, let's see these changes incorporated with all future agendas until our water worries are over.

Maria Lucas asked for an update every week. I don't feel any reassurance. As a homeowner I am freaked out.

### 3. General Manager comments.

Staff has met with Mustang Industries to develop the website for water security which should be completed by end of April. We will update it with items going on presently. The notice of CEQA documents on the intertie that Casitas, Calleguas and Ventura have been involved with since 2016. As it happens information will be posted.

The San Geronio Pass agreement will move to the County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday at 11:00 to get the letter of non-objection to move forward with the City of Ventura and ourselves. He requested that President Word be in attendance.

On April 16 we will be hosting United Water Conservation District to visit the Robles Fish Passage facility. They will be educated on what we have. There are major changes to be made at Freeman Diversion.

Chautauqua is this Sunday at 3:00. I provided some information to assist Randy Tillman to answer a lot of questions that have been asked as to what has been going on.

We have been waiting for Forest Service FS 299 permit to do an exploratory well in the forest service area. We also are looking at a vertical bore for Matilija Formation. The formation has the potential of producing 2,000 – 8,000 AF per year. Until we put drill into ground we will then know what we have available in the Matilija formation. We also met with Congresswoman Julia Brownley's office on Monday regarding the lack of action of the Forest Service to issue the FS299 to put data gathering equipment into springs and weeps to gather data and monitor how the formation performs in its water supply. We have been waiting for almost six months and the concern I have is the FS 299 to drill a hobo might take longer. We can look at drilling straight down directly on Casitas property. We will gather a cost estimate and bring back to consider as a project to move forward. It will probably take a month to a month and a half.

Mr. Wickstrum then reported that we are finishing up with the fire disaster with FEMA and will be cleaning out our duct system which is a reimbursable project.

Mr. Spandrio asked if it is possible to comment on the General Managers comments. He said I am confused about the vertical bore. How are we getting to Matilija sandstone from a vertical bore on Casitas property? Mr. Wickstrum explained the purpose is to see if it is there. We are relying on a Geotech expert who feels that it is there. Trying to access that formation directly below Casitas property and not rely on approvals and federal delays. What if we can't get into the forest service area? The vertical option is drawn on there on the original plan, one drawn straight down as another option if we get hit with someone not wanting us to go into the Forest Service.

Mr. Rooke added one reason you drill horizontally is to get more production. How thick do you expect this formation to be when you drill straight down? Mr. Wickstrum agreed about drilling diagonally and this does not seal off doing the hobo. We could get our analysis going and then on with the FS299 and do the hobo. You don't know until you drill. Mr. Rooke said until you understand the geology you can't say there is 2,000 – 8,000 AF there. You don't know if there is enough pressure to drive water to surface. Mr. Wickstrum added you don't know until you drill. A lot of wells are drilled that don't give anything. If we get one that gives us some info then it readies us for the hobo. Both options may be very beneficial on what we are doing. At that location we have the canal within 100 – 200 feet and about 7,000 feet away we have a 24 inch pipeline where we can treat and put into it into the system. This location looks to be the best place to start. Director Baggerly added suppose that vertical test works and we get water out of it. Then we can tell how the Matilija formation is acting to that extraction of water and serve as environmental review for the hobo. President Word added we will try all we can try, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

4. Board of Director comments.

Director Baggerly asked for a status of the shoreline growth permit removal. Mr. Wickstrum said it has been sitting with the Corp of Engineers office for some time. Director Baggerly asked about the Ojai System status. Mr. Wickstrum replied we have held meetings regarding modeling and projects. Director Baggerly then suggested the use of Lake Casitas Improvement Foundation to accept private donations to assist in funding water security projects. Mr. Mathews said he will have to look into this. Director Baggerly then mentioned a status report he wrote as a draft to be reviewed by committee and brought back as a status report. He added that a PR campaign is critical and we want to get information out there.

Director Hicks mentioned Met's decision to do the state water project alone with dual tunnels. Mr. Wickstrum added it is \$11 billion dollars for the dual tunnels for 9,000 cfs. The remainder of State Water Project Contractors will be handed a bill for the rest of it. We have been in talks for three years for a contract extension agreement to extend the contract to 2085.

5. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

None

6. Consent Agenda – NONE.

7. Review of District Accounts Payable Report for the Period of 3/23/18 - 4/4/18. APPROVED

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

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

8. Resolution setting a public hearing for May 9, 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

9. Information Items:

- a. Water Resources Committee Minutes – March 27, 2018
- b. Recreation Committee Minutes.- April 5, 2018
- c. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report for January 2018.
- d. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report for February 2018.
- e. Lake Casitas Monthly Status Report for March 2018
- f. Matilija Dam – Report on Stakeholder Group Meeting on March 23, 2018 & Matilija Dam Removal & Ecosystem Restoration Project Funding Plan – April 2017
- g. Water Consumption Report
- h. CFD No. 2013-1 (Ojai) Monthly Cost Analysis.
- i. Investment Report.

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

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

Ms. Moore stated she didn't feel better. Director Baggerly suggested she take a copy of what he had written and read it as it goes over what we have been doing. A member of the public said you are trying to work to get a permit and this is why we are so concerned with the valley.

Mr. Wickstrum mentioned the OBGMA 2017 report on their website and recommended reading it as it provides information on where the city of Ojai gets their water. Another item that people forget is that they have water below their feet. That will get you a sense of where your water is coming from and the status of the basin that serves the city of Ojai. Director Baggerly added the basin has 65,000 AF. City of Ojai residents and business utilize this past year about 1,500 acre feet a year. Another 2,500 AF is pumped out for Ag in the east end of Ojai. The groundwater basins are in better recovery state than Lake Casitas.

Mr. Spandrio suggested that Jordan said 60% which puts it at 48,000 AF. Director Bergen added there is water there that in an emergency status will keep business in place. Mr. Spandrio added the sustainable yield is 5,000 AF per year. It is misleading to say 48,000 feet of water as accessible to the Ojai valley. The Ojai basin is not a simple tub. Mr. Wickstrum responded saying let's not say the city of Ojai has run out of water. That is the position that is being put out there that people are concerned. Director Kaiser added the public deserves to see information and see propaganda and emotions. There is a groundwater basin and from the report it is not being fully utilized as it could. Every time it rains there is replenishment. President Word added that we are finding out the condition of wells after the takeover of the Ojai System.

Mr. Rooke asked the board if the wells in Ojai will only supply the city of Ojai and not Oak View. Are you saying the city limits of Ojai have exclusive

rights to that water? President Word responded that is not what we are saying. Mr. Rooke responded that will spread throughout the valley and people like her will go out of business.

Director Baggerly added the Act of 1991 states no water shall be exported from the Ojai basin perimeters unless it is considered surplus. Mr. Rooke asked are you going to restrict that water to just for the city of Ojai. Director Baggerly added all the users overlay the Ojai basin. Mr. Wickstrum added this is where the rumors get spread. Mr. Mathews added that we would love to have this discussion on wells at some other time.

President Word moved the meeting to closed session at 3:50 p.m.

10. Closed Session

a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

(Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9)

Name of Case: George Lewis and Cheryl Lewis, Kerry Tormey; Alton Gebhart and Mary Louise Gebhart, Geoffrey Marcus, as Trustee of the Marcus Family Trust; Katherine Connor; Kevin Vanderwyck and Katy Vanderwyck; on behalf of themselves and all similarly situated v. Southern California Edison Company, a California corporation; City of Ventura; Casitas Municipal Water District; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive.

Ventura County Superior Court Case No. 56-2017-00505314-CU-MT-VTA

b. 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 No. CPF-14-513875

President Word moved the meeting back to open session at 4:11 p.m. with Mr. Mathews reporting that counsel met with the board on the two existing litigation matters. On the first matter there is nothing to report and on the second, counsel discussed with the board possible future actions and will report back to the board.

11. Adjournment.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

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Mary Bergen, Secretary