



Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
August 22, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held August 22, 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 Attorneys John Mathews and Robert Kwong. There were six staff members and 49 members of the public in attendance.

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

Randy Haney addressed the board and appreciated Steve Wickstrum's presentation to Rotary a few weeks ago adding that Steve represented you well. He spoke to the truth and clearly to the concerns of the community. He spoke with facts. It was a great presentation. I ran into Pete this Sunday at breakfast and spoke for a half hour and I walked away saying I think the war is over. It is time we stop going at each other and start working with each other. I sense from this side as we try to engage you, your hands are up and the more they are up the more we want to knock them down. If we both put our arms down and talk about the crisis we are in and how to solve it together. When I look at this room and the intelligent people that are here to help solve this problem you need to reach out to them and engage them to be a part of solving this problem. It is critical right now. That is how we make this community whole again. We are all in this together. It is that simple. All of us can help solve this problem. Stop pointing and start looking at the similarities.

Bruce Kuebler, speaking as an individual, commented that looking over the water security.org website it seems there is something missing which is the update on the Biologic Opinion. It should be put on water supply projects, it involves negotiation. Provide a summary of what the BO and Management committee and the Bureau is doing.

James Odling, resident of Meiners Oaks explained that Gloria and I moved up here last year after a ten year fight with three water districts. It could not be stopped until the Army Corp said no because of climate change. The point about the future is it is not predictable. I have been to a lot of board meetings and I don't see the implication and conflation of lack of transparency here. There is not a tie in between transparency about importing water. I lived in Los Angeles for a long time. Ag can't afford the water coming from the state.

3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that three hydrants have recently been hit in Ojai. Two were hit and runs and one was at the entrance of the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa. I can't remember there being another time when so many hydrants were hit. We have experienced surges and things happening as we have had three hits.

Mr. Wickstrum asked that we take a moment of silence for an employee, Henry Islas who passed away here on August 13. He was a valuable, well liked and appreciated individual. He was one of the key people along with Michael Shields that got us through the hump on the Ojai system. His loss is being felt throughout the district. President Word added that we will adjourn our meeting in his honor.

4. Board of Director comments.

Director Baggerly said he wants to adopt Bruce Kuebler's comments as my own and suggest BO negotiations and change in diversions in low water levels be put on the water security page and the rules for diversions so people can understand what we are up against to get water in the canal.

Director Kaiser thanked the speakers and Randy Haney for his comments. There comes a point where you need to get beyond the gotchas and work together and collaborate together. We need to pull together so that does happen.

Director Bergen added she is glad to see everyone here.

Director Hicks added the key to the water situation is diversions and BO with the government. We will have to stand up to the federal government. Our case was not ripe yet. If we have to buy water from the State it seems to me that will make our case ripe. We need to get Scott down here to tell us what is going on with the negotiations.

5. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

None

6. Consent Agenda.

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the August 8, 2018 Board Meeting.
- b. Authorize the General Manager to sign task orders for professional engineering services for the Casitas system as follows:
  - HDR, Inc. for the Camp Chaffee Pipeline Replacement in the not to exceed amount of \$37,105.00.
  - HDR, Inc. for the Ojai East Reservoir Interior and Exterior Recoating project in the amount of \$28,400.00.
- c. Authorize the General Manager to sign task orders for professional engineering services for the Ojai Water System as follows:
  - MNS Engineers, Inc. for the Ojai Water System Arc Flash Study in the not to exceed amount of \$119,839.00.
  - Cannon Corporation for Valves and Appurtenances Replacement (Ventura Street) in the not to exceed amount of \$38,805.00.
- d. Recommend approval of a purchase order to Granicus in the amount of \$60,874.43 for the installation and training of their integrated software solutions Granicus Video, Minutes and Peak Agenda Management for 36 months.

President Word asked that item d be pulled for brief discussion.

Consent agenda items a-c 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

On item d, the purchase order to Granicus for installation, training and integrated software solutions this is for a three year period and is not just filming the meetings. This is a whole agenda management system with storage in the cloud and availability to the public. This is the system the county is using and it is well vetted.

Item d was offered by Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Hicks 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 8/02/18 - 8/15/18. APPROVED

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Bergen, the Accounts Payable Report was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

8. Presentation by the General Managers on the State Water Project Interconnection.

- a. Susan Mulligan, General Manager Calleguas Municipal Water District
- b. Kevin Brown, General Manager, Ventura Water
- c. Mauricio Guardado, General Manager, United Water Conservation District.
- d. Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Casitas Municipal Water District

President Word thanked Susan Mulligan, Kevin Brown and Mauricio Guardado for agreeing to come and give us an update on the state water intertie issue. After they have finished we can accept public comment.

A video recording of this item is located at [www.casitaswatersecurity.org](http://www.casitaswatersecurity.org)

Kevin Brown, General Manager of Ventura Water stated I appreciate being able to address the board and users of Casitas water. I have been on the job for about 11 months. When I first got briefed, I was briefed that this is a joint project between the four. It has been a joint project since before I got here. I want to dispel rumors. We have been working together since the day I got here. This is a regional necessary project. We are currently in the EIR process to work out - do not want to be pre decisional. The proposed route is from Springville in Camarillo through Ag land into the Saticoy area where we will put a blending station in and will blend with groundwater to improve water quality on that side of town. The alignment study is completed and are currently working on CEQA documents that we expect to have done in November/December. We are working on preliminary agreements, right of way acquisitions, agency agreements, design right of water. Ventura is lead on this. It is a great solution as the pipeline does not need pumps and can work both ways. It is a large pipeline, 7 miles long. Mr. Brown discussed the general time line with a lot of items being done in 2019 and 2020. There will also be infrastructure improvements for Ventura Water to move water across the city which I can't do now. We will repurpose existing pipe and us a little new to move water east to west and would be able to supply water to Casitas if necessary. The timeline is simultaneous as we strive to have both projects done together.

Susan Mulligan, General Manager of Calleguas explained their reservoir in the Spanish Hills area, a hydraulic generator station and two different pressure zones we can feed by high pressure side and receive water from lower side. We are interested in this project. We will build a pipeline and will be paying some portion of it. Our interest is we receive our water in one single way. If we have a failure we are very short of water. Most of our water is imported. This connection allows us to get water back if we are cut off from supply. We would only use it during an emergency. Wheeling – Casitas, United and Ventura have a

right to state project water. Ventura and Casitas don't have a way to access that water. You can access by using other systems pipes. Wheeling allows you to use another systems pipes when they are not using them, if they have extra space, there is no water quality problem, and if they are compensated fairly for it. We do have extra space in our pipes. We always have space in the winter. If they say they want water through our systems they can. Water comes down through Castaic. Met has pipes to Jensen treatment plant in San Fernando valley. It would then go through the tunnel in Simi Valley, Moorpark, Camarillo, Saticoy and into the intertie. You are just renting space from Calleguas. One other thing is we could do higher flows. Under this interconnection Casitas and Ventura can get their allocation. If we need a higher capacity, this project wouldn't do it. Calleguas is looking at what it costs to move pipe from Casitas to Somis. It is an incredibly expensive project. It will be a few years before we would even know if this makes sense for us. We are looking at 88 different water security options. It will be a few years before we know if it makes sense for us and if it makes sense for Casitas.

Mauricio Guardado, General Manager of United Water Conservation District expressed interest because it goes near the vicinity of our facilities and spreading grounds. We have about 700 acres of recharge basin capacity. When we get water there, good things happen. There is 12 – 14 feet per day percolation rate. That is good for regional benefit across Oxnard plain. At the El Rio site there are turnouts where we construct additional infrastructure including a large well field with pumping capacity of 32 million gallons per day. This is a good source if water is available to blend and recharge those basins to improve water quality.

Mr. Wickstrum reported you are hearing today that we all are thinking we all have a good project for regional reasons and will not put this aside because of rainfall like we did in the 1990's. We have challenges to work through. It is important that this area look at next step for sustainability. When it does not rain for a long time where do we go. If there is a drought for us or earthquake for Calleguas can we work together to serve the region? We have to be careful, there are financial decisions to be made. We need to look at populations and if the cost is spread the more benefit throughout the county the more we can spread that burden. Decisions of state water we are keeping in mind this is an in lieu project. The City of Ventura would not take water from Lake Casitas and we will work out the arrangements of how that is done. The water is not Calleguas water and we don't become part of Met. We are talking about opportunity for an in lieu delivery. One aspect in design and operations phase with the pipeline is to consider the age of water in the pipeline; it can go stagnant and lose disinfectant. It is expensive to flush with a seven mile pipeline. Minimum flow was discussed and establishes a good baseline to keep that water fresh. There are things we have to be careful of. A larger pipeline between Casitas and Calleguas we would have to consider quality along with the flow. There are challenges. Direct delivery is more challenging. We are not looking at large pipelines to bring water across. There is opportunity for everyone to benefit for

water moving more easily through the City of Ventura. There are tasks ahead and each agency is contributing well. I hate for this to be my end. I have enjoyed working with these individuals when we talk about these projects. There are a lot of decisions and the scope of the project and coming to some participation agreements in the next couple of months including operational commitments. At the end of next week we will meet with Met to discuss wheeling. I am looking forward to a good discussion to learn what they will charge us. We have to get those operational commitments to move water. Or, we have to take water from Castaic and run pipe along 126 which is very costly. We will pursue the financial plan and go to the public for perhaps bonds and grants and consider the purchase of state water and the trends with things like contract extension and Cal Water Fix that will be challenging and interesting to work with. This is the best opportunity with these four agencies to do something good for Ventura County. I am happy to see the schedule. Now the public knows the timeline and challenges ahead and now is the time to act and consider the state water project interconnections and our involvement in it.

President Word added it is not just dropping a pipe in and turning a faucet on. We will continue working on it. Everybody that has been involved has the same goal in mind to alleviate the issue with reliable water and Kevin and those of us living in Ventura would have better quality on the east side. Thank you for coming and sharing and the time and commitment to do that.

President Word opened it to public comments with Bert Rapp, with Ventura River Water District expressing his appreciation for the presentation and he asked about the status of a pump station to pump water up to the valley. Mr. Wickstrum replied that it has not been done yet but could be done in about a year and a half.

Bill Weirick with the City of Ojai asked 1, is the design criteria the same for managing the lake on safe yield and 2, is Article 21 water being delivered. Ms. Mulligan replied the agreement will be flexible to include any water. Mr. Wickstrum said he is trying to understand the first question and said we can talk about it later. He added that everyone in the state depends on snowpack or rainfall. We went from zero water available in 2015 to Article 21 water last year.

Randy Haney asked for a clarification. When we look at Lake Casitas and storage is it better to store underground or above ground. What is and have you thought the better place to store the water. Is it better off at United? Ms. Mulligan answered I would store it in the lake I can control. There are many pumpers in the Oxnard plain. Recommend storing in Lake Casitas. Casitas has full control of their lake.

Bruce Kuebler asked a question of the decision on emergency backup water supply and rumors that it may be decided in 2-3 months but now you say is may be a few years. Ms. Mulligan replied we will be done evaluating the Casitas dedicated pipeline within a month but we have a lot of other options to study and

we have to compare it to other options. We can't compare and make a decision for a couple of years.

Kevin Brown explained that they can't move water east to west. Improvements will enable that. They are undertaking a new master plan. If you need to move a large amount of water you can't do that through the system designed for neighborhoods.

Director Kaiser asked about the range of the total project for the larger pipeline. Ms. Mulligan responded this pipe is a \$45 million dollar project and the other pipeline is 3-4 times as long and about the same size so it is estimated to be a \$200 million dollar project. Director Kaiser asked if the mutually beneficial endeavor would the cost be borne by the greater population? Ms. Mulligan replied that the entire Calleguas service area would benefit and bear Calleguas' portion of the cost. Your service area is not as large. What is the benefit to Casitas to take delivery of more water? It is good to get this smaller project going and see how that works for you. It depends on how the larger project compares to our other options.

Director Hicks asked if we could pump it to the lake is it possible to put treated water into our reservoir? Ms. Mulligan responded that we have a 10,000 AF lake and we put treated water and we have a healthy fish population. There isn't a problem in our lake. Disinfection disappears.

Bob Daddi asked how many people would this benefit. Less than 3,000 users in Ojai dedicated \$60 million to the takeover. If we pro rate looking at hundreds of thousands of people it is a minor cost compared to what we paid to secure our water. Put that in perspective. Pro rate out about \$1.4 billion over the rest of the county at the rate we paid to remove Golden State. We already spent a ton of money. Hearing it will be costly it just doesn't make sense with what is at stake. What is the last gallon of water going to be worth?

President Word thanked the General Managers for their participation.

Director Kaiser asked for a five minute recess at 4:00 and the meeting reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

9. Update by Rincon Strategies on the Public Relations Action Plan.

Chris Collier with Rincon Strategies provided an update on the water security outreach plan. The website launched August 1st. The fact sheet is in draft form and we have made some tweaks. We are updating info on the site every two weeks. All items concluded and ready to go. The newsletter draft is produced and is in review with district staff. After Aug 30<sup>th</sup> we will draft a second newsletter and send that out.

On the social media campaign we are working with district staff to create more robust and more posts. We will be working on the written updates for Board members for community outreach so you can speak with smaller organizations and do community presentations. The Stakeholder tour is moving along. We anticipate 10-20 people and have proposed dates with operations and Management. The tour will include visiting the dam, Robles diversion and San Antonio well. Mr. Collier also went over some of the social media metrics.

10. Resolution honoring Steve Wickstrum upon his retirement. ADOPTED

President Word read the resolution of appreciation honoring Steve upon his retirement after 34 years of service to Casitas.

Director Baggerly added there are so many things that were accomplished such as the Resource Management Plan and we paid off the dam. There was successful completion of numerous projects and the resolution would have been five pages long if they were all listed. President Word added in the WEAP program. Director Baggerly added he will miss this guy a lot.

Mr. Wickstrum replied that he will miss this. It has been my life. We have had differences and we have worked through things. Protection of Lake Casitas from Quagga and the Park Ranger program. In the first part of my career I helped people here get water meters to get water. I was a young kid back then. It has been a joy to come here every day. I was never bored in 34 years. Mario Tognazzini was my boss and he told me I would be here for two years. Then we started to see retirements. There was a large group of retirements in the late 1980's that opened doors with me. I share with staff to get educated, and work hard to benefit you and the district. I see our personnel doing that. There is a lot of good stock coming up in this district.

Director Kaiser added you have been here over three decades and there is so much you contributed. All that you have done to put the district on a steady foundation through the years. One of the things was the agreement between us and the City of Ventura. It was a significant thing to come to a cooperative agreement with them. The hardest thing is when you go down 33 your truck will want to turn in here.

President Word added as a side note on the agreement with the City of Ventura, after working on it for three years the City of Ventura water consumption out of the lake has been reduced by more than half. That is a direct result of the work on that new agreement.

Director Bergen added there is not a more dedicated person, Steve puts his heart and soul every minute into this place.

Director Hicks added it is amazing look back almost 30 years ago and we had pit toilets around the lake and no treatment plant. Mr. Wickstrum added I



have two regrets. First, there is no sewer system at the recreation area. It is something staff will look at, and are looking for grants. Second, I am leaving and the lake is not full. I am a hopeful guy. I have seen it go from 50% and get water moving.

President Word added after 34 years don't just look at accomplishments. The measure of a man is that Steve has always put the interests of Casitas and his constituents first. He is selfless and honest. Thank for the time spent and I wish you the best.

Renee Roth mentioned learning of Steve's ability to analyze situations and influence decision making about complicated issues. I spoke with Paul Jenkin and he mentioned what a critical part you played in the Matilija Dam removal. Once you had the facts and knew how it would work everyone lined up. It is now on the ballot. You are a critical leader in that. Mr. Wickstrum added Paul and I have rocking chair locations to sit when the dam goes.

Bert Rapp expressed his disappointment that this board accepted his retirement. Steve deserves the right to retire. It is a tremendous loss to Casitas and the Ojai valley. Absorbing the Ojai system has taken a tremendous effort. The way he works with others brings us all together. I will miss having Steve here to work with.

The resolution was read and offered by President Word, seconded by Director Hicks and passed, with regret, by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 18-20

11. Discussion by Board Members regarding the preferred qualifications and characteristics for the selection of the General Manager.

Director Baggerly handed out a list of qualifications for the General Manager and President Word asked for any public comment on the qualifications and characteristics for the General Manager.

Renee Roth, resident of Ojai expressed her opinion that the ability to communicate well with all the water agencies and work together in a cooperative way and understanding of people having their fair share of the lake is important. In the past some fear that people didn't know how things worked. Australia went through and they have a lot to teach us in critical drought issues. Having a new perspective and knowing how to address critical supply issues.

President Word added we have a job description that was revised in January of 2007 and the intent is to update that with input from the search firm. He added that many of the qualities that were handed out by Director Baggerly are already on the job description that we have. Director Baggerly added he brought this forward for discussion only and for the board to get thinking about qualities and technical requirements. Modern day management techniques are different. This is not an end all of possibilities but a start to think about a new GM.

12. Information Items:

- a. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report
- b. Lake Casitas Status report for July, 2018.
- c. Recreation Committee Minutes.
- d. Executive Committee Minutes.
- e. Personnel Committee Minutes.
- f. Finance Committee Minutes.
- g. Notification from Government Finance Officers Association regarding the Comprehensive Annual Financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2017 qualifies for the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
- h. Water Consumption Report.
- i. CFD No. 2013-1 (Ojai) Monthly Cost Analysis.
- j. 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, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

President Word moved the meeting to closed session at 4:38 p.m. with Mr. Mathews announcing the closed session item and that the board would be coming back into open session to consider the two remaining agenda items.

13. Closed Session

- a. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (Gov. Code §54957(b)(1))

Title: General Manager

President Word moved the meeting back into open session at 5:08 p.m. with Mr. Mathews reporting there was discussion concerning the General Manager position and no there was no reportable action to report at this time

14. Discussion and consideration of the Interim General Manager's compensation.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Baggerly the Interim General Manager's compensation will be at the same level that the General Manager is currently receiving. This was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

15. Discussion and consideration of selection of an executive search firm for the recruitment of the position of General Manager.

This item is continued to a special meeting for Friday, August 24 at 9:00 a.m.

16. Adjournment.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. in honor of Henry Islas.

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Mary Bergen, Secretary