



Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
May 9, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held May 9, 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 five staff members and 26 members of the public in attendance.

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

Bobbi Corbin an Ojai resident and business owner and member of the Ojai planning commission asked to hear from the Board and Steve Wickstrum on a continual basis a mission statement, if you will, on the agenda of every meeting that addresses a short term, mid-range and long term plan for dealing with water management in this valley. It does not seem this board is alarmed by the state of the lake. We would like to know the secret agenda if you have one. The Three Sister's Project seems doable in the near future and while there are many steps, a county-wide cooperation on water management seems crucial so everybody has a stake together in solving this problem.

Eugene Rooke spoke about the Brown Act and provided a copy of the Calleguas Water District agenda and stated that written communications from the public are required by 8:30 the Thursday prior to meeting to be on the agenda and be considered. You don't do this. At the last meeting the attorney said you can ask for things to be on the agenda and they were not. Have the Three Sister's Project considered. Put on the agenda to engage a feasibility study for facilities needed to move water up here. You need transparency, you work for us. It is impossible to get items addressed that we want addressed. Help. Adopt a Brown Act plan like Calleguas. Go to their meetings and find out how they greet people before the meeting. It is amazing what open doors they have for the public and you don't do that. Then Mr. Rooke provided his wife's comment on the Urban Water Management Plan. In the 2015 plan you said things Casitas does not anticipate future infrastructure projects through 2040. You plan to use

demand management programs and safe yield to balance water supply with demand. And use additional demand management measures. You are going to continue to support the water use allocation program. There is no desal, transfers or exchanges thru 2040. You did not anticipate new infrastructure projects. That is what you said and are committed to it. A letter from Steve Wickstrum to Jordan Kear dated one month later you asked him to do some more studies for water and infrastructure. What happened to all of a sudden you ask for ideas. You the board along with Steve came up with a list of projects. Why the change?

Trina Grantham commented on the tragedy of the water supply and the finite watershed with the demand overwhelming the supply. Conservation that has improved since 2014 is not enough. Customers are frustrated and the lake is drying up. You need to think short and long term. If items are implemented valley wide it would be an improved situation. You must take the lead. Increased promotion of laundry to landscape, recirculation pumps, kitchen sink foot pedals, moratorium on new water meters, increased penalties going over allotment, moratorium on pools and adding covers. Please put in with each bill info and incentives to save water. Perhaps there could be rewards for being under allocation. Provide discounts on the purchase and installation of water saving devices. Fast track the long term solutions. Put the ideas on the agenda and discuss. Be more progressive and aggressive. Remember every drop counts.

Robin Gerber, Ojai resident told the board they are elected to govern over our water. You are a special district. People don't understand what that is. It is the most local form of government. Special District are accountable to voters and rate payers. Boards are elected by district voters and accountable to us. You are not operating with transparency and accountability required of a government agency. As such, holding meetings at the most inconvenient time is not what a government agency should do. Calleguas holds meetings at the end of the work day. Your agenda fails to meet requirements of the Brown Act. There is no specificity. Take a look at other agendas. How am I supposed to know what you are talking about? There is a failure to discuss the three sister's plan on the agenda. Why not? You fail to make the process transparent. I can't find the code of CMWD that governs your administration and actions. Meetings are not videotaped but they are today and the public can see it. Public elected officials are subject to recall to ensure you act with the professionalism and integrity we expect from elected officials.

3. General Manager comments.

None.

4. Board of Director comments.

Director Hicks reported that he only used two units of water last month. He then mentioned that Ron Merckling who has been our Public Affairs and

Water Conservation Manager for the last 15 years has taken another job in San Bernardino adding we have lost one of the best employees this district has ever had.

5. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

Director Baggerly attended the VRWC meeting and there were a number of presentations including removal of Matilija Dam and a report from the county on the General Plan update. There is opportunity to comment on that process if you go to VC2040.org.

Director Hicks added a response to the public comment regarding the meeting times that we did change our times to 6:00 p.m. on two different occasions for a period of time and we did not have any more people to come to those meetings. We have tried that in the past.

6. Consent Agenda.

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the April 25, 2018 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of an agreement with Pueblo Water Resources in the amount of \$12,300 for the Ojai Wellfield Operational Assessment.

Director Baggerly asked to pull item a, the minutes, for discussion. Director Baggerly then offered item b which was seconded by Director Kaiser and approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Regarding item a, Director Baggerly read from page six of the minutes April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting under the General Managers update on the Water Security Projects. "State Water Intertie. The City of Ventura is the lead agency and a Notice of Preparation for the EIR asked for public comment through March 30. Kennedy Jenks is preparing the environmental document for the first phase. This is looking at a pipeline in starting in Spanish Hills and ending in Saticoy. It is projected to go through farm lands; it is good to move the project off of the main roadways. There is positive movement in design of the pipeline. This is in process and we expect the CEQA to be out in the next six months. We have held staff level meetings on the east/west interconnection with the City of Ventura. They were looking at it for their own benefit to take care of a large portion of the city within the Casitas district. There is opportunity and it has been expressed to others, there is opportunity to think of a county wide regional plan for emergencies and water deliveries. We are looking for something larger than what the city looked for as a 24 inch line. Kennedy Jenks is working with

Calleguas for emergency supply and the potential supplies for West County to serve their populations with eyes on potential to use the Lake Casitas supply. This would act as a sort of insurance for Calleguas. For movement east to west and west to east we need to have a solution other than the 24 inch line that would be adequate for that type of operation. This project is ongoing right now.”

The minutes were 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 4/19/18 - 5/02/18. APPROVED

On the motion of Director Kaiser, 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. 2018 Water Supply and Demand Status.

- a. Presentation by Jordan Kear regarding the Status of the Ojai Groundwater Basin.

Jordan Kear provided a status of the Ojai Groundwater Basin discussing the hydrograph depth of water over many years. The basin is at 63% with 53,550 acre feet in storage with the target extraction being 3,000 acre feet a year. The fires have had a profound effect on groundwater and surface water systems. The fine sediment decreases infiltration capacity, coats the stream bottoms and there is a decreased ability for recharge. Even with dry years and longest periods of drought the Ojai basin has the capacity to recharge quickly. Droughts usually don't last longer than 5-6 years in the hydrographs. This basin will continue to breathe.

President Word explained to the public that we are continuing to investigate sources of water in the Matilija formation. This project could provide local emergency water supply. The preliminary schedule is two years. Regarding the State Water intertie, we are diligently pursuing this with Calleguas, the City of Ventura and United Water Conservation District. There are four parties, not three. This is a five-seven year implementation. On the Ojai Basin desalter this project will require further study to determine the merits of the project. Director Baggerly added that because Casitas obtained the Golden State service area this presentation today by Jordan should become familiar to you. We are very much involved in the Ojai basin and groundwater management. I sit on the

OBGMA board and Casitas and OBGMA will be working in the future on a conjunctive use agreement on how to best operate conjoined water supplies for the area.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Baggerly the presentation was received by the following roll call vote:

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

- b. Recommend revisions to the Water Efficiency Allocation Program.
- c. Recommendation to continue the Declaration of a Stage 3 Water Supply Condition.

Mr. Wickstrum discussed the Water Supply and Demand Status and recommended changes to the Water Efficiency Allocation Program and the recommendation to remain at the declaration of a State 3 Water Supply Condition at this time.

There was discussion about further defining what Stage 4 and 5 mean and defining when there might be a significant change to Agriculture.

Richard Hajas reminded the board that he had sent you all a formal copy of comments earlier but added he would not read that to you. Today's discussion on supply and demand assessment was good. It gives us a summary on policies and positions and your focus on short term emergency. The sole formal policy adopted on this is your water efficiency and allocation program. That is your policy. You do discuss investigation of other water supplies. You have not set goals; there is no formal plan, or objectives and time line to move forward. You are just discussing. It is a risky way to manage our water supply. The time is now, conditions are changing. There is abundant data that another drought is on the way. We are not facing a short term problem. It is unreasonable to have plans on the best case scenario. Plan for what is reasonable and predictable. Droughts are predictable. You have had success at dramatically reducing water demands and experiencing climate change. Now is a good time for change. He asked what is the minimum lake storage level to address emergency supply and based on the success of the water conservation efforts what are the true annual water needs and how much water is needed to meet the needs? Without answers you cannot evaluate. Planning for drought is good water management in Southern California. You need to know how much water you can depend on in the future. Begin discussions to address long term needs and don't leave the problem to your successors.

Eugene Rooke questioned Jordan Kear regarding his numbers and if it is potable. Mr. Mathews suggested that Mr. Rooke address his comments to the board and Director Bergen asked that Mr. Rooke be allowed to ask questions of

Mr. Kear. Mr. Rooke has asked if the 53,550 acre feet is a recoverable number. It could be 25% less. Only 40,000 af. Your comment said what we produce may also not be potable. Director Baggerly added he does not see the relevance as the amount of pumping is at 3,000 Af and suggested that he bring his questions to the OBGMA meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Rooke asked what portion of that number does Casitas control? Maybe 1,000 – 1,500 af per year. Mr. Rooke responded I was left with the impression that Casitas operates wells that could produce the entirety of 5,000 af per year. Director Baggerly responded I think you are mistaken. Everyone has the right to use the water over which they overlay. Casitas is a bit different but there is a restriction on the amount of pumping that can go on in the commons. Casitas does not control the 5,000 af. Mr. Rooke responded it is called rule of capture. He then said that Mr. Kear said in discussing the Matilija formation that is different. It is different than alluvial formations in the Ojai basin. It is prehistoric formation where the water does not flow. It is trapped. Are you going to frack it? He mentioned Mr. Wickstrum telling him to look up the Chismahoo well. It was drilled 1,800 feet higher. They hit formation at 7,550 feet. No one asked the question what did that well produce? I haven't found that production information. Mr. Wickstrum responded that I did not recommend that and have no recall of that. Mr. Rooke said the Chismahoo Well is mentioned in Jordan Kear's report to you in 2016. That is where that well reference came from.

Bert Rapp General Manager of Ventura River Water voiced support to remain at Stage 3 and the recommendation to look at it closer to October is the proper way to go forward. Table 5 and changing non-essential use we think that is an excellent approach. Our customers are at 40% conservation and are achieving the goal to get demand down. We are doing 40%. We support those staff recommendations. Putting on my customer of Casitas hat, I would suggest that you define what an unavoidable leak is and not charge the customer the full cost of water for the leak especially the conservation penalty that throws salt in the wound for a leak that they diligently repaired. They are conscientious water users distraught over the loss of water.

George Galgas, Oak View resident expressed that he really enjoyed Jordan's presentation and think that the public is not aware of when he talks about what the alluvial zone is. He asked that it be explained. The next thing is on mandatory cutbacks and allocations. Are you going to put a moratorium on parks? You are asking for conservation from us but they have free range of all the water that they need.

Laura Moore asked about using of water from the sanitation plant. A lot of communities are doing that.

Robin Gerber said your materials is all about the demand side. We have done our part. We are conserving. The public is responding. What we are saying is are you doing your part? Are you finding supply somewhere else? Why not put the three sister plan on the agenda to discuss for supply. Why not

put the hobo or verbo plan to discuss if we want to spend the money and if there is water there. Is there water? Why are we not talking about that today? There is a lot of talk about what we have to do and what are you doing to find water and give us a sustainable water supply? In February you were presented with the three sisters plan and it has never been put on the agenda. Director Baggerly responded that we are already involved in the project with the City of Ventura and Calleguas for intertie. That is the first stage of the three sister program. Negotiation right now is ongoing for the second part of three sisters program to provide an insurance policy for Calleguas. That is the project. You are not understanding that we are already in the process of hobo or verbo. We are looking at a desalter. That is a possibility. There is an administrative process we have to follow, not just putting a whim on the agenda to approve. Ms. Gerber responded it is not your project but you are doing it. Some of the best minds on water and water supply in our valley came up with this plan; they are not being paid to do it. They brought it and presented it to you. It is incumbent on you to not just listen but to discuss and you are telling me you are but you don't want to talk about it. Director Baggerly responded you can't escape the fact we are in the process of developing access to state water with the City of Ventura and Calleguas and with United. These are large scale projects that take time and effort and follow state law, Ceqa documents are being developed. It is the process and you have to wait. Ms. Gerber responded that if you are going to put on the agenda water supply you should have updated us on the three sisters and verbo and hobo. The process is frustrating me. Have a more open discussion with the public and the people that can discuss these things.

Pricilla Galgas mentioned in the past droughts we have experienced I would notice cards on tables to conserve water and to not order it if you are not going to drink it. Possibly Casitas and Ventura River could supply little cards on the tables as a reminder. Mr. Wickstrum suggested they go to Om tonight as they have what you are talking about. We have also met with Alex Kim at Ojai Valley Inn and he is messaging out as far as laundry etc. It is a good suggestion.

Director Baggerly discussed the questions Richard Hajas asked. We are calling something emergencies and you call it a short term fix. We are looking to build our water portfolio to have water for our customers. Director Baggerly added you want us to set a policy on the amount of sales we can have. Mr. Hajas replied I don't think you can meet your safe yield. Director Baggerly responded we don't intend to meet safe yield. Mr. Hajas replied you reduced it. The WEAP calls for 18,200 af. I don't believe we have enough water to meet that on a regular basis. Director Baggerly responded that is why we have demand reduction features. Mr. Hajas replied you wouldn't need them with the plan because there is enough supply. Director Baggerly responded that is all theoretical. Mr. Hajas said it is a real problem we all have to face, knowing how much water you can take and knowing what the demand is. The demand can be much lower. Director Baggerly replied reality is showing that. Mr. Hajas asked what is your true demand and how much more water do you need to meet that? You need to know what you need. I don't believe you know what you need. You

have not reached consensus. The State Water Project by itself might not be enough. You can evaluate the risk of making that safe yield too high. Not let lake level go below a certain level. Set policy to meet those goals. Get together and agree on goals then you would have more support from the community. Director Baggerly asked are we walking down the same path? We are working on the interconnection for access to the state water project. Something that has not been a reality in my 30 years. We both think that is a good idea. Mr. Hajas responded you and I yes, but as an organization you have not done anything. Director Baggerly responded you know the actions we have taken to be a partner in that process. Five of us voted for that. Mr. Hajas replied you are more of a partner than you were three months ago. You are a reluctant partner. If you know what you need you have a better position at the bargaining table. Mr. Hajas said Casitas has no formal commitment to how much water you need. That is a problem. If I look through your documents you talk about state water connection as an emergency. The discussion on how to use that is critical. Is the city going to use it? Director Baggerly responded that is in negotiation. Mr. Hajas replied I encourage you to look at minimal level and look at safe yield. What if you don't need any more? You have not done that analysis.

Item b and c 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

9. Recommend approval of the revisions to the Lake Casitas Recreation Area Agreement with Rotary Club of Ojai West Foundation Inc. for the Special Event Called the Ojai Wine Festival. APPROVED

On the motion of Director Baggerly, 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

10. Proposed Fees and Charges for the Casitas Water Adventure at the Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

a. Public Hearing

President Word explained that this is the time and place for a public hearing to discuss the proposed fees for Casitas Water Adventure and asked the Clerk of the Board to provide information on the people who had sent comments. The Clerk replied that there were no comments or communications received.

President Word opened the public hearing at 5:18 p.m. and asked for public comment and hearing no public comments he adjourned the public hearing at 5:18 p.m.

- b. Resolution approving the Preliminary Assessment for the Restructuring and Revision in Fees and Charges for the Lake Casitas Recreation Area. ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Hicks, 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

- 11. Ordinance establishing Rules and Regulations for the Public Use of the Lake Casitas Recreation Area. ADOPTED

The ordinance 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

Ordinance is numbered 18-01.

- 12. Recommend the attendance by Director Baggerly at the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Ojai Valley Democratic Club as a day of service.

A member of the public who had previously requested to speak to this item was not present when the item was discussed.

On the motion of Director Bergen, seconded by Director Hicks, the above recommendation was approved.

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

- 13. Information Items:

- a. Recreation Committee Minutes.
- b. Water Consumption Report
- c. CFD No. 2013-1 (Ojai) Monthly Cost Analysis.
- d. Investment Report.

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

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

14. Adjournment.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 5:25. p.m.

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Mary Bergen, Secretary