



Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
August 8, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held August 8, 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 18 members of the public in attendance.

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

Ellen Sklarz expressed that the disheartened community is impacted by drought and fires and long lasting heat that worsened our situation. Business people, farmers, ranchers and residential customers believe we would like a voice in choosing officials with knowledge and communication skills to meet challenges ahead of us. I propose a citizen committee or citizen representative to participate with Casitas in search and selection to find appropriate leadership. Post the position nationally or use an executive search firm to find qualified candidates and I am asking you not to rubber stamp and hire from within which I think is unworthy of this community.

Robin Gerber addressed the board saying it is no secret the community is divided and concerned about the drought. This board and agency failed to adequately respond over six years of declining rainfall and increasing heat and the buck stops here. You have been called on to announce a drought emergency. It is crucial those who rely on the district water realize the dire nature of this drought. This is a cry for this board to take action. It is not just a PR problem. It is a failure to act problem. Action is needed. Data driven and respectful and inclusive of the voters you serve. You must act. You have the opportunity to bring in new leadership and be transparent and inclusive. Hire a consultant to do a professional search. It is imperative. See someone with professional credentials. I am calling on you to add a citizen representative to the board search committee or have a citizen advisory committee for this board.

Show you respect the voters you serve and respect and recognize need for transparency. Many citizens are ready to serve for the good of the community.

Jim Oogling stated for several months in public comments I hear complaints that no one is moving fast enough to put in state water. Please wait for facts before drawing conclusions. I am not following those feeling importing water is a magical fix.

Bob Daddi thanked Steve for 30+ years at Casitas and expressed appreciation for what you and this board has done. He suggested that the water allocation seems to be complicated for a number of people and perhaps there could be some kind of billing catch up in the next few months. He asked that casitas consider sliding into this thing. We don't want to get to the point where the hard work of getting Golden State out, we don't want people longing for the good old days. Thank you.

### 3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum announced his decision to retire on August 31<sup>st</sup> after 34 ½ years working with unbelievable staff and board. I worked proactively after the 1984/95 fires and storms to get treatment in here. There are many good people I have learned from and worked with. It was my pleasure to work with Richard Hajas for many years. There are good people that have worked here at this district to serve this public. The employees are selfless working countless hours and are dedicated to providing water to the public and we do it right. We respond and we react. I feel with the staff now there are some areas that are far beyond the level of expertise and level of effort that I saw in my other 34 years. There have been marvelous changes in the Operations and Maintenance crew and at the lake and other departments. I wish and hope and had talked to Dick Barnett to get that lake full. I'm not going to be able to do that. I have had a good 34 years and am still working here until Aug 31<sup>st</sup>. I want to thank people for that and also for the public. There are so many people I have worked with and helped to get water. There are many people in the community I got to know and appreciate every one that I have helped.

We have been informed that the City of Ojai and County of Ventura will send a letter to us and which we will discuss in future meetings as we head to October and head to stage 4 in WEAP. There are discussions regarding what we do going forward and decision to make a transition. The landing page is up at this time.

Assistant General Manager Mike Flood provided an overview of the water security landing page which has its own domain and is not just a link. The page provides information on supply, management, projects and FAQ's.

Ellen Sklarz suggested that page 19 of WEAP, the table for drought parameters be prominent as it takes a long time to find it in the document.

A member of public asked about the amount of silt and Mr. Flood explained the number is adjusted for that. Another member of the public asked if we factored in the evaporation at the Casitas Waterpark and how often is it refilled. Mr. Flood said it uses about six acre feet per year including evaporation. A member of the public asked what happens to the water. Mr. Flood explained it goes back into the ground. A member of the public asked about more frequent updates. Mr. Flood explained we can get the supply but the demand side we would not have that information more than once a month.

President Word added one of the things we were wrestling with is trying to show who gets what water. Mr. Flood added that we envisioned showing service areas and where the water comes from for those areas. The City of Ojai relies heavily on the groundwater. That is a fantastic resource. A member of the public said most people don't know about the groundwater storage it is a misdirection to only look at the lake levels.

Gene Rook questioned the gross numbers on the supply side and said you cannot recover every drop out of the lake. Director Baggerly added you can only use the amount of water you can put to beneficial use. Director Bergen added that there are legal restrictions you have in safe yield. In prolonged drought and emergency there are resources we could go after. We could have new wells, we could put in a barge at the lake to pump it all the way down like they did at Cachuma. A member of the public asked how long to get a barge? Mr. Flood said it could be in place rather quickly, within six months.

Bruce Keubler expressed that he thinks the 60,000 AF is distorted and practical storage could be 10,000 AF available in 4-5 years. Director Baggerly responded it is representative of how much water you are standing on if you are in Ojai. Bruce added the Upper Ventura River basin storage is 10,000 AF. Director Kaiser said to use that comparative would not be accurate.

Robin Gerber this appears to be disingenuous. This is not the water we can use. Ojai is not hooking to state water. That is confusing. This does not make it clear. Can we be clear? The tie in is coming to Saticoy and bringing a tie in to Casitas water is not planned or engineered or looked at. It is disingenuous to keep talking about it in my opinion. Mr. Flood said that is the first phase and there are other phases to bring water in. The hydraulic study has been done by the City and they are talking with the partners on those results and what we plan to do going forward. It is at a staff level draft right now. Eugene asked about the 30 inch pipeline from Calleguas direct to us. Mr. Flood responded I don't know of a pipeline like that. Mr. Wickstrum added this is getting off topic to a certain extent. Betsy from the City of Ventura is here. Dialog is going on and in the coming months to look at those things to get this project going and to get it done. You need to cool your heels. We are talking to people to do this. We had sat down and began discussions with Calleguas to get a good partnership for storage in Lake Casitas to benefit the entire county in many ways. This is a tremendous move finally after State water not coming into

this area. That will be happening and we will keep you updated as we can. There will be negotiations that will happen between the partners trying to get these things done. Stay patient. They do need to get done. Now is the time to do it and proceed forward. We need to come in with the right project. Mr. Wickstrum mentioned a pre proposal on the comprehensive water plan which is moving forward. Director Baggerly added I am still working on data in this landing page. I have already noted a couple of things and they have been worked on and I will continue to work on it

4. Board of Director comments.

Director Kaiser mentioned viewing the Ojai City Council meeting from the previous night and it raised some questions for further clarification such as the water taken from the lake to supplement the Golden State wells. Mr. Wickstrum explained some of the issues had by Golden State and their decision to take water from Casitas to supplement their wells. The current situation is we are looking at the well field and the pump capacities were woeful compared to what they advertised. We are deciding to do rehabilitations or get some of them out of the system. We have also set up some other circumstances in the system to run the wells at all times so water demanded by area is provided by wells as much as possible. We are dedicated in supplying Ojai with groundwater supply because of changes our staff has made to the system.

Director Kaiser then mentioned that the City Council had a discussion on pool covers and our own lake losing 6% in evaporation adding that he assumes that individual jurisdictions can enact such things as requiring pool covers. Mr. Mathews affirmed that the city has the ability to do that. Director Kaiser added hopefully the city or other purveyors could look at and entertain this. He then expressed that he had received calls from the public on transparency and appreciates that councilman Weirick is providing the video taping of meetings and asked how does the public access those video tapes. Where is the link? Ray responded that he hands them to Bill Weirick and I don't know where they are going, I understand them to be for archival purposes.

Director Baggerly questioned the timeline for updating the landing page and suggested that it be updated every two weeks in the summer and every month in the winter. He then questioned the deliverables from the PR Consultant Rincon Strategies and expressed his impatience on the speed in which things are getting out to the public. He suggested that the Executive committee look at this.

5. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

Director Baggerly reported his attendance at the Supervisor Bennett and Assembly member Monique Limon meeting with the water cooperative group. Most of the time was spent discussing a declaration of a drought emergency and everyone agreed to do that. Supervisor Bennett brought a letter to the Board of

Supervisors and Mayor Johnny Johnston brought this to the Ojai City Council and I believe we will have an action at a coming meeting. Mr. Wickstrum added the topic will be discussed in committee.

- 6. Consent Agenda. ADOPTED
  - a. Minutes of the July 25, 2018 Board Meeting.
  - b. Minutes of the June 13, 2018 Board Meeting.

Director Baggerly made a correction to the June minutes relative to Mayor Johnston of the City of Ojai.

The consent agenda with the above correction was offered by Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Bergen 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 7/19/18 - 8/01/18. APPROVED

Director Hicks questioned a deposit refund in the amount of \$6,000 and Julia Aranda explained it was a \$10,000 deposit for a meter installation and we charge time and materials and then give the remainder back. Director Hicks also questioned a camping refund which seemed large. Park Services Manager carol Belser explained it could have been a refund for a group.

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

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

- 8. General Manager’s verbal report on Water Security Project status.

Mr. Wickstrum provided his report on the status of the water security projects. Conversations have been had with Lou Nagy regarding the Matilija Formation boring and we have decided to do an initial CEQA evaluation before we go out with drill rigs. We need to do due diligence and will work through that in the next four weeks.

We are trying to secure the General Managers from the state water project interconnection project to attend the board meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to provide information on the project. President Word added it will not be a negotiation session as negotiations will not be done in a public forum.

Bruce Keubler asked about the state water project and California Water Fix and who pays for it and if you don't pay for it what happens to entitlement. Mr. Wickstrum explained that if you have the full entitlement you have to commit to paying for the additional cost of the water fix. Contractors that don't commit to pay for additional costs could see Met would take over part of their entitlement. Met will not pay for all of it. We are looking for the next 6 months to come to conclusions. The project is 16 billion and our allotment would be one quarter of 1%.

9. Recommend approval of an agreement and purchase order to Consulting West in the not to exceed sum of \$32,000 for the preliminary design of Rincon, Avenue 1, and Avenue 2 Pump Plant Electrical Generators.  
APPROVED

On the motion of Director Kaiser, 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

10. Recommend approval of an agreement and purchase order to Rincon Consultants, Inc. in the not to exceed amount of \$88,039.00 for Professional Environmental Consulting Services for the Preparation of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for Ojai Water System Improvements.  
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

11. Recommend authorizing the General Manager to sign the following task orders for professional engineering services for the Ojai Water System.  
APPROVED

- a. MKN Associates, Inc. for Cuyama, El Paseo, Topa Topa, South San Antonio, Crestview and Oak Creek Pipeline Replacement design services in the amount not to exceed \$208,951.00.
- b. MNS Engineers, Inc. for Sunset Pipeline Replacement design services in the amount not to exceed \$53,930.00.
- c. MNS Engineers, Inc. for Mutual Wellfield Pipeline design services in the amount not to exceed \$77,340.00.

- d. Water Works Engineers, Inc. for West and East Ojai Avenue Pipeline Replacement design services in the amount not to exceed \$209,687.00.

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

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

12. Recommend the Board reject all proposals for Design Build Services for the following projects: Approved Rejection of Bids

- a. Recommend the Board reject all proposals for Robles-Casitas Canal Rice Bridge Replacement Project and direct staff to re-evaluate the project.
- b. Recommend the Board reject all proposals for Robles-Casitas Canal De La Garrigue Bridge Replacement Project and direct staff to re-evaluate the project.

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

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

13. Letter of Intent and Request to Consolidate by Tico Mutual Water District.

The Board discussed the request of Tico Mutual Water District and suggested putting this off until next year. They also discussed holding a meeting with their board members to see what they have as a time schedule. Director Kaiser requested being part of those meetings as they are within his division.

Director Baggerly moved and Director Bergen seconded that Director Kaiser's attendance at meetings regarding Tico Mutual Water District be considered a day of service. This was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

14. Information Items:

- a. Water Resources Committee Minutes.

- b. Metropolitan Water District Tour of State Water Project Facilities and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta September 21 – 23 and November 9-11.

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

President Word expressed his thanks to Mr. Wickstrum stating he has worked with him for 22 years and Director Hicks has worked 29. He added retirement is great but there is no such thing as retirement, only redirections.

President Word moved the meeting to closed session at 4:22 p.m. with Mr. Mathews announcing the closed session item under section 54957(b)(1) to discuss employment matters of the general manager. He added the board will come back into open session for announcements.

15. Closed Session

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

Title: General Manager

President Word moved the meeting back into open session at 5:25 p.m. with Mr. Mathews stating that the board met in closed session to discuss the General Manager position and the following two motions were made:

- 1. On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser the A to Z Law firm was instructed to explore and conduct the finding of an executive search agency with the goal of bringing those findings back to the meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to look for the replacement of the existing General Manager. This was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 2. On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Bergen the Assistant General Mike Flood is appointed to serve as acting General Manager during the search period commencing on September 1, 2018. Compensation is to be determined and agreed at the next meeting. This was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

16. Adjournment.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

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Secretary