



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ZONE 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FINAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY January 21, 20221**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call** -- The Zone 3 Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM via GoTo Meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic by Chairperson, Karen Bright. County Public Works Utilities Division Senior Engineer and Secretary to the Advisory Committee, Jill Ogren, called roll. Quorum was present. Members in attendance were:

- Kristen Barneich, City of Arroyo Grande
- Karen Bright, City of Grover Beach
- Shirley Gibson, Oceano CSD
- Marcia Guthrie, City of Pismo Beach
- Brad Hagemann, County Services Area 12
- Brian Talley, Agriculture Member
- Ron Reilly, Member At Large

**II. Public Comment** – This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items that are not on the Agenda. No public comment.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1)**

**A. November 19, 2020 – Member Barneich motioned approval of the minutes and Member Gibson seconded.** Member Bright requested roll call for approval. ***Motion passed.***

**IV. Operations Report**

**A. Water Plant Operations, Reservoir Storage, Downstream Releases** – Jenny Williamson, Administrative Assistant at the Lopez Water Treatment Plant, indicated: Lopez Lake elevation was 479.54 feet; storage was 19,475 acre-feet (AF), which is 39% capacity; rainfall to date, since July 1, 2020, was 2.36 inches; plant production was 3.7 million gallons per day (MGD); downstream release was 3.2 MGD; and State Water was at 0.6 MGD.

Question was raised regarding the Lopez Lake elevation and current rainfall as to if the Low Reservoir Response Plan (LRRP) would be initiated. TAC has recommended a “wait and see” approach to monitor where the lake elevation is at the end of the rain season before deciding on moving forward with initiating the LRRP or to prioritize moving forward with the contract changes.

**B. Projected Reservoir Levels** – Review of the Lopez Reservoir Projections Chart (Attachment 2 of the Agenda Packet). Currently the projection is showing storage falling close to the 17,000 AF mark by August unless Zone 3 receives more rain than what current projections show in the coming months.

Downstream releases would have been at 1.9 MGD at this time of year, but due to the Zone 1/1A AG Creek project, downstream releases were lowered from September to

October. Since that time additional water for downstream releases has been provided (3.2 MGD). Additionally, until more rain is received downstream releases will not change between now and the end of the water year on March 31<sup>st</sup>, unless less water is required by Ag. 1.9 MGD is the minimum that can be released.

**C. November and December Monthly Operations Report** – Review of the monthly operations reports with the committee (Attachment 3 of the Agenda Packet). Oceano has used all their entitlement water and currently using their surplus water, all other agencies are still utilizing their entitlement water.

No public comment was given.

## **V. Information Items**

**A. Proposed FY 21/22 Budget** – Review of the proposed budget (Attachment 4 of the Agenda Packet) by Sherri Weiss and Lynette O’Neill. Proposed budget will be mailed to the contracting agencies’ Finance Directors, TAC members and City/General Managers. An in-depth review with agency Finance Staff and Technical Staff will be held before final review by the Zone 3 Advisory Committee, scheduled for March 18, 2021.

It was noted that the City of Pismo Beach had no cost amount listed under the category for Lopez Dam Bonds and Admin. Fees on page 14 of the proposal, a question was asked if Pismo had no responsibility in costs. **Sheri Weiss, interim Zone 3 Finance Analyst, will look into the manner and send information to the Advisory Committee.**

**Request was made by the Advisory Committee for legends for the charts in the proposal booklet be sent for better clarification.**

**B. Cloudseeding Update** – On November 17, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved the Zone 3 Cloudseeding Program for FY 20-21 as well as utilizing the City of Arroyo Grande’s water tank site as location to install ground seeding equipment. Program began December 1, 2020 and continue through April 15, 2021. This year was a ground-based program only and we have seeded one time on December 27/28<sup>th</sup> with 28 flares. Estimated cost for FY 20/21 is \$180,000. There are currently three ground seeding site options for use, one being the recently acquired ground site for Arroyo Grande and two sites managed by Santa Barbara County at Berros Peak and Mt. Lospe.

There are currently two storm systems anticipated over the coming week for seeding, one system expected tomorrow and another the following week pending conditions.

Consultant will be releasing an analysis report covering the first-year program (19-20) and estimated increase in runoff and precipitation due to cloud seeding. Report will be brought to the committee. Year three of the program has been budgeted for in the 21-22 budget. Discussion in June will take place on whether the cloudseeding program should continue.

**C. Contract Changes Update** – A brief update was provided on the status of the contract changes. Draft CEQA document expected by March 2021 with a public review

period starting in April/May 2021. After public review, contract changes will be submitted to the governing board review for approval in June/July 2021. Contract expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for final approval in September 2021.

**D. Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Expenditure History** – A request was made at the last Advisory Committee meeting for further details on how much was spent and what the money was spent on for the HCP. In response, a FY timeline starting in 1994/95 was provided (Attachment 5 of the Agenda Packet) breaking down what funds were spent and where.

Due to the substantial amount of money spent on the HCP, the **Advisory Committee is requesting benchmarks, or a schedule be put together to monitor the project's expenses and other future ongoing projects.** Currently the HCP is still in draft form with the latest being a 2004 draft. Over the last couple of years work on the HCP was slow as the contract changes had been the focus. Efforts have ramped up with the initiation of the In-stream Studies.

No public comment was given.

#### **VI. Capital Projects Update**

**Bi-Monthly Update** – Jill Ogren introduced David Spiegel as her replacement upon retiring on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Updates were provided on the various capital projects (Attachment 6 of the Agenda Packet).

A request was made for a status report on the Cathodic Protection project. TAC had recommended a specific funding option and direction to follow. Currently Desiree Bravo is working on this project and putting together a Request For Proposal (RFP).

Terminal Reservoir was discussed regarding when to expect a plan on when or if the reservoir will be retrofitted. Currently an RFP for a consultant is being developed to perform the seismic alternative study and the geotechnical testing. The project could take up to 2 years.

No Public comment was given.

#### **VII. Action Items (No Subsequent Board of Supervisors Action Required)**

No Action Items discussed.

#### **VIII. Action Items (Board of Supervisors Action is Subsequently Required)**

#### **IX. Future Agenda Items**

Cloudseeding, Contract Changes, and regular updates on the HCP

#### **X. Committee Member Comments**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Williamson  
County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department