



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ZONE 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Final MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY November 19, 2020**

- 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

Announcement of the new committee members was made – Ron Reilly as Member At Large and Matthew Scudato as Alternate.

- II. **Public Comment** – Jill Ogren announced the State Office of Environmental Health and Hazard issued a fishing advisory for Lopez Lake on October 10th. This advisory offers safe eating advice on 7 species of fish based on their levels of mercury.

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

A. **September 17, 2020 – Member Barneich motioned approval of the minutes and Member Hagemann seconded.** Member Bright requested roll call for approval. ***Motion passed.***

- IV. **Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule (Attachment 2) – Member Barneich motioned approval of the meeting schedule and Member Talley seconded.** Member Bright requested roll call for approval. ***Motion passed.***

V. **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 481.93 feet; storage was 20,629 acre-feet (AF), which is 42% capacity; rainfall to date, since July 1, 2020, was 0.68 inches; plant production was 5.4 million gallons per day (MGD); downstream release was 3.4 MGD; and State Water was 0 MGD.

B. **Projected Reservoir Levels** – Review of the Lopez Reservoir Projections Chart (Attachment 3 of the Agenda Packet). The yellow line shows anticipated storage if no further rain is received. Long-range predictions show rain is expected in the coming months. Desiree Bravo, Public Works Utilities Engineer, discussed the changes made to the Storage Projections chart to provide a more accurate prediction of the reservoir's

response to rainfall. Rainfall predictions are still received from long range weather.com which looks at historical trends of rainfall to make predictions.

C. September and October Monthly Operations Report – Review of the monthly operations reports with the committee (Attachment 4 of the Agenda Packet).

No public comment was given.

VI. Information Items

A. 1st Quarter Budget Status – County Public Works Zone 3 Accountant, Kristi Smith, provided an update on the 1st Quarter Budget Status (Attachment 5 of the Agenda Packet). The \$6.3M budget was broken into three categories: Routine Operations & Maintenance, Non-Routine Operations & Maintenance, and Capital Outlay. At the end of the fiscal year, 16% of the total annual budget had been expended.

Total Budget	Expenses through Q1	Balance Available	% of Budget Expended
\$6,366,952	\$992,674	\$5,374,278	16%

Routine O&M: has a budget of \$4.1M. At the end of the first quarter, 22% of the annual budget had been expended, resulting in approximately \$3.2 available for the remainder of the year. Expenses in this category are on target with budgeted levels.

Total Budget	Expenses through Q1	Balance Available	% of Budget Expended
\$4,150,223	\$909,860	\$3,240,363	22%

Non-Routine O&M: has a budget of approximately \$1.6M. At the end of the first quarter, 2% of the annual budget has been expended, resulting in an available balance of roughly \$1.6M for the remainder of the year. Most of the items in this category have had budget carried forward from the prior year in order to continue work on them.

Total Budget	Expenses through Q1	Balance Available	% of Budget Expended
\$1,688,057	\$32,722	\$1,655,335	2%

Capital Outlay: has a budget of almost \$530,000. At the end of the first quarter, expenses were 9% of the annual budget, resulting in approximately \$480,000 available for the remainder of the year. Unspent budget from the prior year has been carried forward for several projects and accounts for the majority of this category’s budget.

All agencies are current on their payments. Earlier this month, the revised billings for FY 2019- 20 were mailed along with the 2nd installment of the FY 2020-21 billings. Payments are due January 1, 2021.

B. Cloudseeding Update – Jill Ogren announced that on November 17, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved the Zone 3 Cloudseeding Program for 20-21 as well as utilizing the City of AG's water tank site as location to install ground seeding equipment. Program will begin December 1, 2020 and continue through April 15, 2021.

C. Contract Changes Update – A brief update was provided on the status of the contract changes. The subcommittee, working on the contract changes, continues to meet to address various issues while the CEQA evaluation of potential impacts of proposed changes is being conducted by County Public Works Environmental Division. The Notice Of Preparation (NOP) of a CEQA document was released on October 29, 2020. A draft of the CEQA document is expect by March 2021 and will be available for public review from April to May of 2021. Once the public review period closes, it is anticipated that the new contract will go to each agencies Governing Board for review and approval in June/July 2021 and expected to be ready for Board of Supervisor approval by September 2021.

No public comment was given.

VII. Capital Projects Update

A. Terminal Dam Decommissioning Update – (Attachment 7 of the Agenda Packet). Jill discussed recent information received from the County's Water Quality Laboratory Manager regarding items for consideration and evaluation if we are to have direct use of Lopez Lake as opposed to using the terminal reservoir. Items mentioned were: NPDES Aquatic Weed Control Permit, Draft Recreation Plan Guidelines, Central Coast Basin Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, Monthly Sanitary Survey Inspections, and Enhanced Storm Water Treatment. These items for consideration and evaluation were presented to the TAC with a recommendation from Public Works staff that before going further with terminal dam decommissioning staff investigate options for seismically retro-fitting the terminal dam. The items for consideration and evaluation by the Water Quality Lab could have an impact on frequency of downstream releases, this is a serious concern as downstream releases are the critical factor in completing the Habitat Conservation Plan. Discussed budget available of \$89,000 this year to initiate the geotechnical investigation of the terminal dam and that ultimately staff estimates a need for approximately \$500,000 to complete a geotechnical evaluation along with a seismic remediation alternatives study. The funding is anticipated to come from the operations and maintenance reserves. Kristi Smith noted that in the past the operations and maintenance reserves were used to offset HCP costs whenever HCP costs were over \$100,000.

B. Bi-Monthly Update – Updates were provided on the various capital projects (Attachment 8 of the Agenda Packet).

No Public comment was given.

VIII. Action Items (No Subsequent Board of Supervisors Action Required)

No Action Items discussed.

IX. Action Items (Board of Supervisors Action is Subsequently Required)

X. Future Agenda Items

Cloudseeding, Contract Changes, and HCP

XI. Committee Member Comments

Member Bright asked if this is the same HCP we were working on 8 years ago. Jill stated yes. Member Reilly asked if Zone 3 over sees the groundwater sustainability plan. Member Talley stated that DWR has categorized the AG Creek sub basin as a very low priority basin. Member Talley said that he believes the HCP has been going on for 20 years. Ogren agreed and stated it started back in the 90's. Member Bright welcomed Ron Reilly to the Advisory Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Williamson
County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department