

## Nacimiento Project Commission

### **Agenda Item III – DRAFT Meeting Notes from August 26, 2010**

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#### **I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Flag Salute**

Chairman Brooks convened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Dave Brooks, Templeton CSD  
Vice Chairman Grigger Jones, Atascadero MWC  
David Romero, City of San Luis Obispo  
John Hamon, City of Paso Robles  
Frank Mecham, SLO Flood Control & Water Conservation District

#### **III. Meeting Notes from May 27, 2010**

Commissioner Mecham moved approval of the meeting notes for the May 27, 2010, Commission meeting; Commissioner Jones seconded; passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Commission Information Items**

Construction Status: Construction Manager Johnnie Overton, Jacobs, updated the Commission on Project status. Each pump station has been started with localized “loop flows” for initial testing. Intake Pump #3 has yet to run pending correction of the valve stem clearance issue. Initial flows have been made to T4 and T6 with flows to T2 and T11 next in sequence.

The 30-day commissioning test will begin at the end of September, during which time District operators will put the facilities through a wide array of operations.

Construction on Spec 3 is complete with record drawings in progress. Spec 5 is working through their punch list and has completed the electrical feed to T11 such that the Spec 2 contractor may proceed.

Jacobs is working to clean up any outstanding change order requests.

Pipeline Inspection Issue: With regard to the approximately 12,000 foot section of Unit C/C1 that has yet to be internally inspected, Mr. Overton reported that an inspection plan has been presented to the Technical Support Group and will next be discussed with the City of Paso Robles. The proposed plan will require dewatering a long segment of the pipeline, isolating the affected reach, cutting in access points, and manned entry. Work in the vicinity of Highway 46 is somewhat problematic. The process may take 4-6 weeks to complete and may be performed during December 2010. Commissioner Hamon asked about traffic control and public notification. Traffic control to allow one-lane of traffic through narrow sections of North River Road will be necessary during working times, and both lanes are planned to be opened during nonworking times. A shut-down of North River Road and detour may also be feasible. Commissioner Brooks asked if public notification ahead of dewatering might be necessary. Those flows will be routed into storm drains, making use of established drainage ways.

Intake Status: John Hollenbeck described damage to the stainless steel intake pipe that occurred on or about August 11, 2010, during dewatering of the shaft and the intake pipe to prepare for the repositioning of the 48-inch butterfly valve at the bottom of the shaft so

its actuator would not interfere with Pump Unit No. 3. No one was injured. It appears that sections of the 48-inch diameter pipe buckled as a result of the external load of the lakewater. Portal Valve No. 2 is opened and uncontrolled by the hydraulic power unit. The lowest intake valve (Valve No. 1) is operable and was opened, allowing start-up flows to proceed. The circumstances of the pipe buckling are under investigation by the District.

Mussel Prevention: Mr. Hollenbeck shared highlights of the discussion that took place at the August 5, 2010, Nacimiento Reservoir Operations Committee, including criticism of one of the larger private ramps that has not evidently staffed a full mussel inspection program. Commissioners remarked that private ramp programs are voluntary and that each is to be applauded for their efforts. The public ramps, on the other hand, are commissioned to manage the public boat ramps and are expected to staff and enforce public programs. Commissioner Mecham distributed an informational flier prepared voluntarily by private ramps.

Carolyn Berg explained that State Dept of Fish & Game provide support materials for mussel prevention programs, but not staff for individual lake enforcement. Commissioner Mecham asked about mussel-sniffing dogs and Ms. Berg replied that there are logistical hurdles to overcome such as getting mussel samples for dog training and coming up with perhaps \$8,000 to \$10,000 for training in addition to ongoing handler/canine costs. Commissioner Hamon shared that flotation devices are subject to inspection at some California lakes, not just motorboats. Commissioner Mecham shared that boaters at Lake Tahoe are required to go through an inspection and to display a current tag. A fee to fund inspections and enforcement is also collected.

Progress on cooperative mussel prevention with MCWRA is stalled. Ms. Berg stated that the Nacimiento Water Project's efforts remain centered on public education. Mr. Hollenbeck noted that the FY 10/11 Nacimiento Water Operating Fund budget includes funding for mussel prevention efforts and that neither MCWRA nor Monterey County Parks budgeted for such activities in their fiscal planning. MCWRA did secure a \$50,000 grant that may have already been spent.

Other Informational Items: On other topics, MCWRA asked if oaks could be planted on their property as part of the Project tree replacement program. The District awaits a written proposal from MCWRA.

PG&E's service improvements are complete, in time for system start-up.

AB 1929, the bill that provides indemnification for operators whose lakes become infested with invasive species, has been signed by the Governor.

Mr. Hollenbeck commented on the status of construction claims, noting that the Intake Pump Station Seismic Issue might be settled without legal action. The "Null and Void" wording in the Project Manager's report reflects staff determination of merits. Contractors may pursue legal action even after such a determination.

Valve Turning Ceremony: The Commission previously authorized a \$25,000 budget for this ribbon-cutting/dedication event. Mr. Hollenbeck reminded the Commission that one alternative is to forego the event altogether. If plans proceed, the plan would be for Paavo Ogren and John Hollenbeck to host the event with a video feed of water deliveries

to a downstream turnout. Interviews with Commissioners would be recorded for display during the event, an approach that would reduce production costs.

Another option is to commemorate the Project start-up at the Board of Supervisors' meeting. There was general concurrence that it is customary to acknowledge completion of a public project of this importance that is both on time and under budget. The Commission preferred an event separate from the Board of Supervisors' meeting. The Commission expressed a desire to keep the event modest and allow time to express thanks to those who collaborated in the Project's success.

#### **V. Project Update and Photo Series**

John Hollenbeck shared excerpts from a recent presentation, including photographs of the newly constructed facilities. He described the function of the "pig launcher" near the Intake which is to introduce swabs or "pigs" into the pipeline to clean its interior.

The first flows of water at a turnout occurred on August 13, 2010, to Atascadero Mutual Water Company (Unit T6).

#### **VI. November 2010 Commission Meetings**

The November 4, 2010, valve turning event will be in lieu of the regular November TSG meeting. A route tour is to be held on:

##### **Route Tour**

Friday, October 8, 2010

Leaving Atascadero Mutual Water Company Offices

Noon

Commissioner Brooks, Hamon, and Jones plan to attend. This event is open to the public.

Commissioner Hamon moved to conduct the route tour on October 8, 2010, then the Valve Turning on November 4, 2010, with the next regular Commission meeting set for November 18, 2010. Commissioner Jones seconded; passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. Future Agenda Items Desired by Commission**

Commissioner Mecham asked if the District was ready to take over Project operations. Mr. Hollenbeck confirmed that operations staff is in place. Dean Benedix, County Utilities Division Manager, reported that Carolyn Berg and Scott Duffield are to transfer from the Project construction team to Utilities Division. He acknowledged plans for the senior operator to retire in four months. Operators may attend the November 18, 2010, Commission meeting to report on readiness.

Neither Commissioner Brooks nor Commissioner Romero will seek reelection at their agencies and consequently their terms on the Nacimiento Project Commission will end in December 2010.

At 5:30 pm, Chairman Brooks adjourned the meeting to the October 8, 2010. The November 4, 2010, valve turning/dedication ceremony will be a regular noticed meeting of the Nacimiento Water Commission.

*Submitted by Christine Halley*