

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ZONE 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY September 19, 2019**

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call** -- The Zone 3 Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at the City of Grover Beach Council Chambers by Committee Chair and City of Arroyo Grande Representative, Kristen Barneich.

County Public Works Utilities Division Senior Engineer and Secretary to the Advisory Committee, Jill Ogren, called roll. Quorum was present. Members in attendance were:

- Shirley Gibson, Oceano CSD
- Kristen Barneich, City of Arroyo Grande
- Marcia Guthrie, City of Pismo Beach
- Karen Bright, City of Grover Beach
- Jim Garing, Member at Large
- Brian Talley, Agriculture Member

- II. **Public Comment** – Ms. Ogren handed out the updated San Luis Obispo County Zone 3 Flood Control District brochure providing information on the facilities that encompass Zone 3. Brochure is available on the County’s Zone 3 website.

III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A. **March 21, 2019 and July 18, 2019** – Member Barneich motioned approval; Member Gibson seconded. Member Bright abstained and Member Garing abstained for the March 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes approval. Ms. Ogren clarified Robert’s Rules of Order stating a member did not need to be present at previous meetings in order to vote on approval. All that is needed is to have a quorum present at the meeting for approval even if a member abstains. ***motion passed.***

IV. **Operations Report**

A. **Water Plant Operations, Reservoir Storage, Downstream Releases** -- Ms. Ogren indicated: Lopez Lake elevation was 493.60 feet; storage was 27,117 acre-feet (AF), which is 55% capacity; rainfall to date, since July 1, 2019, was 0 inches; plant production was 5.6 million gallons per day (MGD); downstream release was 2.7 MGD; and State Water was 0.77 MGD.

B. **Projected Reservoir Levels** – Ms. Ogren, referring to the Lopez Reservoir Projections Chart, noted Lopez reservoir was well above the Low Reservoir Response Plan trigger of 20,000 AF but projections are on a downward trend due to no rain. Projected rain fall shows rain is expected for the month of September and October, this will be tracked to see how accurate projections are.

C. **July & August Monthly Operations Report** -- Ms. Ogren, reviewed the monthly operations reports with the committee. Stored State Water is slightly increasing as

several agencies are not taking State Water at this time, but some State Water is being used to help blend with Lopez Water. Quantity of water being delivered to agencies is still on track and all agencies are still using their Entitlement. Ms. Ogren noted the chart is a little different due to adding an extra column of data for Surplus Requested that began in July of 2019.

No public comment was given.

## **V. Information Items**

**A. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget Status** – Kristi Smith, County of Public Works Finance Division Accountant, discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter budget status and referred to Attachment 4 in the Agenda Packet. 95% of the annual budget expenses for Routine O&M were used and resulted in a savings of \$213,277 of the budgeted \$3.9M. 47% of the annual budget expenses for Non-Routine O&M were used and resulted in \$352,000 being carried forward into FY 2019-20. 7% of the annual budget expenses for Capital Outlay were used and most of the unspent budget will be carried forward into FY 2019-20 while approximately \$117,000 in unspent budget from completed projects will be credited back to the agencies. All agencies are current on their payments and an estimated \$381,495 in credit for FY 2018-19 will be allocated to the agencies.

Ms. Smith made a correction on the budget status she provided at the July meeting regarding direction from the Advisory Committee about increasing the contractor's reserves with some of the estimated credit. No direction will be requested. During the development of the FY 2019-20 budget, TAC expressed interest in increasing their contractor reserves if there were savings from the Cloudseeding effort. This will not be discussed with TAC until the Spring of 2020 and will be brought forward to the Advisory Committee at that time.

Member Bright asked if most of the savings came from Pigging line item in the Non-Routine O&M and how the savings from all three categories (Routine O&M, Non-Routine O&M, and Capital Outlay) were achieved. Ms. Smith confirmed most of the savings came from the Pigging item which has been removed and referred to the graphs on Attachment 4.

Member Barneich requested a description of the Pigging item. Ms. Smith stated she was unable to answer that question. Member Garing clarified that Pigging is a process where flexible plugs are inserted into a pipeline and pushed through by the water pressure to help clean the inside of the pipeline. The piggs (plugs) used will have different abrasive surfaces on the outside and come in different diameters. TAC had made the decision that the project was not needed at this time which is why most savings came from Pigging.

No public comment was given.

**B. Water Supply Contract Changes Update** – Ms. Ogren introduced Dan Heimel, of Water Systems Consulting Inc., who is a consultant hired by the District to assist with Coordination on this work effort. Mr. Heimel provided a Power Point presentation on the proposed contract changes that would allow Contractors the ability to store water year over year. The status and results of current modeling efforts and next steps was discussed. Mr. Heimel referred to Attachment 5 in the Agenda Packet.

Member Barneich asked why the water supply contracts were setup as a “Use it or Lose it” situation. Ms. Ogren clarified that the original contracts from the early 1960s were written with the idea that if one agency could not put the water to beneficial use then it should be available to someone else. Unfortunately, this does not allow for multi-year planning, only a year by year basis for planning. The contracts were written and entered into prior to the Lopez dam construction.

Member Guthrie/Gibson asked if there was a timeline for the contract changes process. Mr. Heibel stated the agencies would like to move this forward on an expedited timeline and would like to be able to have modeling results that include storage, ideally, by the November Advisory Committee meeting.

Member Bright asked if Mr. Heibel expected to be at the November Advisory Committee meeting with the CEQA Evaluations. Mr. Heibel clarified that he was hoping to be back at that time with authorization to begin the CEQA Evaluations.

Member Talley asked what the timeframe on the CEQA review would be. Ms. Ogren stated there is no estimate on the timeframe just yet, but she or Mr. Heibel will come back with an answer.

No public comment was given.

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

**B. Bi-Monthly Update** – Ms. Ogren, referencing the staff report on Capital Improvement Project Updates (Attachment 6), presented the current list of projects to be completed and a brief discussion of the status of each project. Since the July meeting, there has not been much change in project status.

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)**

**Cloud Seeding**– Ms. Ogren introduced Ray Dienzo, County of Public Works Water Resources Engineer, who discussed the Cloud Seeding project update and referenced Attachment 7 in the Agenda Packet. Mr. Dienzo confirmed the Request For Proposals (RFP) has been released and has a 2-week bidding period for proposals. Bids will be opened on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Project RFP is for a 3-year program. Project start date is anticipated to be December 15, 2019. January 2020 would be the earliest to actually begin cloudseeding.

Mr. Dienzo discussed the proposed suspension criteria for the program located at the end of the staff report. Suspension criteria is a set of criteria that will be evaluated prior to seeding a particular storm to determine if seeding should continue. Mr. Dienzo stated that he had met with agricultural representatives to get input on the criteria related to agricultural impacts. Ag representative Brian Talley requested that suspension criteria #7 be changed to be more general and read “any impacts to Ag...” because the main impact will not be during harvest but during planting. Mr. Dienzo reiterated that this suspension

criteria is adaptive. The Board of Supervisors will be asked to approve the suspension criteria at time of contract award, target date is December 10, 2019.

Member Barneich asked how much rain prior to cloudseeding would cause an impact to agricultural crops specifically the planting operations. Member Talley replied that his understanding is that based on historic data, the expectation is that this program would increase rainfall between 7-13% and that the target area is the area above the dam so he is not expecting much direct impact from the cloud seeding operations. Mr. Dienzo confirmed that the focus of the Cloud Seeding area will be predominantly behind Lopez Dam, not over urban or agricultural areas.

Member Bright asked if this is the first time for Cloud Seeding to take place for Zone 3. Mr. Dienzo confirmed this would be the first time officially and Member Garing provided information regarding a previous Cloud Seeding arrangement with Santa Barbara County in the early 1990s but that partnership was cancelled as orders were received to lower the Lopez Dam levels and in 1998-99 were very wet years that further delayed progress on Cloud Seeding.

No Public comment was given.

**IX. Future Agenda Items**

**A. Contract Changes**

**B. Cloud Seeding**

**C. Low Reservoir Response Plan (LRRP)**

**D. Cost/Benefit Analysis of Abandoning Use of the Terminal Reservoir**

**X. Committee Member Comments** – Member Talley acknowledged Ms. Ogren attending a meeting with local farming community and presented a nice overview of the Contract Changes provided by Dan Heimel and the impacts it will have for local farmers. It was helpful and provided a lot of productive discussions.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:53 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Williamson  
County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department