

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
April 22, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held April 22, 2009 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Hicks, Handley, Kaiser, Baggerly and Word were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were two staff members and no members of the public in attendance. President Hicks led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. Board of Director comments.

Director Word reported that the Ventura Chamber Government Affairs group will support anything on water that protects the source, quality and the rate payers rates.

Director Kaiser asked if the Forest Service started their construction in the Teague watershed. Mr. Wickstrum replied they have not but we received a request for a temporary water meter for that location. Director Kaiser offered appreciation for the background information from the Bureau and mentioned that there were comments in the material regarding how the leasing of the area would take care of clandestine drug labs. Has there ever been drug labs established in the watershed? Mr. Wickstrum stated that during the shut down of highway 150 in 1998 there was a marijuana patch that was planted but there have not been drug labs.

President Hicks reported that the Rotary club of Ojai is excited about taking over the boat. They put together a nice brochure including the history of the lake and they are really enthusiastic about it. This will be free for the school kids. If they can keep the boat in good condition and have the proper insurance and appropriate boat captain. It will be great to provide information to young children regarding water and conservation.

3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum mentioned that at the HCP meeting yesterday the City of Ventura expressed concern of the expansions at Taylor ranch may impact fisheries.

Regarding the tour boat we are pleased with the response and approach they are taking. We are treating that boat as any other boat. They have an annual pass and people that come in to use the boat follow the same rules; either have an annual pass, or pay the day fees. We will work out something with passes for tours to come in just for the tour. It is a cooperative effort and good

for the community and this district. Director Baggerly asked if John Taft transferred ownership. Director Hicks confirmed that he had.

Mr. Wickstrum reported on the increased algae growth over the last few days. It is being monitored and we notified the City of Ventura. We could anticipate a taste and odor problem which we do not have at this time. Susan is monitoring the lake and applying for permits for application of copper sulfate or hydrogen peroxide.

We are now able to take and process credit cards on line. This month we had no turn offs. Director Kaiser asked that the board's appreciation be sent to Denise and her staff.

The fish populations in the Robles reach and Land Conservancy pools have dropped. They will be landlocked in pools. Tomorrow we are meeting with NMFS regarding removal and will look at the Land Conservancy pool for possible rescue. NOAA and DFG met today to figure out what to do with the fish. Director Kaiser suggested there could be predation. Mr. Wickstrum added there is connectivity to Matilija Dam at this point.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that Mr. Paul Dougherty with Senior Canyon was at the Finance Committee meeting. He took our desire for them to sign a note for the debt to his committee Friday afternoon and indications are that they are looking to sign a note. We had our auditor there to help explain our needs and our consequences. Senior Canyon is holding a shareholder meeting on Saturday. I have an invite but at this point I am hesitant to attend. I can't see getting in the middle of their issues in addition to board members removing themselves. This last month they took in an additional \$30,000 and hopefully we will see the check and the promissory note. There was an indication from Senior Canyon that they thought they would be able to pay off the balance in four months.

4. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the April 8, 2009 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommendation approving the Identity Theft Program.
- c. Resolution expressing appreciation to Brent Doan for 30 years of service.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Consent Agenda

Director Word offered the consent agenda for Item a, and b, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed.

On item c, the resolution for Brent Doan, there is a slight modification to note that the first two years Mr. Doan served as part time and 28 years as a full-time employee.

The resolution, as modified, was offered by Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 09-08.

5. Bills APPROVED

Director Word questioned #1987 for fencing at the dam for \$2,400. Mr. Wickstrum explained this is a project we have started because of trespassers. Director Word then questioned #2010 for the Rincon Main leak. Mr. Wickstrum explained this was a significant leak of 50 gallons per min but was hard to locate.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Word and passed, the bills were approved.

6. Committee/Manager Reports APPROVED FOR FILING

a. Finance Committee Minutes

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Word and passed, the Committee/Manager Reports were approved for filing.

7. Recommendation to set a budget workshop for May 6, 2009 and provide the preliminary draft budget to the board for initial review.

APPROVED

Mr. Wickstrum reported that staff worked hard to meet the goals that are expressed in the memorandum. We scrutinized the expenditures. We are seeing a good trend on our trucks and had planned on replacing some but they are still in good shape. We have left one truck replacement in the budget. We have based our water sales on 17,500 acre feet. We will see an increase in the Edison power bills. We have assumed we will receive the full property taxes but that is something that could be taken away. Staff has done a good job in providing realistic estimates and what they can complete next year. There are a couple of delays in a couple of areas where we are moving some projects from this year to next year. The key thing we strived for is to not have an increase in water rates and keep the rates stable for this year. Recreation is a struggle. We have gone through some rate hikes and it will be interesting to see if the economy will have an impact on it. Brent went through the numbers and we tried to be conservative on revenue estimates. Expenses have not changed much and I do not see us increasing fees or reducing services. We will take more looks at the way financing is structured. We have to continue to maintain that balance between recreation and the water side of our business.

Director Baggerly asked if the depreciation list is accurate. Mr. Wickstrum replied that depreciation is accurate and is going down for the recreation area. Director Baggerly added that we will need to get a reserve fund built up. Director Word asked if Neil had been able to follow up on the energy alliance. Mr. Wickstrum will ask Neil to try to find funding. Edison did have some money and there was a \$78,000 rebate on refurbishment at Rincon pump plant. Director Kaiser added it was commendable to see staff and management try to keep the budget the way it is and streamline it and make it more efficient and keep the rates status quo. Director Hicks asked if May 6th would work for the budget workshop and it was agreeable to all.

Director Baggerly suggested that a couple of additional expenditures be added including funding of the Ventura County Watershed Coalition, Tri County Fish Team and membership in the Salmonid Restoration Federation. Mr. Merckling explained that money was in the budget for the VCWC. Mr. Wickstrum added that we need to have good justification for what we spend.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the above recommendation was approved.

8. Information Items:

- a. Recreation Area Report for March.
- b. Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council Meeting Notice.
- c. Investment Report

9. Closed Session

Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Section 54956.8):
District Designated Negotiators: Steve Wickstrum, Jim Word, Russ Baggerly

Property: Appropriative water rights, including future appropriative water rights, to the waters of Matilija Creek, and associated appurtenances including Matilija Conduit.

Negotiating Parties: Ventura County Watershed Protection District, County of Ventura, and California State Water Resources Control Board
Under Negotiation: Price, identification and nature of consideration other than cash, and terms of payment.

President Hicks moved the meeting to closed session at 5:13 p.m. per Government Code Section 54956.8.

10. Adjournment

President Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m. stating the board was appraised by the negotiating team and received board direction.

Secretary