

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Special Board Meeting Held
August 26, 2008

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held August 26, 2008 at the Oak View Community Center located at 18 Valley Road, Oak View, California. Directors Word, Hicks, Handley, Kaiser and Baggerly 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 seventeen members of the public in attendance. President Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. Board of Director comments.

None

3. Public Protest Hearing for the adoption of rate changes per Proposition 218. Written protests must be received by Casitas prior to the close of the public hearing. Adoption of the following resolution cannot occur if there is a majority protest against the rate increases.

The President of the Board may restrict the length of time to three minutes to address the Board.

President Word opened the public hearing at 5:32 p.m. and asked the Clerk of the Board to provide the total number of calls or protests that had been received. Rebekah Vieira reported there were 75 protests, including those received tonight.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that during the rate hearing last year it was suggested that there may be some inadequacies in the model we had been using for many years. Raftelis was hired to provide us a model which was consistent to industry standards and complied with Proposition 218. We held many open public forums and committee meetings regarding the rate structure. The recommendation by Raftelis was a restructuring of meter service charges and water rates. Raftelis provided the water rates study, revenue requirements, rate and impact listing. At the June 25, 2008 regular board meeting the board adopted the water rate model and budget. The budget was predicated on proposed changes to water rates. They are subject to a 45 day notice and resulting in this meeting. The total number of parcels is 3,107. We notified those parcels on July 11th. If the initial count of protests does not approach 1,554 protests the board may proceed with consideration of the proposed rates. If there is a majority protest, the fees or charges will not be adopted.

Director Word thanked the public for their participation in our public meetings that were held on the budget and rates and opened the meeting to public comments on the rates.

Speakers at the public hearing included Jim Churchill, Tony Thatcher, Emily Ayala, Jim Finch, Chuck Starn, Lisa Brenneis, DeWayne Boccalis, Mary Bergen, Randolph Siple, Jim Ruch, Peter Strauss and Scott Vanderkar who all spoke against the changes to the rate increases.

There was concern from the Agriculture community that the rates would cause many operators to go off the district water and onto wells and there was concern that the groundwater basin would not be sufficient. There was also concern expressed that the Ag business would not be able to sustain the increased cost for water and for the future of the Ag business in the Ojai valley. It was suggested that the rate model needed to be understood.

President Word closed the public hearing at 6:39 p.m. and asked the Clerk if there were enough responses to be considered a majority protest. The Clerk stated no, there was no majority protest.

The Board spoke briefly about the rates and the water rate study. They also expressed that capital improvements need to be done to maintain the aging system.

- a. Resolution adopting revisions to the Rate and Regulations for Water Service. ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Handley, seconded by Director Hicks and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 08-32.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Secretary