

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board of Directors Meeting Held
November 14, 2007

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held November 14, 2007 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Baggerly, Word, Hicks, Handley and Kaiser were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Carole Iles substituting for Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board and Attorney, Rob Sawyer. There were two staff members and five member of the public in attendance. Director Baggerly led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None.

2. Board of Director comments.

Director Hicks passed around photographs taken at Lake Nacimiento showing the drought condition and other Directors commented on conditions at other lakes. The New Zealand mud snail has been found in Piru Creek between the reservoir and Frenchman's Flat, probably brought by fishermen who did not clean their boots. Mr. Wickstrum observed that Piru does not receive state water. The Asian clam is also a problem in some areas.

Director Baggerly announced that the ACWA Agenda includes an item on Quagga mussels with a panel including Dean Messer, Environmental Assessment Department of Water Resources, a Consulting Engineer from Metropolitan and someone from Ontario power generation. There is also a possibility that representatives from both the Lower Colorado and Mid Pacific Regions of the USBR will be present in the same room.

3. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the October 24, 2007 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of Purchase Order #08241 to ITT Industries in the amount of \$21,870.00 to rebuild Unit #2, Ventura Avenue #2 Pump Plant.
- c. Resolution canceling the November 28 Board Meeting.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed by the following roll call vote.

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

Resolution is numbered 07-56

4. Bills

APPROVED

Director Hicks questioned #25723 to Wells Fargo. Mr. Wickstrum explained that Wells Fargo is the District's credit card company and the items listed were charges to the card.

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

5. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Personnel Committee.
- b. Revision to the previously reviewed Recreation Committee minutes dated October 18, 2007, stating due to lack of quorum no meeting of the Recreation Committee was conducted on October 12, 2007. Finance Committee

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

6. Staff Presentations

- a. Update on the recent meetings and proposed actions regarding the Quagga mussel.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that Quagga mussels had migrated from the Great Lakes to the Lower Colorado region and were starting to move into reservoirs by attaching to boats. There is some Federal and State activity and the States of Utah and Arizona are becoming concerned. The problem is similar to that of the Zebra mussels. They attach to intake structures restricting inflow and degrading water quality, also releasing phosphorus and impacting algae causing taste and odor problems. They migrate on boats in the bilges, bait tanks and on the hulls. Casitas has embarked on action to find out more about Quaggas and what agencies are doing in a cooperative effort to eradicate or mitigate the problem. The SAP group looked at the problem when mussels first entered into the Colorado River. Metropolitan Water District has embarked on a \$5 million project to treat water as it enters into their system. One lake in San Diego County has been closed to boating. The Governor's bill AB1683 gives the Department of Fish & Game authority to close waters that are infected and impound boats that may come out of those waters and transmit to other lakes. The State has set up inspections at agricultural stops to prevent interstate migration. There is no category of funding or resources. Casitas plans to meet with Congressional representatives and Assembly members to encourage funding, resources and science to prevent the mussels from entering into Lake Casitas and other lakes. The District is not alone in its concern but there are funding problems statewide and at the federal level. Pedro Nava and Congressman Gallegly's office are in the education process and want to know what they can do for us. There will be a

teleconference on Monday with Michael Jackson and Casitas will also meet with him and William Steel, the Colorado representative, at the ACWA meeting. Michael Jackson and his biologist apparently have a complete unawareness of the potential for the mussels getting into our system. Government agencies claim they just became aware of the problem and need to be pressured. Fishing Clubs also need to be involved. There is a need to be proactive to protect ourselves. It will take some resources but it can be done.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that changes are being made to the existing Ordinance to include the ability for staff and the Board to give direction if there is a potential for any type of contamination. Casitas is the primary water reservoir in Ventura County and of primary importance is the drinking water and maintenance of its purity. Operations staff need to think about their requirements if mussels do enter the lake. Inspections will be performed at the entrance to Lake Casitas and service will be denied if there is a potential for any type of contamination.

Director Handley said that a draconian option would be to prohibit boats on the lake but that would require prior warning. Since mussels are now in San Diego County boats could possibly be prohibited from more than 100 miles away.

Mr. Wickstrum suggested that there are options for control at the gate entrance. Decontamination units could be funded and Bass Clubs could participate to protect their sport. Also, a central system of CF numbers with bar codes giving information on facilities visited could be developed by state agencies.

Director Hicks observed that it could not be assumed that local boats had not been somewhere else.

Director Kaiser said that an invasive species must be taken seriously and dealt with very quickly, purposefully and diligently. There may be scientific information on how to vaccinate the lake by treating organisms holistically by interfering with reproduction.

Director Word thought that proactive protection should be Districtwide and not the sole responsibility of the Recreation Area.

Director Hicks requested that Ron Merckling contact people in the Midwest to see how they have treated the mussel problem.

7. Action Items

a. Ordinance revising the Rules and Regulations for the Public Use of Lake Casitas Recreation Area. ADOPTED.

Mr. Sawyer confirmed that Board has broad Ordinance powers and changes can be adopted by voice vote of the majority of the Board.

Mr. Wickstrum informed the Board that he had made changes to Ordinance No. 06-03 adopted in June 2003. The changes were made to the boating Section 5.2. Mr. Wickstrum read aloud Sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.2.1. A Concessionaire employee had reported that some crayfish from San Diego may be contaminated and he no longer purchased them. Section 5.4 originally allowed a wide variety of sport fishing bait but would not now allow any bait.

Minor changes recommended were to add the word "or" between the words "launch" and "take, and the word "when" after "survey" in Section 5.2.2, additionally, to remove the word "boats" between "vessels" and "and" in Section 5.2.2.1.

The meeting was opened to public comment from attendees who had made a request to be heard, in order received.

Mr. Gary Wolfe said that he was glad to hear Casitas was working with other lakes and addressing the subject of the bait. Live wells contain mostly bass that spit up what they have eaten, usually crawdads that may have mussels attached. Some bass will be sucked back into the pumps which contain water where mussels can live for months. There is a need for something to kill them in the water in the pumps. Since bass fishermen travel all over, a 100 mile restriction is not realistic. The Bass Clubs are also concerned. The mussels at Lake Erie killed the algae and shut down food chain. The fishery took 20 years to recover.

Mr. Bill Faulkner said that he was a concerned citizen of Ventura. He was alarmed that the prevention practices were going to depend on the honor system. An affidavit is not 100% neither is sanitizing upon entry. Quaggas are still being found on boats at Lake Mead. Zebra mussels caused \$3 billion in damage to the power industry, \$5 billion in damage to business and community. Technology impacts the environment and introduction of non natives has perils also. The lake could be impacted irreversibly. The only real option is to close the lake to outside boats and to only allow rental boats or private boats to be moored at Lake Casitas. He felt movement must be rapid. A go-slow approach could be too little too late.

Director Hicks felt that care should be taken in how the issue is presented to the public.

Mr. Larry Yuva thought that other people could experiment; Casitas should close the lake which would benefit the fishery. There are so many unknowns such as migrating birds. It would be most cost effective to shut the lake down now and lose a year's worth of fees.

Director Kaiser said his research showed that one of the predators is a migratory diving duck that regurgitates mollusks; there may be other possibilities of entries into the lake.

Director Baggerly said that Quagga and Zebra mussels concentrate botulism inside the birds and then there is a bird kill.

Mr. Denis Harper spoke as a concerned citizen and boat owner. He strongly supported pro-active action against invasive species. As a sport fisherman he had watched Oregon's quandary with the New Zealand mud snail. A map of Oregon 2 years ago showed them in river drainage and in Eastern Oregon but who knew where they were today. The Department of Fish & Game is trying to control them, the cost of prevention being more economical than the cost of eradication. He felt the honor system would not work and supported strong, aggressive pro-active prevention action.

Mr. Bill Lord said he endorsed the previous comments, changing the Ordinance and having the survey completed under the penalty of perjury. He thought it naïve to think that without an inspection, people would not say anything they needed to that would allow them on the lake.

Director Baggerly observed that a bill authored by Lois Whall had passed in October giving Fish & Game authority to deal with the Quagga issue. They can quarantine boats and close infected waters to private boating. The penalty for anyone resisting the quarantine or lying about visiting infected waters is punishable by a \$1,000 fine. If mussels are found on a boat, F&G may like us to keep the boat.

Pat Baggerly asked if boats were going to be stopped and inspected at the gate as well as boaters being required to complete the form. It was confirmed that was correct.

The ordinance was offered by Director Handley, seconded by Director Kaiser and approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 07-01

b. Resolution authorizing entering into an agreement with Senior Canyon for the administration of the Proposition 50 grant. ADOPTED

Mr. Wickstrum said that part of the wait while working on the agreement had been valuable in that Casitas and Senior Canyon had worked through the San Antonio Creek spreading grounds and learned to coordinate and accommodate with each other. The agreement, which includes a lot of things they brought to us and things we needed, was well received by their Board. Changes on the original draft included completion of a pipeline giving them ample water supply to move them all the way to a resale rate. In July they asked

for a delay in going to resale to prevent financial troubles, to which we agreed and they did not want it linked to the agreement. We may have to decide on that at a later date when we move them to resale.

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

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

Resolution is numbered 07-57

c. Resolution authorizing the signing of the Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Subgrant Agreement with the County of Ventura.

ADOPTED

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

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

Resolution is numbered 07-58

d. Discussion regarding the Board and Committee meetings in December and recommendations for any changes to the meeting schedule.

Mr. Sawyer counseled that if any meetings were changed from a regularly established date, they should be canceled and new special meetings convened.

There was no Closed Session.

Mr. Sawyer updated the Board regarding Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Zone 7, et al., v. State of California Department of Water Resources, etc., et. al., Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 05AS01775.

Mr. Wickstrum briefly reported on the status of Casitas' appeal to the Federal Circuit Court.

President Baggerly adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Secretary