

**SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2009**

1. **Roll Call**

6:30 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

- 1.1 Conference with District Labor Negotiator to Give Direction Regarding Memorandum of Understanding with SEIU Local 521

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION - President LaHue reconvened the meeting to Open Session and called the regular session to order at 7:01 p.m.

Report from Closed Session - President LaHue stated that the Board gave direction to the labor negotiator regarding the Memorandum of Understanding with SEIU Local 521.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Thomas LaHue, President
Bruce Daniels, Vice President
Dan Kriege
Dr. Bruce Jaffe
Dr. Don Hoernschemeyer

Staff Members Present:

Laura Brown, General Manager
Bob Bosso, District Counsel
Jeff Gailey, Engineering Manager/Chief Engineer
Michelle Boisen, Financial/Business Services Manager
Ron Duncan, Conservation & Customer Service Field (CCSF) Manager
Taj Dufour, Operations & Maintenance Manager
Denise Alexander, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

Others Present:

1 member of the public

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 3, 2009

On page 4, Item 6.1 - Director Daniels referred to Figure 4: *Sample Capture Zones in Lower Part of DEF Unit for Pumping in BC Unit* from HydroMetrics' proposal stating he disagreed with the methodology that the areas identified as capture zones around each well are the only areas worth ***giving a WDO credit for*** retrofitting.

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Daniels: To approve the minutes of February 3, 2009 as modified. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Virginia Sajan, a resident of Soquel since 1992, stated she was frustrated with the “hard water” mineral residue she is seeing on faucets and appliances with resulting replacement becoming a financial issue and was also worried that it could be a health issue. She added that the motor failed on her 3-year old dishwasher and when it was disassembled the pump was encrusted with mineral scale. She recommended conducting a survey to find out how wide-spread the problem is. The Board reassured Ms. Sajan that the mineral residue is not harmful, and they responded to her questions whether the level of hard water is more prevalent in certain areas and what remedies would be helpful, e.g. water softener system and cleaning solutions. Staff provided input. The Board thanked Ms. Sajan for expressing her concerns.

Director Daniels suggested that the District do some public outreach tied to the “World Water Day” event on March 22. He visited Nob Hills Foods and confirmed a constituent’s complaint that they use running water to thaw their fish. He referred to Resolution 06-08 that states “Indiscriminate running of water or washing with water which is wasteful” is prohibitive, and requested sending a written violation notice to Nob Hill Foods. CCSF Manager Ron Duncan reported that Santa Cruz County Health Services had informed staff that “flowing” water to defrost fish is a requirement; using standing water is prohibited. Staff will pursue this matter further.

Director Jaffe commented on a flyer that he saw at a local store titled *Soquel Creek Water District = leaded silicoflourides (sic) since 2001*. Ms. Brown stated that the District does not add any form of fluoride to the water. Director Jaffe stated he would attempt to locate the source to correct the misinformation being distributed.

President LaHue thanked staff for the press release in the Aptos Times that provided information from the District’s hydrologist report on the issues being faced by the District and the potential desalination project. He heard of an

effective method being used by a utility company to get people to conserve by providing their neighbors' usage amount on the customer's bill. Possibly the District could include information on typical use by similar customers as a comparison (e.g. typical single-family household). He requested that a discussion of the Board's position on a letter that was sent to the Regional Water Quality Control Board from several agencies be on the March 3, 2009 agenda. Ms. Brown stated that the District's endorsement in that particular letter and a policy for handling requests from other agencies for written positions or comments will be on the next agenda.

4. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – February 3, 2009**

- 4.1 Conference with District Labor Negotiator to Give Direction Regarding Memorandum of Understanding with SEIU Local 521

(The Closed Session item was not heard).

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

6. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- 6.1 Will Serve Water Service Application for Dave Michael, Robak Drive, La Selva Beach, APN 045-331-03, 04

Engineering Manager Jeff Gailey stated that the application is for two new single-family dwellings. The proposed location has frontage on an existing 2-inch main located two lots to the west of Robak Drive on a right-of-way. Subsequent to discussion concerning adequate fire protection, the Will Serve Letter will state that a right-of-way main replacement is required.

<p>MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Jaffe: To authorize the District's Conditional Will Serve Letter that includes a right-of-way main replacement requirement, indicating that the District will conditionally serve the two single-family dwellings to be located west of Robak Drive on an un-named right-of-way in La Selva Beach, APN 045-331-03, 04. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.</p>
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- 6.2 Claim of Damage – James Hodge, 284 Ventana Way, Aptos, Damaged Toilet

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Hoernschemeyer: To deny the subject claim and forward to JPIA for review and resolution. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6.3 Approve 15% Precautionary Drought Curtailment from May – October 2009 and Action Plan to Promote Voluntary Curtailment

Ron Duncan provided an overview of the staff report.

The distinction between the District relying on groundwater and the aquifers slow recovery response during drought conditions and the city's sense of urgency to declare mandatory curtailment due to their dependence on surface water which rapidly becomes depleted during drought conditions and whether to declare a precautionary drought curtailment from May – October 2009 or to wait and see if the drought continues based on recent rainfall was discussed.

Director Daniels questioned language on page 45 under Three-Year Minimum Water Supply in Chapter 3, "Water Supply Emergency Response Plan" from the District's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). He would like that section revised when the UWMP is updated in 2010 to reflect lost recharge during drought. The Board agreed.

By consensus, drought conditions will continue to be monitored and the item will return to the Board for further discussion at a future date.

6.4 Approve Scope of Work and Budget for Seawater Intrusion Analyses Performed by HydroMetrics LLC

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed three analyses and budget prepared by HydroMetrics. Staff provided input.

The second analysis to estimate Current Onshore Flow Based on Existing Landward Gradients was eliminated from the scope of work. Providing a pdf with five written reports of the first and third analyses was requested.

Director Jaffe commented he would like to know how the analyses would be used and that some action would come from the information provided. The Board discussed the value of better quantifying the sustainable yield.

A decision to have HydroMetrics provide a presentation will be made subsequent to reviewing the reports.

MOTION: Director Hoernschemeyer; Second: Director Daniels: To approve the scope of work and budget for Seawater Intrusion Analyses Items One and Three and to authorize the General Manager to execute a standard District Consulting Services agreement in the amount not to exceed \$18,130 and to authorize \$18,130 to be appropriated from Operating Contingency Reserves to fund this project. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Items 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 were heard simultaneously.

- 6.5 Barrett Way Main Replacement Project, Approve Preliminary Environmental Assessment & Categorical Exemption
- 6.6 Vienna Woods Main Replacement Project, Approve Preliminary Environmental Assessment & Categorical Exemption
- 6.7 Cathedral Drive Area Main Replacements Project, Approve Preliminary Environmental Assessment & Categorical Exemption

Mr. Gailey responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Jaffe: To approve the Preliminary Environmental Assessment and Finding of a Categorical Exemption for: Barrett Way Main Replacement Project, CWO 08-031; Vienna Woods Main Replacement Project, CWO 09-107 and Cathedral Area Main Replacement Project, CWO 08-032. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- 6.8 Seacliff Area Main Replacements Project, Approve Change Order No.1

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Jaffe: To adopt **Resolution No. 09-03** approving Change Order No. 1 for a contract addition of \$3,219.50 for the Seacliff Area Main Replacements Project, Phase II, CWO 08-042. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- 6.9 Rosedale Treatment Plant Filter Recoat and Media Replacement Project, Adopt Plans & Specifications and Call for Bids

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Daniels: To approve **Resolution No. 09-05** for plans and specifications and **Resolution No. 09-06** setting prevailing wages and calling for bids for the Rosedale Treatment Plant Filter Recoat and Media Replacement Project, CWO 09-149. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6.10 Water Meters – Declare Property as Surplus

MOTION: Director Hoernschemeyer; Second: Director Kriege: To adopt **Resolution No. 09-04** which declares all District-owned unused and used standard meters (i.e. non radio-read meters) as surplus once they are removed from service and to authorize the sale by informal bid at a price most favorable to the District. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6.11 Set Date & Time to Reschedule Board Workshop on the Proposed 10-Year Financial Plan and District Work Plan Priorities

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Kriege: To schedule a workshop to discuss the proposed 10-Year Financial Plan and District Work Plan Priorities on **March 24, 2009, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6.12 Desalination Task Force and Energy Issues – (oral report)

Director Kriege stated he had nothing new to report since the last meeting. A brief comment was made that under the proposed priority system the District would be guaranteed a minimum of 1,150 acre-feet of water during the six-month period (November – April) and the city would get the rest as needed. The District would pay 41% of the capital costs and the city 59%. Progress is being made.

7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 7.1 Monthly Small Claims Report for January – Nothing further was discussed.
- 7.2 March/April *What's On Tap* Newsletter - The Board offered text changes to the articles. Director Daniels thanked staff for the aggressive tone as the information being given is important.

8. **STATUS REPORTS**

- 8.1 Engineering – nothing further was discussed.
- 8.2 Operations & Maintenance - Operations & Maintenance Manager Taj Dufour provided an overview of the status report. He responded to questions from the Board . The chromium VI well head concentrations given in the report and pending PHG and MCL for Chromium VI were

discussed. He displayed a new chemical injection pump and an injection nozzle which illustrate the direction the District is taking to replace old equipment.

- 8.3 District Counsel – Bob Bosso stated he had nothing to report
- 8.4 General Manager – Ms. Brown reminded the Board that the Capitola Mall Business Showcase will be held on Thursday, February 19 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Help to assist at the District booth is needed. Please let Mr. Duncan know if you can attend. She and Bill Kocher will be giving a presentation on the scwd² Integrated Water Plan to the Santa Cruz Leadership Alumni Group at the Seymour Center at the Long Marine Lab. The highest priority right now for herself and other staff is to get the administrative draft of the Well Master Plan EIR reviewed and back to Environmental Science Associates.

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from LAFCO regarding an opening for a Special District's seat and inquiring whether the Board would want to have an election by mail or by meeting. The Board confirmed by mail. Ms. Brown briefly noted that Ron Duncan was mistakenly listed as the author of the most recent Sentinel "Go Green" article, instead of Jennifer Parrish. A retraction will be printed and the on-line version has been corrected.

10. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

January Warrants and Dec./Jan. Credit Card Analysis

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Jaffe: To accept the January Warrants and Dec./Jan. Credit Card Analysis as paid. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
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At 9:19 p.m., President LaHue recessed the Open Session to convene the Closed Session.

11. CLOSED SESSION

- 11.1 Conference with District Labor Negotiator to Give Direction Regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Management Employees Unit

President LaHue reconvened to Open Session at 9:45 p.m.

President LaHue stated that the Board gave direction to the District Labor Negotiator regarding the Memorandum of Understanding with Management Employees Unit.

12. **ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business, President LaHue adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 3, 2009.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Denise Alexander, Board Clerk

Dr. Thomas LaHue, President