

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

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1. **Roll Call**

President LaHue called the Regular Session to order at 7:02 p.m.

**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  
Ron Duncan, Conservation/Customer Service Field Manager  
Michelle Boisen, Financial/Business Services Manager  
Taj Dufour, Acting Operations & Maintenance Manager  
Mike Wilson, Associate Engineer/Acting Engineering Manager  
Denise Alexander, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

**Staff Member Absent:**

Jeff Gailey, Engineering Manager/Chief Engineer

**Others Present:**

None

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 3, 2009 – The minutes were approved as presented.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Hoernschemeyer: To approve the minutes of March 3, 2009 as presented. The motion passed by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Jaffe abstaining.
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3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Several Directors commented that they had been contacted by Sonia Laracuente, SEIU Local 521 representative and chief negotiator to request their attendance at a meeting to hear the concerns being expressed by the District's union members. Director Kriege commented he did not think that was a good idea. A brief discussion ensued.

Director Daniels reported on the following:

- ACWA's climate change sub-committee met today and the details of AB32 and how the water agencies would meet those requirements was discussed.
- He was contacted by a reporter and several members of the public regarding the recent issues involving the Jade Street Park/Rispin Hotel project. An update on the Rispin Hotel & Spa project will be agendized.
- He read in the California Water Law Magazine that two conferences on desalination will be held in May. Desalination is becoming a hot topic.
- He commented on an article in the Sentinel that the economic crisis spurs a boom in home gardens and inquired whether the District could do some kind of advertizing to encourage people to install piping under their garden; a most efficient way to use water.

Director Jaffe stated he was contacted by Katherine Sweet inquiring about artificial turf that the County is considering for Anna Jean Cummings Park. A small Caribbean island he recently visited is using desalination and cisterns to supplement their minimal water supply.

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

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

President LaHue stated that the Board gave guidance to the labor negotiator regarding the MOU with SEIU Local 521.

**5. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- 6.1 Will Serve Water Service Application for Rob Stuart, 6195 Soquel Drive, Aptos, APN 037-141-62,63

<p>MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Hoernschemeyer: To authorize the District's Conditional Will Serve Letter indicating that the District will conditionally serve the two single-family dwellings to be located at 6195 Soquel Drive in Aptos, APN 037-141-62, 63. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.</p>
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6.2 Will Serve Water Service Application for Clifford Bixler, San Andreas Road at Byers Lane, Aptos, APN 045-031-22

Mike Wilson, Acting Engineering Manager, stated that the water service application for a 10.6 acre lot size is the largest single dwelling lot size ever received at the District. Additionally, the applicant recently disclosed that a vineyard and an irrigation well are being considered. Mr. Wilson stated that further discussion with the conservation staff on this matter is needed and he requested tabling this item.

President LaHue felt it would be good to know what the District has done beforehand to determine a water demand offset for above average lots and to possibly consider setting a policy for over a certain acreage, similar to what is being done for commercial. Discussion ensued.

By consensus, to re-agendize the item when additional information is obtained.

6.3 New Water Service Connection for David Manning, 9020 Soquel Drive, Aptos, APN 041-052-20

A question arose whether the conditions stated in the 5/8-inch Restricted Water Meters Policy had been disclosed to the applicant. Staff will have the applicant sign a copy of the restricted meter policy to acknowledge the limited conditions of use.

<p>MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: President LaHue: To authorize the District's standard water connections and restricted water connections to be installed for the mixed-use commercial and residential building to be constructed at 9020 Soquel Drive in Aptos, contingent upon the applicant signing a copy of the restricted meter policy to acknowledge the limited conditions of use, APN 041-052-20. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.</p>
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6.4 Toilet Replacement Project, Adopt Plans & Specifications and Call for Bids

Ron Duncan, Conservation/Customer Service Field Manager responded to questions from the Board. District Counsel Bob Bosso provided input. An explanation how the contract will be awarded to the contractors was given. Discussion ensued.

No. 11 of the Special Provisions section of the Project Description will be modified to read: Provide a ~~30-day~~ **365-day** call back period to remedy issues related to the toilet installation.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Jaffe: To approve **Resolution No. 09-07** for plans and specifications and **Resolution No. 09-08** setting prevailing wages and calling for bids for the Toilet Replacement Project and to modify the Special Provisions section of the Project Description to provide a 365-day call back period, CWO 09-152. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- 6.5 Approve Request from Ironwood Homeowners Association to Participate in Annual Road and Security Gate Maintenance

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Jaffe: To approve a voluntary payment of \$163.91 for routine road and gate maintenance as a property owner on Ironwood Drive. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- 6.6 Desalination Task Force and Energy Issues (oral report)

The next task force meeting will be held tomorrow at the District. Director Kriege commented that because of the recent agreed upon 59/41% split for capital costs, the 50/50 split in the original MOU for pre-construction costs will be revisited. Upcoming design, studies and determining a location for the plant will be discussed. The American Membrane Association article written by Heidi Luckenbach, scwd<sup>2</sup> Program Coordinator with the City of Santa Cruz Water Department was great.

Director Jaffe stated he was reading the task force minutes and inquired if anything new had been added to the multi-year budget. Ms. Brown stated that the City agreement with UCSC regarding payment to Long Marine Lab had been added and a discussion of the lease agreement is on the March 18 task force agenda.

## 7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 7.1 Cost/Benefit for Water Demand Offset Credits

Director Kriege thanked staff for the analysis. A brief discussion ensued.

## 8. STATUS REPORTS

- 8.1 Engineering – Mr. Wilson provided an update on the Seacliff Area Main Replacement Project, Phase II. Ms. Brown complimented Mr. Wilson for doing a fabulous job during the unexpected extended absence of the Engineering Manager who is on jury duty.

- 8.2 Operations & Maintenance - Mr. Dufour provided an update on the Flow Meter Replacement/Calibration project to determine unaccounted water. Information on a flow conditioner to be placed upstream of the meter to reduce turbulent flow that would provide the most cost effective solution to inaccuracies generated by inaccurate pipe configurations was distributed. Additional details on how the upcoming main flushing in Capitola will work was also given. The District has dump valves on some of the District's wells that prevent water hammers from shocking the system when the pumps start up. An annual estimate of how much water is wasted when the well is turned on was given. Several options being considered that would significantly reduce that waste were described and, when more information is obtained, a report will be provided to the Board.
- 8.3 Income and Investment Report for February - nothing further was reported.
- 8.4 District Counsel – Bob Bosso stated he is still working with staff on a private right-of-way agreement at Trillium Way & Campus off of Cathedral and with Mr. Duncan regarding the Toilet Replacement Project.
- 8.5 General Manager – Ms. Brown reported on the following:
- A taste-testing event to compare desal water with existing sources and to rate them by taste, odor, etc. will be held at the District tomorrow between 10:00 – 11:00 am. A good turn-out and the media are expected.
  - She participated in a conference call with city staff and Monica Reid who represents Santa Cruz County agencies participating in the Northern and Coastal California Water Bond Coalition and who is familiar with the Proposition 50 grant funding requirements. Ms. Reid reported that potential grant funding from a state level doesn't look good but pursuing possibilities at the federal level under the Federal Stimulus package is possible. Ms. Reid stated we're not yet at a point with a viable project and a "shovel ready" grant program to go after funding at this point. It was suggested that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Desal Task Force and staff meet with Assemblymember Bill Monning to introduce him to the scwd<sup>2</sup> desal project. Congressman Sam Farr needs to be updated as well.
  - Santa Cruz County Supervisor Pirie has scheduled a meeting to discuss the Polo Grounds project and how to restructure the project after the failed sewer main extension assessment vote; turf will also be discussed even though the funding for that part of the project is indefinitely frozen.

- Bartle Wells will be presenting a 10-year financial plan at the District's workshop on March 24 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**10. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

February Warrants and Jan./Feb. Credit Card Analysis

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Hoernschemeyer: To accept the February Warrants and Jan./Feb. Credit Card Analysis as paid. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**At 8:14 p.m. President LaHue recessed the Open Session to convene the Closed Session.**

**11. CLOSED SESSION**

- a. Conference with District Labor Negotiator to Give Direction Regarding Memorandum of Understanding with SEIU Local 521
- b. Conference with District Labor Negotiator to Give Direction Regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Management Employees

**President LaHue reconvened to Open Session at 9:07p.m.**

President LaHue stated that the Board gave direction to the District labor negotiator regarding the MOU with SEIU Local 521 and that Management negotiations were not discussed.

- 12 ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, President LaHue adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 7, 2009.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Denise Alexander, Board Clerk

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Dr. Thomas LaHue, President