

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Special Board Meeting Held
May 26, 2010

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held May 26, 2010 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Handley, Kaiser, Baggerly, Word and Hicks were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, Bob Krimmer. There were five staff members and four members of the public in attendance. President Handley led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported a successful soft opening of water playground on Friday evening. He also informed the board that he had a call from Michael Jackson stating he wanted to review the information that was sent and then arrange a meeting date. He suggested Carol Belser attending the meeting with the Bureau as well as the appointed board members.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Word asked for a status on the park store. Mr. Wickstrum explained it would be operated through Monday and the food trailer at the Waterpark has been removed. Food will be served through a food service contract. Director Hicks stated the colors look great. He also suggested signage regarding the reasons why food can no longer be brought into the Waterpark. He then suggested the board review the article on water in the Economist.

Director Baggerly announced that Brock Dolman would be speaking at Chaparral Auditorium this evening regarding watersheds.

4. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the May 12, 2010 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of a letter opposing AB2583 (Hall) regarding water treatment chemicals.
- c. Recommend approval of a letter to the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Mosler Rock Quarry.
- d. Resolution requesting that the General District Election be held on November 2, 2010 and be consolidated with other elections called to be held on that same day and in the same territory and that the District shall reimburse the County for election services.
- e. Recommend approval of a purchase order to Rayco Roofing Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$28,933 for roof repair and painting at Casitas #1 Chlorination Building.

Director Kaiser offered the consent agenda but asked that item c be considered separately. This was seconded by Director Baggerly and passed with Director Word abstaining from the vote for item a as he was absent from that meeting. The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Resolution is numbered 10-07.

Regarding item c, Director Baggerly asked for a spelling correction and Director Kaiser requested the letter also be copied to National Marine Fisheries Service.

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, item c was approved as modified.

5. Bills

APPROVED

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

6. Resolution expressing appreciation to Gerrold Grigsby upon his retirement after 31 years of service.

ADOPTED

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

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

Resolution is numbered 10-08.

President Handley called for a recess at 4:39 p.m. and went back to regular session at 4:48 p.m. with Director Baggerly reading the resolution commemorating the retirement of Jerry Grigsby. The board thanked Jerry for his service to the District.

7. Public Hearing on the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the fence upgrade.

a. Conduct Public Hearing

President Handley stated this is the time and date set for public hearing and asked the clerk of the board to provide information on public who had

submitted comments. The Clerk stated there were none and Neil Cole added he had one favorable comment.

Neil Cole provided the report on the project stating we are looking to replace existing barbed wire fencing with proposed six foot chain link with barb wire strands on top. Existing barb wire will remain at some high and low spots to maintain animal passages. Notice was posted at the Lake Office, county and the star. Fish & Game and Fish & Wildlife were contacted. Fish & Wildlife responded that they did not have concerns for any federally listed species.

President Handley opened the public hearing at 4:54 p.m.

Sue Williamson of 47 Taormina Lane representing Ojai Wildlife League provided her concerns and asked what is the purpose of spending all that money if the purpose is to keep people out. She was glad that the entire area would not have the six foot fencing but felt that people would find ways to enter.

Marty Fast of Ojai and representing the Ojai Wildlife League expressed her concern about the fence. She questioned all the areas that allow for animals to pass over or under and asked what the fence would be protecting the lake from. She added that on Casitas Pass Road it is not protected.

Jean Webster residing on Casitas Pass Road state she found out about this late yesterday afternoon. She spoke to the Haleys and to the Krankels and they want the wildlife not to be impacted. She would not want a fence that would impact wildlife. If I wanted to live in a neighborhood with a 6 ft fence with three barb tiers that exceeds legal limit. It is not visually acceptable. You want to attract people. This is pastoral lands. When the first chain link was put in it was to protect trailers. Eventually, 10 years from now, will it be totally fenced off? She mentioned that she spoke with Mr. Salazar today and he did not know anything about this. If it was a tenant of mine I would want to know about it. She added that chain link with barb wire is not the right way to go. It sends the wrong message and she doesn't understand the purpose of it. Maybe the money could be better spent. Visitors don't want to be in a prison. She then mentioned concerns regarding egress for special events and the tape used across the road ways and questioned Cal Tran's approvals.

Director Hicks asked about trails for animals to get in. Mr. Cole explained that the places where we are leaving the existing barb wire are less accessible for the general public. They are basically low spots below grade. Small animals go through culverts or through trails. This is less convenient for people but people could go through them.

Director Kaiser questioned the current wildlife corridors and paths and asked if they were studied. Mr. Cole explained that specific studies on that were not conducted. We tried to maintain passage through the drainages which is where animals tend to gather. The culverts are in place and we are not touching them and we are staying out of the creek bed. Director Kaiser asked if the

adjacent property, the vineyard had installed fences. Mr. Cole replied yes. Director Baggerly suggested installation of animal crossing signs.

Director Hicks asked why we started doing this. Mr. Wickstrum explained that the original barb wire fence was installed in 1957 and has deteriorated because people cut it or drive through it. There is the issue of quagga mussel and one boat tried to enter through the fence. We have mended it to the last point. It is in bad disrepair. Director Hicks asked about doing the fencing in black. Mr. Cole estimated that would increase costs by 20%.

President Handley closed the public hearing at 5:12 p.m.

- b. Resolution approving the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the fence upgrade at Lake Casitas, adopting the Notice of Determination and directing the Notice of Determination to be filed with the Clerk of the County of Ventura. ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Hicks with the request that the fence be either black or green and that approval is obtained from the County for animal crossing signs, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 10-9.

8. LAFCO Election

- a. Discussion regarding candidate to be selected to fill the Independent Special District Regular Member of LAFCO for the unexpired term of January 1, 2009 to January 1, 2013.
- b. Discussion regarding candidate to be selected to fill the Independent Special District Alternate member of LAFCO for the term of January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2015.
- c. Discussion and determination of a “yes or no” vote on the proposed amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Ventura County Independent Special District Selection Committee.

- d. Resolution casting votes for Regular Member and Alternate Member and amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission. ADOPTED

Director Baggerly offered that Manny Lopez be put forward for the regular member, George Galgas for alternate and the answer of the question be yes. This was seconded by Director Kaiser and passed.

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

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

Resolution is numbered 10-10.

9. Budget Workshop

- a. Review and discussion of the proposed Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget

Mr. Wickstrum presented an overview of the capital projects and reviewed the current consumption figures which explain the decision to budget consumption at 16,000 acre feet. There was also discussion regarding a couple of projects that would not be completed in the current fiscal year that would need to carry over into the next. He explained that staff worked hard to maintain the line on expenses and has provided justifications for expenditures and looked for corners to cut. This budget will not require a rate increase at this time but we will be using close to one million in reserves.

Director Kaiser mentioned the recreation budget and net losses and the fact that it is significant and should be reviewed by the Recreation Committee. Director Kaiser questioned the reserves for Recreation. Mr. Wickstrum explained that Recreation does not have reserves.

Director Word added that the budget is tight with no rate increases this year but that he is not sure we could maintain the current rates for another year. Raftellis projected us to increase rates 2 – 3% each year. He added that the Recreation Committee should review how we account for special events. Carol Belser explained that they have developed a new method of tracking and the events will be better managed.

Mr. Wickstrum explained that this budget adds one position to the district in preparation for potential retirement in three years. The long lead time is for learning. This is only a temporary addition to staff until the retirement takes place. We are also looking to hire a temporary person to assist with pump coatings.

Pat Baggerly questioned why the wine festival limits ticket sales to 3,000.

She then questioned the \$40,000 on the board of Director's service and supplies budget. Mr. Wickstrum explained it was for replacement of board room chairs and furniture.

Director Baggerly asked the Board to review their current compensation. The Executive Committee will explore that.

10. Information Items:

- a. Monthly Cost Analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- b. Recreation Area Report
- c. Investment Report

Director Kaiser suggested including the actual numbers of guests in attendance at events.

11. Adjournment

President Handley adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Secretary