



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ZONE 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
*Final* MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY March 18, 20221**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call** -- The Zone 3 Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:52 PM via GoTo Meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic by Chairperson, Karen Bright. County Public Works Utilities Division Senior Engineer and Secretary to the Advisory Committee, David Spiegel, called roll. Quorum was present. Members in attendance were:

- Kristen Barneich, City of Arroyo Grande
- Karen Bright, City of Grover Beach
- Shirley Gibson, Oceano CSD
- Brad Hagemann, County Services Area 12
- Brian Talley, Agriculture Member
- Ron Reilly, Member At Large

**II. Public Comment** – This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items that are not on the Agenda. No public comment.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes** (Attachment 1)

**A. January 21, 2021 – Member Barneich motioned approval of the minutes and Member Talley seconded.** Member Barneich requested roll call for approval. ***Motion passed.***

**IV. Operations Report**

**A. Water Plant Operations, Reservoir Storage, Downstream Releases** – Jenny Williamson, Administrative Assistant at the Lopez Water Treatment Plant, indicated: Lopez Lake elevation was 479.54; storage was 19,475 acre-feet (AF), which is 39% capacity; rainfall to date, since July 1, 2020, was 11.27 inches; plant production was 3.59 million gallons per day (MGD); downstream release was 1.86 MGD; and State Water was at 0.79 MGD.

**B. Projected Reservoir Levels** – Review of the Lopez Reservoir Projections Chart (Attachment 2 of the Agenda Packet).

**C. January and February Monthly Operations Report** – Review of the monthly operations reports with the committee (Attachment 3 of the Agenda Packet).

No public comment was given.

**V. Information Items**

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 20/21 Budget Status** – County Public Works Finance Admin. Services Manager, Sherri Weiss, provided an update on the 1st Quarter Budget Status (Attachment 4 of the Agenda Packet). The \$6.3M budget was broken into three categories: Routine Operations & Maintenance, Non-Routine Operations &

Maintenance, and Capital Outlay. At the end of the fiscal year, 34% of the total annual budget had been expended.

Total Budget	Expenses through Q2	Balance Available	% of Budget Expended
\$6,366,952	\$2,156,741	\$4,210,211	34%

**Routine O&M:** has a budget of \$4.1M. At the end of the first quarter, 47% of the annual budget had been expended, resulting in approximately \$2.2 available for the remainder of the year. Expenses in this category are on target with budgeted levels.

Total Budget	Expenses through Q2	Balance Available	% of Budget Expended
\$4,150,223	\$1,964,828	\$2,185,395	47%

**Non-Routine O&M:** has a budget of approximately \$1.7M. At the end of the first quarter, 7% of the annual budget has been expended, resulting in an available balance of roughly \$1.6M for the remainder of the year. Most of the items in this category have had budget carried forward from the prior year in order to continue work on them.

Total Budget	Expenses through Q2	Balance Available	% of Budget Expended
\$1,688,057	\$115,457	\$1,572,600	7%

**Capital Outlay:** has a budget of almost \$580,000. At the end of the first quarter, expenses were 13% of the annual budget, resulting in approximately \$502,000 available for the remainder of the year. Unspent budget from the prior year has been carried forward for several projects and accounts for the majority of this category's budget.

Total Budget	Expenses through Q2	Balance Available	% of Budget Expended
\$578,672	\$76,546	\$502,216	13%

Revised billing for FY 2019-20 were mailed along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of the FY 2020-21 billings that were due January 1, 2021. All agencies are current on their payments.

Advisory Committee inquired if any of the operations at Lopez would be switching to 3CE as the energy provider and if Zone 3 can expect any savings from that. ***David Spiegel will be looking into the matter and provide information to the Advisory Committee.***

**B. Cloudseeding Update** – David Spiegel reviewed the North American Weather Consultants weather and operations report on the Lopez Lake Watershed cloud seeding program (Attachment 5 of the Agenda Packet).

The 2020 WY was characterized by long dry spells resulting from persistent high-pressure systems above the Central Coast. Contracts were formalized near the end of December and operations were delayed until the beginning of January. The first seeding opportunity came in March of 2020.

Though the 2021 WY had below average rainfall, the earlier start in operations provided more seeding opportunities. NAWC has performed more seeding for the 2021 WY than what was previously performed during the 2020 WY.

Measure	Total for Seedable Period (AF)	Increase Attributed to Seeding (AF)	Cost per AF (\$)
Runoff	3,098	468	353
Precipitation	30,000	3,200	52

The Cloud Seeding program for the 2020 WY cost a total of \$165,525 and resulted in a calculated inflow (runoff captured by Lopez Lake) increase of an estimated 468 AF of water. This equates to a cost per AF of \$353, which is substantially less than other sources of water in the region. For the 2021 WY, NAWC recommended the transition to a “ground-only” seeding program to increase the overall program efficiency.

Seasonal Rainfall Estimates:

March – April 2020 Total rainfall at Upper Lopez	8.54 inches
Estimated natural (non-seeded) rainfall based on a 10% increase assumed due to seeding	7.76 inches
Difference (assumed seeding increase) representative of target area	0.78 inches

Seeded Storm Period Rainfall:

Storm Period	Upper Lopez Rainfall (inches)	Lopez Rec. Area Rainfall (inches)
March 9 – 11	1.45	1.68
March 15 – 16	1.81	1.65
March 22 – 23	0.99	0.75
April 5 – 6	1.63	1.76

NAWC estimated that a total of 30,000 AF of precipitation occurred over the watershed during the storms that were seeded for rain enhancement. With a minimum expected increase of 10% and a maximum expected increase of 17%, NAWC estimates a total increase in rainfall of 3,200 AF.

No public comment was given.

**C. Contract Changes Update** – A brief verbal update was provided on the status of the contract changes. An admin draft environmental document is currently in review, the document was also shared with WSC for further review and any additional comments. Document is not currently available for public review. The procedural portions of the contract are currently being worked on and running through different scenarios to test that those procedures will work as intended.

The Advisory Committee inquired what the timeline was for the next steps. David Spiegel stated that the contract is currently on schedule and should be available for viewing by May. ***A projection of the contract changes schedule will be provided to the Advisory Committee.*** Additionally, David Spiegel is looking into what would be required to enact the LRRP due to drought conditions and current Lopez Lake storage projections. Currently the LRRP cannot be initiated without an emergency drought declaration by the State and approval by the County Board of Supervisors.

***Request was made to keep the Advisory Committee members apprised of what decision the State makes concerning the emergency drought declaration before the next committee meeting.***

**D. Voluntary Reductions** – A verbal update was provided; TAC made the request for everyone to consider voluntary water reductions to help conserve water based on the discussions surrounding the LRRP and drought conditions before the 15,000 AF mark is met.

No public comment was given.

#### **VI. Capital Projects Update**

**Bi-Monthly Update** – Updates were provided on the various capital projects (Attachment 6 of the Agenda Packet).

No Public comment was given.

#### **VII. Action Items (No Subsequent Board of Supervisors Action Required)**

No Action Items discussed.

#### **VIII. Action Items (Board of Supervisors Action is Subsequently Required)**

**A. Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget Endorsement** – Member Barneich motioned approval of the budget endorsement and Member Bright seconded. Member Barneich requested roll call for approval. ***Motion passed, FY 2021/22 Budget is endorsed by the Advisory Committee.***

**B. Estimated Surplus Water in WY 20/21** – Review of the Declaration of Surplus Water for Water Year 2020-21 (Attachment 7 of the Agenda Packet). It is recommended that the Advisory Committee recommend that the Board of Supervisors declare surplus water as described in Article 4, Sections (C) and (D) of the Lopez Water Supply Contracts, in the estimated amount of 1476 AF or as amended after actual end of water year accounting is completed.

Every year the District declares surplus water per the water supply contracts for Zone 3 of the District. The declaration of surplus water does not mean that there is an amount of “excess” water in the reservoir; surplus water is water that was saved from the previous year’s municipal entitlements and downstream releases.

This year’s estimated surplus is 1,476 AF as shown below:

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Entitlement AF</b>	<b>Entitlement Delivered AF</b>	<b>Surplus Generated (Unused Entitlement)</b>	<b>Entitlement %</b>	<b>Surplus Available % (x 1476)</b>	<b>Cost per AF</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Arroyo Grande	2290	2239	51	50.55%	746	\$ 42.25	\$ 31,523.49
Pismo Beach	892	1135	0	19.69%	291	\$ 42.25	\$ 12,278.88
Grover Beach	800	785	15	17.66%	261	\$ 42.25	\$ 11,012.95
Oceano CSD	303	663	0	6.69%	99	\$ 42.25	\$ 4,171.95
CSA 12 (Avila)	245	125	120	5.41%	80	\$ 42.25	\$ 3,373.73
<b>Sub Totals</b>	<b>4530</b>	<b>4947</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100%</b>			<b>\$ 62,361.00</b>
Downstream Releases	4200	2910	1290				
<b>Total</b>	<b>8730</b>	<b>7857</b>	<b>1476</b>				

Today’s item has no financial impact to the Zone 3 Lopez Water System. This year’s surplus water cost was calculated based on estimates of the cost to treat and deliver water in WY 21/22 and is offered at \$42.25 per AF. All revenues from the sales of surplus water are proportionately credited back to the Zone 3 agencies.

**IX. Future Agenda Items**

**X. Committee Member Comments**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Williamson  
 County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department