



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ZONE 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Final MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY July 16, 2020**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** -- The Zone 3 Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM via GoTo Meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic by Representative, Karen Bright.

County Public Works Utilities Division Senior Engineer and Secretary to the Advisory Committee, Jill Ogren, called roll. Quorum was present. Members in attendance were:

- Kristen Barneich, City of Arroyo Grande
- Karen Bright, City of Grover Beach
- Marcia Guthrie, City of Pismo Beach
- Shirley Gibson, Oceano CSD
- Brad Hagemann, County Services Area 12
- Brian Talley, Agriculture Member
- Jim Garing, Member at Large

- II. Public Comment** – No public comment was given.

III. Recognition of Jim Garing’s 39 Years of Service to the Zone 3 Lopez Water Project

IV. Officer Rotations

- A.** Committee Chair rotating from City of Arroyo Grande Representative to City of Grover Beach Representative.
- B.** Committee Vice-Chair rotating from City of Grover Beach Representative to City of Pismo Beach.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. May 21, 2020 and Special Meeting May 28th Budget Endorsement** – ***Member Barneich motioned approval of the minutes*** and Member Talley seconded. Member Bright requested roll call for approval. Quorum was met and ***motion passed***.

VI. Operations Report

- A. Water Plant Operations, Reservoir Storage, Downstream Releases** – Lopez Water Plant Operations report was unavailable.

- B. Projected Reservoir Levels** – Ms. Ogren discussed the Lopez Reservoir Projections Chart and noted that the yellow line shows anticipated storage if no further rain is received. Long-range predictions show rain is expected in the coming months.

C. May and June Monthly Operations Report -- Ms. Ogren reviewed the monthly operations reports with the committee. Surplus water declared by Zone 3 agencies was presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval in June. Column for surplus water requested shows zero for agencies as requested water is still being compiled but expected to be available in July. Currently 4 of the 5 agencies have requested surplus water. As of the end of June, 1,500 AF of State Water is stored and will not change until agencies start requesting State Water. Downstream releases are at 2.3 MGD to accommodate the AG Creek Flood Control Channel project of sediment and vegetation removal.

Member Barneich requested a timeframe for how long the downstream releases will be kept to a minimum concerning the AG Creek project. Ms. Ogren stated downstream releases will stay at the minimum through the end of July and begin increases at the start of August.

Member Garing requested an additional downstream release increase once the AG Creek project was completed for an ag well being monitored in Cienega Valley. Ms. Ogren stated she would review the request.

No public comment was given.

VII. Information Items

A. Terminal Reservoir De-Commissioning – Jill Ogren provided an informational Power Point presentation on the Lopez Terminal Reservoir Dam and discussed two alternatives – Seismic Remediation and Legislation/Decommission (Attachments 4 and 5 of the Agenda Packet).

Seismic Remediation process will require a geotechnical assessment, project planning, and remediation design development. Estimated seismic remediation project amount of \$10.5M. The remediation allows for continued use of the reservoir which provides storage for up to 7 days of water in an emergency and a status quo in terms of operations. However, there will be a high cost of remediation and continued maintenance costs for tule removal, seismic monitoring, meeting DSOD requirements, inspections, and water quality issues.

Seismic Remediation		
Item	Cost	Time
Geotechnical Field Investigation	\$300,000	<1 yr
Seismic Retrofit: Including design, construction, permitting, EAP, and Construction Management	\$10,225,000	>2-5 yrs
Total	\$10,525,000	

Legislation process will require conducting a feasibility study, amend the Health and Safety Code to allow direct intake from Lopez Lake Reservoir, conduct Lopez Water Treatment Plant assessment, conduct Lopez Lake water quality intake assessment, update watershed sanitary survey and determine new setback and relocate log boom.

Decommissioning the Terminal Dam process will require conducting an environmental assessment, permits (CDFW, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Source Water), dam removal (partial or full) and environmental mitigation/restoration efforts.

Legislation/Decommissioning of the Terminal Dam will allow potential mitigation bank for local projects, long term maintenance savings, potential grant funding and public safety. However, there will be 2-3 years for legislation process, legislative support from local congressman, unknown environmental impacts/mitigation/costs/timing, new recreation set back at Lopez Lake, additional water quality testing, additional maintenance on the bypass pipeline, and loss of 7-day storage.

Legislation/Decommissioning Terminal Reservoir		
Item	Cost	Time
Legislative Process to Amend Health and Safety Code	\$35,000.00	-2 yrs
Lopez Water Treatment Assessment: Hiring a consultant, Ozone requirements, new equipment	\$625,000.00	>1 yr
Update Watershed Sanitary Survey	-	
Relocate Log Boom	\$15,000.00	
Dam Decommissioning	\$50,000.00	
Dam Removal		
Environmental EIR/EA	\$3,210,000.00	
Environmental Mitigation/Restoration Efforts 30-50 Acres	\$150,000.00	
Environmental CDFW Permit	\$1,000,000.00	
Environmental RWQCB Permit	\$175,000.00	
Updating Source Water Permit	\$175,000.00	
Total	\$5,440,000.00	

On July 8th, Zone 3 Technical Advisory Committee recommended moving forward with the feasibility study to better understand the alternative of decommissioning the Terminal Reservoir and Dam. \$50,000 of the Zone 3 District Designated Reserves was earmarked for this study during the 20/21 budget review. Total costs could potentially be higher than current estimates and may need an additional transfer of the District Designated Reserves into the Zone 3 Operations Fund. If the additional transfer requires more than \$50,000, other options will need to be reviewed to cover further funding.

Member Guthrie agreed with the Technical Advisory Committee's assessment of a further study but questioned if there were any penalties for not acting within a specific timeframe. Ms. Ogren stated that it is noted in the staff report included in the agenda packet that there is a timeframe the study would need to be completed. When DSOD was approached to obtain a permit for a geotechnical study, it alerted them to a potential issue with the Terminal Dam. The County asked for an extension to do the feasibility study and a one year extension was granted to conduct the study with the expectation of a detailed report in how the County wished to proceed be submitted to DSOD by June of 2021. The estimated \$10.5M for the Seismic Remediation is a worst-case scenario estimate, but costs have the potential to be less.

Member Gibson asked why there is a wide range of cost estimates between \$3.2M and \$10.5M as a worst-case scenario, Ms. Ogren stated that the costs are unknown at this time as further studies need to be done in order to assess which direction to go with the Terminal Reservoir. The best-case scenario would be to reconnect the drainage which would only require removal of the spillway.

Member Hagemann asked if the potential mitigation bank for local projects implied that the County might be able to use or make that available to other projects to offset

impacts and Ms. Ogren confirmed this, however, it is currently hard to determine at this time if this option would be a cost to the County or a benefit. At this time, Environmental believes it would be a benefit as a mitigation bank and other agencies would pay into the area to be able to mitigate their projects while only paying for maintenance costs. It is unknown what 40 acres of potential mitigation area would be worth. Member Hagemann followed up in asking if DSOD would care if there is no water behind an earthen dam, Ms. Ogren responded that the County would not know until the feasibility study is conducted.

Member Bright asked what kind of recreational setback or loss there would be for Lopez Lake regarding public access, Ms. Ogren stated that the intake structure for Lopez Lake is located on the far side of Lopez Dam. This is the area where the log boom would be located and there is not a beach near this structure, but 500 feet out there could still be a potential impact for water activities such as water skiing. Public access to the beach would not be hindered or lost. Member Bright followed up in asking about the loss of the watershed storage as the staff report states the water treatment plant would be able to deliver up to 8 hours of water and at that point State Water would be utilized but City of Grover Beach does not use State Water and wondered if they would not be concerned with this aspect. Ms. Ogren clarified that if the County did not use the Terminal Reservoir and there was an issue with the water treatment plant requiring a shutdown, the clear well reservoir is available to hold 8 hours' worth of water and it would be during this situation where State Water would be used since State Water is already treated. For City of Grover Beach, an exchange would take place or Lopez water would not be taken and ground water would need to be utilized.

Member Barneich questioned when the Advisory Committee will know more regarding the costs of the feasibility study, Ms. Ogren stated that a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be issued and can be handled two different ways. The County would put together the scope of work and include it in the RFP for people to bid on or the County would ask for a request for qualifications to determine if a consultant is qualified to do the work. Once the County chooses a qualified consultant under the request for qualifications, the County and consultant would work together to create a scope of work and cost.

No public comment was given.

B. Water Supply Contract – Jill Ogren provided an update on the water supply contract (Attachment 5 of the Agenda Packet). Currently, the District and Zone 3 Agency Staff have been working to develop the specific contract language changes required to meet the goals and objectives of the Contract Change initiative and a subcommittee was formed to work through the process of modifying the contracts. The subcommittee has completed their review and prepared specific contract language edits for review by the Zone 3 TAC and District Legal Counsel. The proposed contract changes have been provided to the District Environmental team for review and to initiate the CEQA process. The Environmental team are in the process of preparing a draft Project Description and Notice of Preparation for the Contract Change initiative.

The next step would be for the Advisory Committee to review the proposed contract edits and the draft Project Description at the September Advisory Committee Meeting on September 17th with the goal to obtain input on the proposed changes and a recommendation to formally initiate the CEQA process. This will include the District Environmental Staff publicly releasing the Notice of Preparation and Project description to local, regional, and statewide stakeholders and regulatory agencies and

preparing the appropriate CEQA Document (e.g. Negative Declaration, Mitigate Negative Declaration, etc.).

No public comment was given.

VIII. Capital Projects Update

B. Bi-Monthly Update – Jill Ogren provided updates on capital projects (Attachment 6 of the Agenda Packet), and there are a couple of notable changes.

Concerning the Spillway Assessment, DSOD responded to the work plan assessment by GEI and the District is preparing comments for resubmittal. DSOD had agreed with the condition assessment and the recommendations for the work plan. DSOD has given the District one year to determine the feasibility of remediating the dam or decommissioning the terminal reservoir. A cost benefit assessment has been prepared by the District.

Regarding the Cathodic Protection Survey, this project could potentially be costly based on the report received from the consultant and a list of various repairs were included. There may an opportunity to install some cathodic protection where there was not already. This is another big-ticket item that will be the next highest priority.

Ms. Ogren stated that there may be additional projects added by the next Advisory Committee meeting on September 17th and this will be work that was budgeted for the 20/21 FY.

No Public comment was given.

IX. Action Items (No Subsequent Board of Supervisors Action Required)

No Action Items discussed.

X. Action Items (Board of Supervisors Action is Subsequently Required)

XI. Future Agenda Items

A. Contract Changes

B. Cloudseeding Final Report

XII. Committee Member Comments

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Williamson
County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department