



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ZONE 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FINAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY May 21, 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, Kristen Barneich.

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. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A. **January 16, 2020** –*Member Garing motioned approval of the minutes* and Member Guthrie seconded. Member Barneich requested roll call for approval, Member Hagemann abstained. Quorum was met and ***motion passed***.

Jill Ogren stated due to the cancellation of March's meeting, an action item to endorse the FY 2020-21 budget was delayed. ***A motion was made to hold a Special Meeting via GoTo meeting on May 28, 2020 at 4:00pm for the action item proposed.*** Member Barneich motioned approval and Member Talley seconded. Member Barneich requested roll call for approval. Quorum was met and ***motion passed***.

IV. **Operations Report**

A. **Water Plant Operations, Reservoir Storage, Downstream Releases** -- Ms. Ogren indicated: Lopez Lake elevation was 490.55 feet; storage was 25,284 acre-feet (AF), which is 51% capacity; rainfall to date, since July 1, 2019, was 17.85 inches; plant production was 5.5 million gallons per day (MGD); downstream release was 2.7 MGD; and State Water was 0.67 MGD.

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.

C. **March and April Monthly Operations Report** -- Ms. Ogren reviewed the monthly operations reports with the committee. All but 20 AF of surplus water was used with Oceano and Pismo using all of their requested surplus. There is 1,530 AF of stored

State Water in Lopez. Downstream releases for this water year were at 2,736 AF. Per the contract, downstream releases can be released up to 4,200 AF. Ms. Ogren reviewed the April report which shows all agencies are currently using their entitlement and noted the numbers in the Surplus Water Declared column are draft numbers as the surplus water requests have not been taken to the Board of Supervisors yet for declaration/approval. Meeting is set for June 2, 2020 with the Board of Supervisors for the declaration.

No public comment was given.

## V. Information Items

**A. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY 2019/20 Budget Status** – Kristi Smith, County Public Works Finance Division, discussed the FY 20/21 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter budget status and referred to Attachment 4 in the Agenda Packet. The report covers the period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Expenses for the Routine O&M are at 67% leaving almost \$1.3 million available for the rest of the year. Expenses for the Non-Routine O&M are at 25% leaving almost \$653,000 available for the rest of the year. Bulk of the remaining expenses will be used towards the Lopez Water Rights/HCP effort and the Cloud Seeding Project. Unspent savings will be carried forward. Expenses for the Capital Outlay are at 5% leaving almost the entire budget for the rest of the year. Any savings will be credited back to the agencies. All agencies are current on their payments. First installment of the 2020-21 FY billings were mailed out and are due July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Member Talley asked if there were any capital outlay projects that were deferred due to the high dollar amount of capital outlay funds still available for use. Ms. Ogren stated that the Cathodic Protection survey was just completed, and remaining funds will be used to implement identified deficiencies from the survey in the next fiscal year. Ms. Ogren also stated that the Lopez Dam left abutment project will be deferred until after completion of a risk assessment study per TAC's direction. Terminal Reservoir boat ramp has been delayed as it was a low priority project.

No public comment was given.

**B. Cloud Seeding Update** – Ms. Ogren briefly provided an update. Contract with North American Weather Consultants ran from January 9<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. There were no storm events to seed in January and February. For the months of March and April, cloud seeding was done over six storm events. One was air-based seeding, the rest were land-based seeding. Final report should be available in the beginning of June and will be posted on the website. Cloud seeding consultant will be giving a presentation on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Zone 3 TAC meeting. Program costs this first year came to \$160,000. \$300,000 was budgeted but due to the program only running from January to April with limited storm events, costs were reduced.

Member Gibson asked if the Cloud Seeding partnership with Santa Barbara was still open. Ms. Ogren stated that the partnership is still an option and the consultant will put in a recommendation on the final report to continue with the land-based option in conjunction with air-based due to being able to seed more storms using the land based sites. In utilizing the land-based option, negotiations will take place with Santa Barbara for cost coverage in sharing their site. SLO County can also investigate establishing

land sites of its own on District property within the Lopez watershed. Member Gibson followed up asking if any testing was being done on any residual of chemicals used for cloud seeding and Ms. Ogren responded there is no testing at this time.

**C. Water Supply Contract** – Jill Ogren provided a verbal update on the water supply contract. Ms. Ogren stated Zone 3 TAC created a sub-committee to tackle the contract changes and have developed a draft of the proposed contract changes that will enable agencies to have the ability to store water year over year. This will promote better integrated management of each agencies water supply portfolios. The draft will be presented to Zone 3 TAC for review on June 10<sup>th</sup> and tentatively presented to the Advisory Committee at the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting for authorization to move forward on the CEQA document.

No public comment was given.

## **VI. Capital Projects Update**

**B. Bi-Monthly Update** – Ms. Ogren provided additional updates on capital projects from what was shared during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Status discussion. There has been no change on the Spillway Assessment and Work Plan. Structural Assessment of the Terminal Reservoir Dam will be potentially added to the capital projects as the submission of the Geotechnical Investigation evolved into more testing requests by DSOD. This increased the original estimated costs and initiated a discussion on de-commissioning the Terminal Reservoir. A one-year extension request was submitted to DSOD to put together a work plan. This will also allow further investigations into whether it would be worth going through with the improvements or to de-commission the Terminal Reservoir Dam. A report is currently being generated to compare the two alternatives and the cost benefits involved. The report will be presented to the Advisory Committee at the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Domestic Water Tank was repaired and resulted in savings as the final repair costs were much lower than the original estimates. During this repair, it came to light that the Fire Tank needs significant repairs at a potentially high cost and will require setting aside funding for the next couple of years to accumulate the necessary funding.

Tule Removal Project was recently completed, and root balls were removed in the Terminal Reservoir to prohibit any further growth.

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. Surplus Water Declaration for WY 19/20** – Jill Ogren discussed the surplus water declaration and noted this was originally submitted in the March agenda packet prior to the meeting cancellation. There was an original estimated amount of surplus water at 1841 AF but the actual amount ended up at 1803 AF. Ms. Ogren referred to Attachment 6 of the Agenda Packet concerning the declaration of

surplus water letter. The agencies will receive a certain amount of the surplus water based on their contract percentage, a table in the attached letter provides an explanation of what each agency would receive. A similar declaration letter will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. **Member Garing motioned approval of the Surplus Water Declaration and Member Talley seconded.** Member Barneich requested Jill Ogren to do a roll call for approval. Quorum was met, **motion passed.**

**B. Request to use \$50,000 of Zone 3 District Designated Reserves for AG Creek Sub-Basin Ground Water Sustainability Plan** – Jill Ogren announced that Dick Tzou was available if there were questions and referred to Attachment 7, Attachment A and Attachment B concerning the request for District Designated Reserves to be used towards the AG Creek Sub-Basin Ground Water Sustainability Plan. Ms. Ogren discussed and requested approval from the Advisory Committee to approve funding a portion of the plan in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 utilizing Zone 3 District Designated Reserves. The proposed GSP scope of work covers integrating surface and groundwater models with Lopez reservoir operations model, provide technical information to support management decisions associated with the HCP/environmental needs and reservoir operations/water supply contracts and establish groundwater management goals for groundwater levels/storage, interconnected surface water, water quality and subsidence.

Member Barneich asked how it was determined that the AG Creek Sub-basin was labeled as “low priority”. Ms. Ogren stated there are many factors that DWR used to evaluate various basins and referred to Dick Tzou to answer. Mr. Tzou stated there are about 25 criteria to classify the basins, it has nothing to do with how well the ground water is managed but more so with area population, dependence on ground water, environmental impacts/factors, etc.

Member Bright asked if TAC was in support of this request and Ms. Ogren announced TAC was in full support.

**Member Talley motioned approval of utilizing \$50,000 of Zone 3 District Designated Reserves to help fund the AG Creek Sub-Basin GSP** Member Garing seconded. Member Barneich requested Jill Ogren to do a roll call for approval. Quorum was met, **motion passed.**

## **IX. Future Agenda Items**

- A. Contract Changes**
- B. Floating Solar**
- C. Low Reservoir Response Plan (LRRP)**
- D. Cost/Benefit Analysis of Abandoning Use of the Terminal Reservoir**

**X. Committee Member Comments**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Williamson  
County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department