

**VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

Pursuant to due and official notice, a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District was held at 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, California on September 9, 2009.

President T. Jamison called the meeting to order at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

There were present Directors J. Curtis, M. Hanson, T. Jamison, E. Lee, and E. Ramseyer. Also present were General Manager Matthew Bryant, Carla Burke – substitute recording secretary for Janet Schaefer, and Counsel Lindsay Nielson. Public present was Mr. George Galgas of 523 E. Katherine Avenue.

The Board of Directors discussed and approved the ratification of Contingency Fund figures for posting to the current budget, motioned by Director J. Curtis, seconded by Director M. Hanson and carried.

President T. Jamison stated for the record that the consent agenda will stand as presented. J. Curtis abstained due to not being present at the September 9th Board meeting.

M. Bryant reported on Superior Tank's offer and recommendations for resolving the joint leaks on the water tank at the Parker Tank site. Superior Tank acknowledged the defective gaskets used on the tank and suggested two options to resolve this issue. Superior Tanks first recommendation is to provide a 50k gallon tank, for rent or purchase, for the purpose of taking the main tank off-line for repair. (The other recommendation of lowering the water level and repairing the tank from the outside was not as viable an option due to the possible risk of dropping bolts into the tank and having to go into the tank to retrieve them.) Staff recommends that the Board consider purchasing the additional tank, which could be used for any future potential maintenance projects. For now, staff suggests tabling any decision regarding the tank repairs until estimates are received from Superior Tank on costs associated with renting vs. buying the additional tank. A November time frame is recommended by Staff, to the Board for consideration, to have this work performed and completed where it would have minimal impact on the Districts customers.

M. Bryant reported a status update on the Water System Evaluation Study. The study is on schedule and is 25 percent complete. Within the next few weeks WREA will schedule to perform field studies to gather more data for the model. The fieldwork will consist of performing fire flow tests throughout the system to gather flow data and pressures to plug into the model. WREA will be submitting a status memo by the October 14th meeting time.

M. Bryant reported on wells, production, and usage. We are currently supplementing with Casitas to meet demand. The aquifer level in Well #2 on September 1st was at 54.5', down 7.4 feet since the first of last month. Staff will continue to rotate conservation banners.

Director Lee suggested acquiring an exemption letter regarding Casitas Allocation of Water and its penalty charges for use of Casitas water for more than 30 days and stressed the urgent necessity of this letter if current drought conditions persist. M. Bryant will discuss the procuring of such a document with Casitas staff member Steve.

It is staff's recommendation that the Board concur with the Region 8 Nomination Committee's recommendations for the ACWA Region 8 Election for the 2010-2011 Term. Motion made by Director E. Ramseyer, seconded by Director M. Hanson and carried.

Under Old Business a Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for October 15 at 9:00 am, with Directors T. Jamison and J. Curtis, to discuss Personnel Policy revisions. M. Bryant reports positive public response to President T. Jamison's Letter to the Editor regarding current drought conditions and the need for customers to continue their conservation efforts.

M. Bryant reported on the County of Ventura's new aggressive Permit Fee policy passed by the Board in June, 2009 for Encroachment Permits. The County wanted to charge the District \$5,000.00 for a permit fee to dig the new Burnham Vault. M. Bryant was able to negotiate the fee down to \$2,200.00. The District already pays a \$900 dollar annual fee, plus \$200 for each excavation. M. Bryant was told by Mr. Butch Brett that these fees were for the right to have the permit. Mr. Butch Brett explained the he must fund his department 100 percent through fees. M. Bryant also reported that the County buried 70 of the District's Valve Stacks in the course of the County repaving roads in the District. The County then wanted to charge the District a \$200 dollar permit fee for each valve stack to be raised back to its normal

accessibility. M. Bryant was able to negotiate the \$14,000.00 fee charge down to \$180 dollars. Director E. Lee suggested sending the Contractor, Security Paving, a bill for the value of the 70 Valve stacks, and let Security Paving address the situation with its subcontractor Dial. President T. Jamison suggested, and Legal Counsel L. Nelson concurred that District staff proceed with building a case of recent events and present it to the County Board of Supervisors. M. Bryant will speak with industry colleagues and organize supportive efforts in addressing this situation with the County of Ventura. Director T. Jamison and Director E. Lee will assist with gathering information on County Fee Practices.

Under New Business Directors J. Curtis and M. Hanson will attend the 14th Annual AWA Member and Policymakers Reception at the Reagan Library. M. Bryant reported on Senate Bill 88 – a bill requiring Special Districts to get approval from the State Finance Board prior to filing for Bankruptcy protection. CSDA has supplied a sample letter opposing this bill, and asks that this letter be sent out to our Senators. M. Bryant was given Board approval to send the letter to Senator Strickland on behalf of the Board.

There being no further action to come before this meeting on motion duly seconded the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 o'clock p.m.

Attested:

Thomas W. Jamison, President

John R. Curtis, Vice President