

VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING HELD AUGUST 29, 2012


Pursuant to due and official notice, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District was held at 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, California on August 29, 2012.

There were present Directors: J. Curtis, M. Hanson, T. Jamison, E. Lee and E. Ramseyer. Also present was General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp. Representing Kear Groundwater was Jordan Kear. No public were present.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – President E. Lee called the meeting to order at 9:30 o'clock a. m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by E. Ramseyer
3. CONSENT AGENDA – None
4. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
5. UPDATE ON PUMPING TMDL – Directors Curtis, Hanson, and Lee attended a special meeting with the EPA and RWQCB and local agencies on August 15, 2012 at the Ventura City Hall to discuss the impending pumping total maximum daily load (TMDL) that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is scheduled to adopt on March 24, 2013. B. Rapp reported that at the meeting the EPA and RWQCB staff were looking for a response from the agencies and pumpers with regard to adoption of a TMDL or moving forward with a voluntary groundwater management program. B. Rapp described three options: 1 – The Pumping TMDL be established; 2 – The voluntary groundwater management program; 3 – fight the TMDL. The following is a summary of the options:
 - 1 – When a TMDL is established there is usually very little negotiation involved. It is typically imposed with very conservative provisions to assure the impairment will be removed. The provisions in the TMDL have the rule of law and enforcement comes with substantial financial penalties. Time frames for meeting the TMDL requirements would likely be very tight. The required work would not be eligible for grant funding.
 - 2 – With the voluntary groundwater management program the participants would have more freedom to establish the program: studies, modeling then groundwater management program. The participants could set a reasonable schedule and would have the opportunity to apply for grants to help fund the work. Ultimately a groundwater surface water model would be prepared. That model would demonstrate the impact or lack of impact related to pumping and which wells might reasonably affect surface waters. If the EPA or RWQCB determined that the voluntary effort was not working they can always move forward the adoption of the Pumping TMDL.
 - 3 – Fighting the TMDL would be difficult. A request could be made to the RWQCB to de-list reach 4. The basis for listing Reach 4 for a pumping impairment was the 1996 Steelhead Restoration Management Plan that documents that the City of Ventura pumped the Ventura River dry at Foster Park. To be successful with delisting our stretch of the river we would need to argue that Reach 4 needs to be separated into Reaches 4a and 4b with us being in an upper reach 4b apart from Ventura. With the perception of the environmental community and regulators that ground water pumping does impact surface waters, it is unlikely the RWQCB would be willing to separate out our reach of the river and de-list it.

E. Ramseyer motioned that the Board support the voluntary Memorandum of Agreement option, seconded by T. Jamison and carried unanimously.
6. REVIEW CIP FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPLYING FOR GRANT FOR WELL #5 -
 - a. Well #5 investigation - Jordan Kear presented a cost proposal to investigate Well #5. The work would involve taking water samples at 40-foot intervals in the well to determine where the water quality changes, chemical analysis of the water to determine corrosion potential, conducting an alignment survey and video survey of the well. It is unknown if the existing pump will operate so the driller may need to provide and install a pump. J. Curtis indicated the investigation of Well #5 is needed to support the grant application for re-drilling Well #5 and to know if Well #5 can be salvaged or if it must be abandoned. Tom Jamison moved that \$28,000 be allocated for the investigation of Well #5, seconded by J. Curtis. Voice vote, Ayes: Curtis, Hanson, Jamison, Ramseyer, Lee. Noes: None
 - b. CIP review for funding Well #5 grant matching monies – B Rapp presented three options for revising the Capital Improvement Program and provided the related rate increases necessary to fund each option. The rate increases varied from 19% for the currently adopted CIP to 12% for Option B to delay the rehabilitation of Well #3 and phase the Baldwin Pump Station rehabilitation over 3 years. Option C provides funding of the match for a \$1.1M grant for well #5 and results in a 14% rate increase. B Rapp indicated the 14% could be further reduced if the drilling of Well #5 replaced the rehabilitation of Well #3. No action was taken to move forward with any to the CIP alternatives, they were provided for informational purposes only. E. Lee requested a CIP scenario that would accommodate 9% rate increases and present this at a future Board meeting.
 - c. Well #5 Grant Application – E. Ramseyer moved that the Board authorize the General Manager to submit a white paper to begin the application process for a \$1.1M grant to re-drill Well #5. Seconded by T. Jamison, carried unanimously.
7. OLD & NEW BUSINESS – None
8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT - On motion duly seconded at 11:57 o'clock a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Attested:


Ed Lee, President


Marvin L. Hanson, Vice President