

**VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 13, 2008**

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 August 13, 2008.

President E. Ramseyer 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, recording secretary/Office Manager Janet Schaefer and, Counsel Lindsay Nielson. Public present was Mr. George Galgas of 523 E. Katherine Avenue.

E. Lee moved for approval of the July 9, 2008 regular Board meeting minutes as presented, seconded by J. Curtis and carried.

T. Jamison moved for approval of the Financial Statements for June 2008 and the disbursements for July 2008. Accounts Payable check numbers 8953 - 8993, Trust checks -none, and Payroll check numbers 4315 - 4328 totaling \$68,112, seconded by M. Hanson and carried.

J. Curtis moved to open the public hearing for a rate increase at 5:30 o'clock p.m., seconded by M. Hanson and carried.

M. Bryant read aloud Resolution 2008-231 for approval of a rate increase, after which President E. Ramseyer stated for the record that the Public Hearing will remain open until the close of the meeting.

**RESOLUTION 2008 – 231  
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
APPROVING A WATER RATE INCREASE**

WHEREAS, The VRCWD Board of Directors have identified over \$5 million in improvements and upgrades for the next 5 – 15 years; and,

WHEREAS, The water rates are adjusted to provide the funding for operations, system improvements, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, for the period of June 2007 to June 2008 the annual Cost of Living has increased 6.1% according to Bureau of Labor Statistics as reported July 16, 2008 for the area of Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange counties, Urban Wager Earners and Clerical Workers; and,

WHEREAS, Funds generated for projects are not sufficient with the present water rates to accomplish the necessary upgrades, improvements, preventative maintenance, and emergency funds; and,

WHEREAS; The VRCWD Board of Directors held a public hearing on August 13, 2008 forty-five (45) days after properly noticing each property owner within the boundaries of the district as proscribed in Proposition 218 to present justification for a proposed 8% increase in water rates and hear public testimony; and,

WHEREAS, VRCWD did not receive a majority of the property owners opposing the rate increase as proscribed by Proposition 218 in order to reject the increase; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District that effective with the September 30, 2008 billing period, water meter readings from August 15, 2008 to September 15, 2008, we will increase all water rates 8%.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2008.

AYES: Curtis, Hanson, Jamison, Lee, Ramseyer

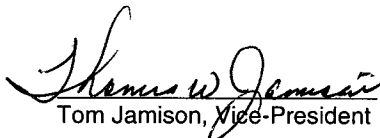
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:



Eddie Ramseyer, President



Tom Jamison, Vice-President

J. Curtis moved for approval of Budget Transfer #1, seconded by T. Jamison and carried. FROM: 93700000 Capital Improvement Contingency Fund \$10,000, 93500000 Operating Contingency Fund \$10,000, Structures & improvements \$40,000 TO: 91500001 Scada System Improvements \$10,000, 74500000 Worker's Compensation Insurance Expense \$10,000, 91500003 Replace Baldwin Chlorine System \$25,000, 91500001 Scada System Improvements \$15,000.

E. Lee moved to authorize \$1,244.50 participation in the cost share for completion of the Steelhead HCP document, seconded by J. Curtis and carried. The current year's budget will accommodate this expenditure.

M. Bryant recommended participation with eight other water agencies to create a localized computer program to aid customers in determining the appropriate amounts to water their landscapes. There are programs on the Internet but the proposed program will take into consideration local climate and ground types. Participation of \$2,000 will provide 500 CD's for distribution to customers. E. Lee moved to approve the \$2,000 expenditure and to amend Budget Transfer #1 to accommodate the purchase, seconded by M. Hanson and carried. Budget Transfer #1 amended as follows; FROM: 93500000 Operating Contingency Fund \$2,000, TO: 83500000 Public Relations/Seminars Expense \$2,000.

The proposed rate change by Casitas MWD was discussed. CMWD hired a consultant to do a full rate analysis for compliance with Proposition 218 that resulted in a reduction of some of the base rates, for a system-wide reduction in rates of 13%. Base rates are to recover fixed costs only.

The call for nominations for the Independent Special District's LAFCO Alternate Election was discussed with no action taken.

The Ballot to elect a representative to the California Special District's Association (CSDA) Director in Region 5, seat C was discussed. J. Curtis moved to cast the ballot for election of James Acosta the current President of CSDA, seconded by M. Hanson and carried.

M. Bryant reported on wells, production, and usage. The aquifer level in Well #2 on August 1<sup>st</sup> was 37.3' down 8.9' since July 1<sup>st</sup>.

L. Nielson reported that mediation meeting with Mr. Hibberd has resolved the matter very favorably for the District and the insurance carrier. No further litigation is pending. President Ramseyer complimented M. Bryant for his thorough documentation of the event that proved the District's position.

Under Old Business M. Bryant reported that he attended the training class for the Emergency Alert System that is broadcast on AM1610 in cooperation with the City of Ojai. The City is looking into having a volunteer with a clear voice quality record the public service announcements. E. Lee stated that the District should put a note on the bills when the program is finalized for public awareness of this valuable service.

T. Jamison reminded Staff that the Committee is waiting for Staff to schedule a meeting to discuss the requirement for a separate meter for second dwelling units. M. Bryant stated that now that the budget work is behind him he will schedule a meeting in the near future.


E. Lee stated that he would like the Allocation Committee to meet with Casitas MWD about reformulating the CMWD Allocation plan. M. Bryant stated that CMWD was also busy with the new budget and the Quagga Mussel threat and he will see if they are ready to meet again soon.

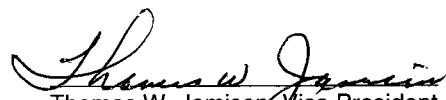
Under New Business the letter to the property owners that border the Parker Tank site was discussed. The District received a complaint from a property owner that borders the site that a person had accessed the site and allowed his dog to go to the fence line and antagonize his dogs that were in their own backyard. When the property owner tried to speak to the person he was hostile and abusive so the property owner contacted the District. Inspection of the site revealed that many property owners have installed gates to access the property from their backyards. M. Bryant sent a letter to the customers that border the site indicating that the site is private property and entering the site is trespassing and will not be tolerated. M. Bryant requested immediate removal of the gates and stated in the letter that failure to comply will result in further fencing of the site. L. Nielson stated that government property is not subject to prescriptive rights and that access to the site must be controlled due to the liability exposure to the District if someone were to get hurt on the site.

E. Lee moved to close the public hearing for a rate increase at 6:34 o'clock p.m. and approve Resolution 2008-231, seconded by J. Curtis and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further action to come before this meeting on motion duly seconded the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 o'clock p.m.

Attested

  
Eddie P. Ramseyer, President

  
Thomas W. Jamison, Vice President