

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 19, 2017**

Directors present were: Bruce Kuebler, Jack Curtis, Peggy Wiles, Ed Lee and Marvin Hanson. Also present were: Attorney Lindsay Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, and Office Manager Amy Joy Bakken. Public present were: Ron Calkins and George Galgas.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Bruce Kuebler called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Bruce Kuebler.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. MINUTES MARCH 15, 2017
  - B. FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES FOR MARCH 2017
  - C. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Marvin Hanson moved for approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ed Lee and carried 5-0.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – VRWD customer Ron Calkins commented he was unable to locate the staff report on the VRWD website. Bert Rapp explained where the report could be found on the website under the title: Board Packet.
5. **DRAFT BUDGET REVIEW FY 2017/18** –Bert Rapp presented the first draft of the FY 2017/18 budget. The draft of the budget was updated with the revised Capital Improvement Program. Key items from the budget were presented. The draft budget based on the current rate structure would leave an operating budget surplus shortfall of \$300,000. This will need to be addressed with the January 2018 rate change. Peggy Wiles asked about the State Water Project budgeted amount. Bert Rapp stated that this number was an estimate. Casitas Municipal Water District is planning to put a measure on the ballot to put costs of the State Water Connection onto customer's Property Taxes. **Public Comment:** Ron Calkins commented that the New Water Resource budgeted amount of \$25,000 should be in a designated reserve as it is allocated to the upper cost classes. Board members were supportive of this suggestion. The budget will be revised as needed and presented again at the May and June Board Meetings. No action was taken on this item.
6. **CASITAS WATER RATE INCREASE IMPACT ON VRWD**– Casitas Municipal Water District's (CMWD) proposed rate change will go into effect July 1, 2017 if it is adopted by the Casitas Board Action after the Protest Hearing on May 10, 2017. The rate change would result in an increase to the VRWD usage rates by 0.93%. Bert Rapp said that the rate increase could be implemented in either August 2017 or along with Water Budget Rates in January 2018. **Public Comment:** Ron Calkins asked for clarification on how the CMWD impacts VRWD customers and asked if it would only change the rates of the two neighborhoods on Casitas Water. Bert Rapp explained that all customers would receive the increase as the rate structure is not separated by neighborhood. Ron Calkins stated that he felt the allocation of costs to everyone for the CMWD rate increase compared to allocating PWS costs only to cost classes 3 & 4 was not a fair way to apply costs. The Board Consensus on this item was to wait to implement the rate increase for the CMWD rate change until January 2018 but to include information about it in the VRWD Spring Newsletter.
7. **RESOLUTION 2017-308 SUPPORTING ACWA POLICY STATEMENT ON BAY DELTA FLOW REQUIREMENTS**– The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has prepared a policy statement on the Bay Delta Flow Requirements and is asking water agencies in the State for support of the policy statement. The statement will establish new water quality objectives. As this relates to the State Water Project it is relevant to VRWD. Jack Curtis moved for the recommended action of adopting Resolution 2017-308, seconded by Peggy Wiles, and carried 5-0.

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION # 2017 - 308**

**In Support of the Association of California Water Agencies'  
Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flow Requirements**

**WHEREAS**, California is facing a defining moment in water policy that will be substantially impacted by the State Water Resources Control Board's approach to water quality objectives under the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Water Board has the responsibility for updating the Bay-Delta Plan in a manner that establishes water quality objectives that ensure the reasonable protection of all beneficial uses of water in a way that is consistent with the coequal goals of improving water supply reliability and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem and with respect to the commitments made in the California Water Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Water Board staff's current proposal, which focuses singularly on an "unimpaired flow" approach, is irreconcilable with a policy of coequal goals of improving both water supply reliability and ecosystem health; it is also inconsistent with the broader water policy objectives of the Brown Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the ACWA Board of Directors has unanimously adopted a strong policy statement calls for a better approach that can more effectively achieve ecological objectives while maintaining water supply reliability. The statement calls on the State Water Board to set aside its "unimpaired flow" approach and heed Gov. Jerry Brown's call for negotiated agreements, which have been successful on many rivers and tributaries in California; and

**WHEREAS**, the ACWA statement notes that to be successful, the State's flow policy must be consistent with the principles of collaboration, comprehensive solutions, science, functional flows, economic considerations, consistency with state policy, and leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, California's local urban and agricultural water managers are united in their vision for a future that includes a vibrant California economy as well as healthy ecosystems and fish populations, and believe that vision is best achieved through a comprehensive, collaborative approach;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Ventura River Water District hereby supports ACWA's Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flows and encourages the State Water Resources Control Board to embrace the approach articulated in ACWA's policy statement.

**ADOPTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.

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Bruce Kuebler, President

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John R. Curtis, Vice President

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Peggy Wiles, Treasurer

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Marvin Hanson, Director

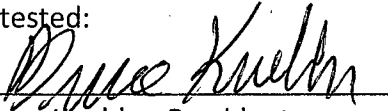
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Ed Lee, Director

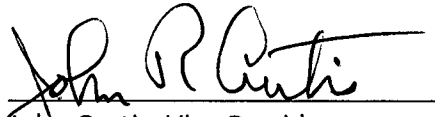
8. **SUPPORT LETTER FOR AB 979 LAFCO REPRESENTATION**– Assemblyman Lackey authored AB 979 to make it easier for Special Districts to obtain representation on Local Agency Formation Commissions. The County of Ventura LAFCO already has special district representation however AB 979 will help other special districts around the State to gain representation. Marvin Hanson moved for the recommended action to authorize the Board President to sign the support letter for AB 979, seconded by Peggy Wiles, approved 5-0.
9. **ACCEPTANCE OF BID AND PURCHASE OF WORK TRUCK**– The District budgeted \$37,000 for replacement of the Field Supervisor's 2001 F-150 work truck for FY 16/17. Bert Rapp sent requests for bids to Chevy, Ford and Dodge dealers in Santa Barbara and Ventura County. The lowest bid came in at \$39,643 from Paradise Chevrolet of Ventura for a Chevy Silverado 4 wheel drive work truck with utility bed. Bruce Kuebler asked what the criteria is for replacing a work truck. Bert Rapp said criteria includes age and mileage and also mentioned the current F-150 truck doesn't have proper tool compartments required for field work as it was originally the General Manager's vehicle. **Public Comment:** George Galgas suggested obtaining a bid from Bakersfield Ford. Ed Lee moved for approval of the recommended action of purchasing the work truck from Paradise Chevrolet for \$39,643, seconded by Marvin Hanson, approved 5-0.
10. **AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS TO PAINT PARKER TANK**– The Parker Tank exterior paint is getting chalky and is ready to be repainted. The budgeted cost for painting the tank is \$47,000. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action to authorize the General Manager to advertise for bids to paint the exterior of the Parker tank and approve plans and specifications, seconded Marvin Hanson, approved 5-0.
11. **UVRGA-BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT APPLICATION**– Bruce Kuebler and Bert Rapp discussed the activity of the UVRGSA activity since the last VRWD board meeting. The 16/17 UVRGSA Budget was approved. The OBGMA has agreed to share their office and staff with UVRGSA. Bruce said the biggest issue that came up was the Bureau of Reclamation Grant Application. The City of Ventura is proposing to be a non-federal partner with the Bureau of Reclamation for the conduct of a watershed management study, including a climate change assessment, of the Ventura River Watershed that would be paired with the Water Board's instream flow work. The UVRGA considered a letter of support but took no action on April 13, 2017 because there wasn't unanimity. Director Kuebler was one of the dissenting votes and is asking the Board to take a position. Bruce Kuebler and Bert Rapp agreed after reading the Bureau of Reclamation proposal that they saw no value but potential problems with the Bureau of Reclamation study. Ed Lee moved for the recommended action to oppose the Bureau of Reclamation study of the Ventura River Watershed, seconded Jack Curtis, approved 5-0.
12. **GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT WATER & DISTRICT STATUS** – The aquifer is currently 8 feet above the 25 year average for April 1 at an elevation of 544.3. Well #3 & 4 are on line and pumping. Well #3 is pumping at 375 gpm and was turned on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Well #4 was turned on April 3<sup>rd</sup> for the first time in four years. No water was purchased from Casitas in March. Revenues for March came in under budget. Lake Casitas was at 43.8% as of April 1, 2017 increasing 0.9 feet or 0.5% since last month. Bert asked for two Board Members to serve on an Ad-Hoc Committee to interview new Auditor candidates. Peggy Wiles and Jack Curtis volunteered. No action was taken.
13. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS** – Bert Rapp gave an update on Water Budget Rates program with comment from Peggy Wiles and Jack Curtis.
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**- Bruce Kuebler moved the meeting into executive session at 4:30 P.M. to discuss Small v. VRWD case # 56-2015-00464077-CU-EI-VTA and review of legal counsel

performance. The Board came out of this session at 4:43 and no actions were taken during the executive session.

**15. MEETING ADJOURNMENT** – Bruce Kuebler called the meeting adjourned at 4:43 P.M.

Attested:

  
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Bruce Kuebler, President

  
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John Curtis, Vice President