

**VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2007**

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 November 14, 2007.

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

M. Hanson moved for approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting held October 10, 2007, seconded by T. Jamison and carried.

J. Curtis moved for approval of the Financial Statements for September 2007 and the disbursements for October 2007 Accounts Payable check numbers 8541 - 8585, Trust check numbers 2532 - 2533, and Payroll check numbers 4177 - 4191 totaling \$100,483 seconded by T. Jamison and carried.

The Personnel/Finance Committee of M. Hanson and T. Jamison reported that they met with M. Bryant on November 2, 2007 to review the financial position of the District to determine if the wage freeze can be lifted. With the current drought conditions the District is required to purchase large quantities of water to meet demand. Funds need to be available to accommodate that need. The Committee felt it is too early in the fiscal year to determine revenue projections. The Committee will meet again later in the year for another review.

Mr. Galgas addressed the Board about the Resolution 2007-224 approved June 13, 2007 adopting salary ranges for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. Mr. Galgas noted that an adjustment of 10% was approved but only 5% cost of living was passed on to the employees. It was explained to Mr. Galgas that the salary schedule adjustment makes provision for raises in the fiscal year, but as with any organization raises are not guaranteed. The salary schedule gives minimum and maximum pay rates by position.

An employee request to consider a policy change for family funeral leave was discussed with no action taken.

The Allocation/Water Shortage Committee of J. Curtis and E. Lee reported that they met on October 25, 2007 with M. Bryant. Water conservation and drought preparedness materials compiled by Staff from the State of California Drought Preparedness workshop were reviewed and discussed. Consideration of a five stage plan was discussed. The five stage plan would have two voluntary stages that include education and public outreach with stages three to five being escalating mandatory restrictions. The Committee expressed that VRCWD's plan will need to go hand in hand with the regional committee's plan so all regional agencies use plans that are equitable to all users.

A draft agreement with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department to place an emergency alert antenna at the Alto tank site was reviewed. No action was taken as the City of Ojai is now the lead agency on this and the Board felt that the agreement would need to be revised to address concerns about site access. Additionally, since the lead agency has changed, the Board would like to see what the City of Ojai is proposing and a new agreement will need to be drafted with each agency's roles clearly defined.

M. Bryant reported that the regional water agencies cooperated in manning a booth at the Ojai Day Celebration. Agencies represented were Ventura River CWD, Casitas MWD, Meiner's Oaks CWD, Golden State Water Company, Casitas Mutual Water Company, Siete Robles Water Company, Senior Canyon Water Company, Tico Mutual Water Company and the City of Ojai. The goal of the booth was to provide public outreach and education on the water agencies that serve the Ojai area and to educate the public that there is no imported water to the Ojai Valley for drought mitigation. Conservation was the message of the day with Golden State Water Company providing water conservation kits consisting of low flow shower heads, sink aerators, toilet flappers and toilet dye for leak detection. School kits were also on hand to show the public what is available to schools.

M. Bryant reported on wells, production, and usage. The aquifer level in Well #2 on November 1st was at 66.4', down 3.6' feet from last month. Water production continues to decline. The Purchased Water Surcharge billed October 31, 2007 was 31 cents per HCF. Requests to customers to reduce demand continue.

M. Bryant reported that the regional water agencies are continuing to cooperate to form a regional Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Drought conditions continue with production down 22.1% from the same period in 2004 which was the last drought period. The Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County will hold a Drought Watch 2008 breakfast meeting on January 24, 2008

T. Jamison moved to support the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County's Corporate Night on December 6, 2007 at the \$100 (Elf) level, seconded by M. Hanson and carried.

The ballot for the Nation Water Resources Association (NWRA) election was discussed and the ballot was cast by the Board for Wayne A. Clark of MWD of Orange County, Lawrence Libue of San Bernardino Valley WCD, Adrienne (Ann) Matthews of Kern County Water Agency and Terrance (Terry) M. King of Chino Basin Water Conservation District. Staff will submit the ballot on behalf of the Board by the December 3, 2007 deadline.

J. Schaefer reported under Old Business that a new Employee Mrs. Marlane Malarkey will start in the Office Assistant position on November 26, 2007.

The Ventura County Special District's Association bi-monthly dinner meeting will be held December 4, 2007 at Conejo Recreation and Park District. J. Curtis and M. Hanson will attend.

Staff called attention to the supplemental information in the agenda regarding AB1260 which clarifies how to administer Proposition 218 customer notifications.

There being no further action to come before this meeting on motion duly seconded the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 o'clock p.m.

Attested:



Eddie P. Ramseyer, President



Tom Jamison, Vice President