

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**

*held at*  
**3301 Laurel Canyon Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

**Monday, June 24, 2024  
1:00 PM**

---

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Holcombe at 1:03 PM.

**Directors Present:**

Polly Holcombe, Carpinteria Valley Water District  
Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District  
Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District  
Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara

**General Counsel Present:**

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

**Staff Present:**

Janet Gingras, General Manager	Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distribution Operator
Joel Degner, Engineer/Operations Division Mgr.	Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II
Scott Engblom, Fisheries Biologist	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

**Others Present:**

Dana Hoffenberg, City of Santa Barbara	Matt Young, County of SB Water Agency
Matthew Scrudato, County of SB Water Agency	Jordan Benshea, Resident

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of May 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
  - Financial Reports
  - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras presented the Consent Agenda items and reported the receipt of the IRWMP grant funds as well as reimbursement from CalOES for 2023 storm damages. She drew the Board's attention to a number of Paid Claims of note, including remittances to Coastline Equipment, Freeboard, Smith MEP, Versatube and finally, the return of the IRWMP funds to the Member Agencies.

President Holcombe asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, provided by Director Sneddon and seconded by Director Hanson. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe  
**Nays:**  
**Absent:**  
**Abstain:**

**4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

- Fisheries Committee Meeting – June 6, 2024

Director Hanson provided a succinct recap of the Fisheries Committee meeting, stating that it was very informative. The Committee is forwarding two items to the Board meeting today with recommendations to approve.

**5. FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**

- a. Election of President
- b. Election of Vice-President
- c. Appointment of ACWA/JPIA Representative and Alternate
- d. Appointment of General Counsel
- e. Appointment of Secretary of the Board
- f. Appointment of Treasurer /Auditor-Controller

President Holcombe introduced the slates for elections and appointments and asked for nominations. Director Hanson nominated President Holcombe to serve another term and provided the motion. Director Hayman seconded and the motion carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor to elect President Holcombe to serve as President for the 2024-25 term.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe  
**Nays:**  
**Absent:**  
**Abstain:**

Director Hayman nominated Director Sneddon to serve another term as Vice President and provided the motion which was seconded by Director Hanson. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor to elect Director Sneddon to serve as Vice President for the 2024-25 term.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe  
**Nays:**  
**Absent:**  
**Abstain**

As there were no requests to change appointments, Director Sneddon motioned to appoint the slate (items C-F) as presented. Director Hayman seconded the motion which was approved by a vote of six in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe  
**Nays:**  
**Absent:**  
**Abstain**

**6. FISH PASSAGE AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT – SOLE SOURCE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT**

Ms. Gingras provided a summary of previous discussions regarding the damages incurred by the crossings during the 2023 storms and the proposed funding. She presented the Sole Source Justification (SSJ) to execute a contract with Lapidus Construction, Inc. as the most efficacious path for repair.

Director Hanson motioned to approve the SSJ, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion to approve the SSJ carried with a vote of six in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

**7. RESOLUTION NO. 799 – U. S BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES AGREEMENT**

Ms. Gingras presented the Activities Agreement and Resolution No. 799 for discussion and approval. She provided a historical perspective of fisheries activities and reviewed the major details of the agreement. She noted that it is a living document with built-in flexibility for revision as needs arise, including the publication of the next Biological Opinion. Ms. Gingras fielded questions and discussion from the Board.

Director Hanson made a motion to adopt the agreement via resolution and Director Hayman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of six in favor.

**Ayes:** Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

**8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

- Administration
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager Report. She advised the Ms. Bishop had attended a Southern California Edison (SCE) 2024 Critical Infrastructure workshop, largely focusing on Public Safety Shutdowns. Ms. Bishop provided a recap of the actions SCE is taking to minimize the impact of such shutdowns. She fielded questions from the Board. Ms. Gingras proceeded to update the Board on the progress of the electronic vehicle cost benefit analysis, stating that more data is required in order to make a determination as to cost effectiveness. She recapped several topics including the upcoming OPEB Valuation, the completion of the hazardous materials audit required by Reclamation and the permitting of COMB's generators. Ms. Gingras fielded questions from the Board. Finally, she noted proudly Mr. Degner's milestone achievement of his D-4 certification, a first for COMB.

**10. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Climate Conditions
- Winter Storm Damage and Repairs
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Degner initiated his report with information on lake elevation and forecasted climate conditions. He noted that this year has recorded the 9<sup>th</sup> largest spill volume. Mr. Degner provided information regarding ongoing funding efforts and reimbursements received. Finally, he reported that staff is working on a cost benefit analysis for a potential solar installation.

**11. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT**

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report. He advised that staff has spent most of their time engaged in defensible space clearance. As well, Mr. King reported that generator electronics were being upgraded and a rope retrieval system had been purchased for elevator emergencies. A discussion of elevator safety measures ensued in response to comments from Board members.

**12. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT**

- LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements
- Surcharge Water Accounting
- Reporting/Outreach/Training

Mr. Engblom provided comments on the Fisheries Division report, highlighting migrant trapping statistics and noting that O.mykiss appear to be resilient and thriving in several habitats. He added that snorkel surveys will provide more data on numbers of fish. As well, he reported that target flows had been met at the various measuring points.

**13. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM**

- Maintenance and Monitoring
- End of Program Plan

Mr. Engblom presented the Oak Tree report. Staff has commenced irrigation efforts and weeding continues.

**14. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS**

- a. Cachuma Water Reports
- b. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions
- c. Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

Ms. Gingras referenced the Cachuma Project reports noting nothing unusual. She stated that they will look different next month due to the end of the release. She fielded questions from the Board. She and staff provided input in response.

**15. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

Directors requested future updates on elevator safety measures.

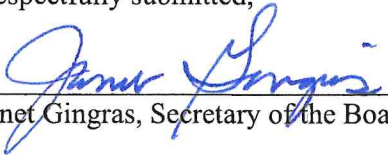
**17. MEETING SCHEDULE**

- **Regular Board Meeting – July 22, 2024 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website [www.cachuma-board.org](http://www.cachuma-board.org)**

**18. COMB ADJOURNMENT**

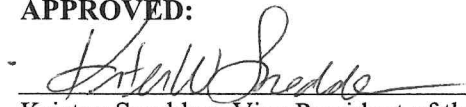
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Sneddon, Vice President of the Board