

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
January 27, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held January 27, 2010 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Handley, Kaiser, Word, Baggerly and Hicks were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were six staff members and twelve members of the public in attendance. President Handley led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum provided an update from last weeks storm events. Casitas dam received 8.57 inches of rain from January 17 – 27. The lake rose 3.84 feet which is about 8,500 acre feet increase. It is now 76% full. Diversions began January 18<sup>th</sup> and are continuing. Staff was diligent and worked through the storms and operations went well. The brush system worked better. We want to continue to test during full loads. This is encouraging and we have made some good strides with the brush system. There are a few other changes and modifications that will be made. There have been no fish seen through the Robles stretch.

Director Word added it is encouraging brushes are working so storms that follow through can continue. Out there at noon today and surprised at how much was coming down and it wasn't ugly water.

Director Kaiser conveyed the board's appreciation to staff on diligence and efforts to get every drop of water. Mr. Wickstrum added that Scott and his staff were also working a lot of hours in the stream and on the weekends. They are very active in our participation and observations in the stream. We released water from Matilija on Monday and Tuesday.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Hicks mentioned that in the tragic situation in Haiti money was not good but if you had water you could get everything you wanted.

4. Consent Agenda

APPROVED

- a. Minutes of the December 16, 2009 Board Meeting.
- b. Minutes of the January 13, 2010 Board Meeting.
- c. Recommend approval of a purchase order to Tomar Construction inc. in the amount of \$25,336 to complete repairs to the Casitas Water Adventure.
- d. Recommend approval of Change Order 1 to Ojai 4(M) Reservoir Number 2 Interior Coating and Repair Specification No.09-325 in the amount of \$130,225.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed.

5. Bills

APPROVED

Director Kaiser questioned #4093 to CSJ Systems Inc. Mr. Wickstrum explained that this is the company we use to mail out our bills.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Word and passed, the bills were approved.

6. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Water Resources Minutes
- b. Finance Minutes

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the Committee/Manager Reports were approved for filing.

7. Discussion/Presentation of current proposals for Matilija Dam removal.

Supervisor Bennett thanked the board for the opportunity to present this proposal. He introduced Daryl Buxton, Army Corp of Engineers, Peter Sheydayi and Norma Camacho who is the new replacement for Jeff Pratt. We went through this presentation at the Design Oversight Committee. The presentation can be viewed at [http://www.matilijadam.org/documents/Slurry\\_Disposal\\_Studies/upstream%20storage%20011410.pps](http://www.matilijadam.org/documents/Slurry_Disposal_Studies/upstream%20storage%20011410.pps) Steve and Russ were at that meeting. We had that presentation and yesterday was the first time I received negative e-mails on the project. The things being said in the e-mails is not what this project is doing. Allegations were made about destroying the ability for the steelhead to come back. This is the major reason we are doing this.

The original proposal that went to congress discussed slurry of the sediment but the costs continue to climb and there are significant environmental impacts to building the slurry line. Those four BRDA sites came in at \$30 million over budget. We started looking at MODA sites for cost savings. That is an area that has engendered opposition from residents and Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. We spent a lot of time on what to do on this issue. One of the

other options called for putting it near Rancho Matilija and there would be impacts for those residents. The 4 million cubic yards of sediment we like would stay behind the dam. On high flows it would start to wash out and over time that sediment would make its way down the beach. That is original proposal, good sediment protected behind the dam, utilize soil cement and have as much ecosystem restoration as possible.

Concerns include cost, community resistance, and constructability. Questioned if there was a constructible alternative to permanently sequester fine sediments upstream of the dam. The fines have a negative impact to Lake Casitas. They are significant and we made a commitment keep fines out of the lake. The new proposal calls for two drying areas and instead of slurrying the fines down the river; we would take the fine sediments, let them dry and push them over to this site. This would be the bad sediments. All good sediments would be left in a manner to still be released to the beach. The fines that would be stored permanently would be designed to 100 year storm capacity and would not be designed to wash out in high flows.

Director Kaiser asked about drainage between the two sites. Supervisor Bennett stated that we are exploring the concepts now and it will be looked at. Supervisor Bennett then stated that the sediment would have a gradual slope at on top of the course sediment it would have soil cement and be planted with natural growth. This concept would not disturb areas below the dam, there would not be a slurry pipeline and we would not need 4,000 acre feet of water for the slurry operation.

Advantages to this concept are it eliminates impacts to communities adjacent to downstream disposal sites. Last night the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy voted to support this in concept. We appreciated that vote. We need to know where we are with the stakeholders. We are at risk of Matilija Dam losing momentum in Washington. This eliminates slurry line construction impacts, eliminates water needed for slurry. Decreases the overall project footprint, construction risk and overall environmental impacts, improves water quality.

Director Baggerly asked what the environmental review would be and would the new project impact the BO. Mr. Buxton replied we would have to amend the environmental assessment EIS to document the differences. It would have to be documented and put out for public review like any other change. Some update to the BO would be required.

Director Word asked what Supervisor Bennett was asking of us. Supervisor Bennett stated he would like to know where the stakeholders stand on this proposal.

John Mirk stated he was the author of one of the e-mails but he was impressed by the presentation and felt it was a fabulous solution. How simple it is and solves problems. He was pleased they are going out of their way to make it look as natural as possible and felt they should go ahead with this.

Paul Jenkin with the Matilija Coalition expressed his concern was one of big selling points or features that we were proud of in feasibility process was we were able to create meandering channel in the reservoir. That was not intended to be stabilized beyond ten year flood event. More importantly the recognition to try to keep something up there permanently would create a future liability issue when it breaks loose. Still looking at this. Presentation was vague in terms of acres and mix and match. He added he believes there is a viable alternative to manage sediments upstream in Matilija canyon if done in collaborative, restoration design process but has no formal position on this.

Nika Knight with the Matilija Coalition and the Southern California Director for Cal Trout believed we have several parts and pieces to be cobbled together to create a plan. There are some key elements not factored in that could effect the costs. All of the hydrology has not been mapped, examined for solutions. Hydrological assessment of springs and drainage has to be done, dramatic and significant cost. Another factor is on the other side of the canyon the road has to be stabilized concrete and rip rap. This has to be considered in environmental impact. There may be a solution in there. Without knowing the particulars it is not fair to say it will cost this much. The idea is to save taxpayers money it will require ongoing operations and maintenance. Repairs will be necessary. Every time you repair it, heavy equipment will be back there and someone has liability for that. Options need to be considered and with further examination we can work something out. We need to approach cautiously. Lastly if the dam was not in place fines and coarse gravels would be washed down. Director Word asked if her group had an alternative solution. Ms. Knight stated they are working on this now to try to craft something that could be an alternative based on the plan that has been mapped out.

Supervisor Bennett stated a lot more money has to be spent to design this. We are at the point where we need to know if the major stakeholders can live with this if the design can work out. No one is asking for you to sign off on this. If you are not supportive of this concept we can't in good faith continue.

Director Handley suggested at 5:42 p.m. that the board take a five minute break to switch computers etc. The meeting was brought back into session at 5:48 p.m.

8. Presentation and discussion of current steelhead activities.

Scott Lewis provided his report for Robles Monitoring and Evaluation Progress Report for 2009.

The report covered facility monitoring, upstream impediments, fish attraction and fish passage. 2009 was good year for smolts. There were a total of 800 but some are duplicate or repeated counts.

The facility is working properly with fish upstream and down at the same time. There was only a three week window to get to the ocean. A fish died

below Robles. The Vaki Riverwatcher is not designed to detect smaller fish. The detection rate on larger fish is 100%. Additional testing is needed this summer.

Director Baggerly asked the purpose for research and study of the impediments. Mr. Lewis explained this relates to our minimum flow releases. We are now operating with 50 cfs. This is what impediment evaluation is for. If determined these critical areas continue to be impediments at flows x we have they may request more water. Or if it shows they are not impediments at lower flows district could receive a request for a lower release. Director Kaiser asked if it was an option to remove impediments. Mr. Wickstrum explained we are not authorized to do that. Director Word asked for a copy of the final report. Mr. Lewis explained he is waiting for final comments. Nika Knight also requested the data. Mr. Lewis then explained that we have been in the river all week but have not seen any adults yet.

9. Information Items:

- a. Recreation Area Report for December
- b. News Release from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding invasive mussels.
- c. News Articles
- d. Investment Report

President Handley moved the meeting to closed session at 6:16 p.m.

10. Closed session

Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Govt. Code Sec. 54957)  
Title: General Manager

President Handley moved the meeting back into open session at 6:32 p.m. with John Mathews stating the Board met in closed session to discuss the performance evaluation of General Manager, Steve Wickstrum. The Board discussed the General Manager's performance and it was determined that his compensation would be placed on an upcoming agenda.

11. Adjournment

President Handley adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

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Secretary