

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
January 25, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Brennan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Bergen, Kaiser, Cole, Hajas and Brennan are present. Also present are GM Flood, AGM Dyer, EA Vieira and Counsel Mathews.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Cole led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AGENDA CONFIRMATION

Approved as presented

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Presentation on District related items that are not on the agenda - three minute limit.

None

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.a. Accounts Payable Report.  
[Accounts Payable Report.pdf](#)

6.b. Minutes of the January 11, 2023 Board Meeting.  
[1 11 2023 Min.pdf](#)

6.c. Resolution re-authorizing remote teleconference meetings for the legislative bodies of Casitas MWD for the period of January 25, 2023 to February 24, 2023.  
[Resolution Subsequent AB 361.pdf](#)

Questions were asked regarding the process for teleconferenced meetings with Mr. Mathews stating he will report back on the process.

The Consent Agenda was offered by Director Hajas, seconded by Director Cole and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Kaiser, Cole, Hajas, Brennan
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

Resolution is numbered 2023-03

7. ACTION ITEMS

- 7.a. Discussion and possible action on Casitas MWD Board of Directors Bylaws.  
Board Memo CMWD Bylaws Discussion 012523.pdf

The Board discussed the current process outlined in the Bylaws for the election of the Board President and Vice President and appointment of other officer positions.

- 7.b. Board Elections  
- President  
- Vice-President  
- Rotation of other officers

Director Cole nominated Richard Hajas as president, seconded by Director Bergen, Richard Hajas is elected to the position of President by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Kaiser, Cole, Hajas, Brennan
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

Director Cole nominated Pete Kaiser as Vice President, seconded by Director Bergen, Pete Kaiser is elected to the position of Vice President by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Kaiser, Cole, Hajas, Brennan
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

The remaining positions are as follows:

Secretary is Director Bergen

Assistant Secretary is Director Brennan

At Large member is Director Cole

- 7.c. Appointment of District Committees  
- Finance Committee  
- Recreation Committee  
- Conservation Penalty Appeals Panel

On the motion of Director Cole, seconded by Director Kaiser, the committee assignment remain the same with Director Hajas and Cole on Finance, Director Kaiser and Brennan on Recreation and Directors Bergen, Brennan and Hajas on the Conservation Penalty Appeals Panel. This was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Kaiser, Cole, Hajas, Brennan
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

7.d. Appointment of Directors to the Upper Ventura Groundwater Agency and Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency.

On the motion of Director Bergen, seconded by Director Cole the representatives will remain the same with Director Hajas on OBGMA and Director Kaiser on UVRGA with Director Bergen as the alternate to both. This was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Kaiser, Cole, Hajas, Brennan
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

7.e. Resolution Appointing a Casitas MWD Board Member to the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.  
[Reso Director Appointment to UVRGA.pdf](#)

The resolution was offered by Director Bergen, seconded by Director Kaiser with the appointments staying the same with Director Kaiser as the member and Director Bergen as the alternate. The resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Kaiser, Cole, Hajas, Brennan
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

Resolution is numbered 2023-04

7.f. Approve an Amendment for Professional Native American Monitoring Services for Annette Ayala for the West and East Ojai Avenue Pipeline Replacement project, Specification No. 19-411 in the amount of \$68,880.  
[Jan\\_2023\\_Cultural Resources\\_Additional\\_01182023 \(1\).pdf](#)  
[CMWD Ojai Ave Pipeline\\_Amend 3 - Addtl Permitting Support \(20200831\).pdf](#) [Amendment No. 1\\_Ayala.pdf](#)

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Brennan, the above recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Kaiser, Cole, Hajas, Brennan
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.a. Hydrology Report for December 2022.  
[Hydrology December 2022 \(1\).pdf](#)

8.b. Recreation Committee Minutes.  
[Rec Minutes 011023.pdf](#)

The information items were received.

## 9. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

GM Flood reported that things are calming down as flows everywhere have tapered off. At Robles we continue emergency work and expect to have it wrapped up in a week or so. We want to make sure the repair can survive the next event. We are reestablishing access to the diversion facility. It is a difficult road with a 20 foot drop off due to the scouring. We are working on getting the customers in Ojala back in service. We can get heavy equipment in on the north side and will have delivery of 1400 feet of pipeline tomorrow and begin installing it. The road that used to carry that pipe was completely washed away. Without a lot of rock work it will probably not survive the next storm. We are looking to anchor the pipeline in the rock. We hope the six services will be back in service in about a week. They will be under a boil water order and we will test and eventually they will be cleared.

Director Brennan added the Camino Cielo Bridge is in design right now. GM Flood responded that it may not need to be in the bridge.

GM Flood reported that he met with FEMA and disaster recovery individuals on Thursday. He toured the fish ladder and walked up to where the Matilija Conduit was severed. The river brought down not just dirt and rocks, but boulders, sheds, and large wood debris. We anticipate the recovery costs to be \$5 million dollars.

LCRA will open for boating tomorrow. There is still a good amount of debris in the lake -- boats are at their own risk. We are working on campground C. The Santa Ana inlet flooded campground C. Coyote Ramp is closed. We are also preparing for a concrete pour at Casitas Water Adventure.

The water level has increased level about 30,000 AF from the fall. We have 103,000 AF in the lake, 23 feet of increase. We may see some more rain in February.

Director Brennan added we have all received phone calls. Most people are not aware the timber wall was made to break and that it saves the diversion. With Matilija coming down there may be possibility to redesign the Robles Diversion. Staff have been working 24 hours a day to get every drop in we can. I appreciate the work staff has done. Staff put themselves at risk to do that work. You don't divert in those situations. Every lake is different and they take their own time to fill.

Director Kaiser expressed appreciation to Mike and staff. He was impressed with what he saw that was being done and astonished at the debris that was encountered.

Director Brennan added that as resident of Ventura to see what was coming down the river go to the beach.

Director Bergen complimented staff working in the cold and pouring rain. The amount of water in a short period of time completely changes San Antonino Creek and the Ventura River. This is the way our rivers work. They are not nice sierra trout streams.

Director Cole thanked staff and added he is happy to be retired.

President Hajas added that he and Director Cole were talking and there was a moment we

yearned to be out there but it was fleeting. President Hajas thanked staff and commended putting the lake level reports on the websites. People are excited and want to see it.

10. BOARD OF DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Director Bergen attended the UVGA and the AWA meeting. Director Kaiser attended the UVRGA and AWA meeting. President Hajas listened to the AWA meeting.

11. BOARD OF DIRECTOR COMMENTS PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2(a).

Director Brennan mentioned that we get a lot of water in a short period of time and other periods there is no water due to climate change. I am hearing people talking about catchments and systems, old systems, slow and sink is a great opportunity.

President Hajas thanked the board for entrusting him for this position and is looking forward to serving and move forward in long term planning.

Burt Handy suggested putting a video clip on the Robles Diversion and GM Flood replied that is already being worked on.

President Hajas moved the meeting to closed session at 5:41 p.m.

12. CLOSED SESSION

12.a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(a) Santa Barbara Channelkeeper v. State Water Resources Control Board, City of San Buenaventura, et al.; and City of San Buenaventura v Duncan Abbott, et al., Cross Complaint; Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 19STCP01176.

12.b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation  
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(b): (One case)

President Hajas moved the meeting back to open session at 6:31p.m. with Mr. Mathews stating the board met in closed session with general and special counsel and no reportable action taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Hajas adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Bergen, Secretary