



**APPROVED**  
**October 31, 2011**

**MINUTES**  
**of the Regular Meeting**  
**Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency**  
**Board of Directors**  
**September 26, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency was Called to Order by Chair Stefani at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, September 26, 2011 in the Board Room at 5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey, California.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ron Stefani, Chair	Castroville Community Services Water District
Dennis Allion, Vice Chair	Del Rey Oaks, Councilmember
Ramiro Cortez	Boronda County Sanitation District
Kenneth Nishi	Marina Coast Water District, Director
Libby Downey	Monterey, Councilmember
Lou Calcagno [departed at 8:15 pm]	Monterey County, Supervisor
Chris Orman	Moss Landing County Sanitation District
Carmelita Garcia	Pacific Grove, Mayor
Gloria De La Rosa	Salinas, Mayor Pro Tem
Dave Pendergrass	Sand City, Mayor
Felix Bachofner	Seaside, Mayor
Vacant – Ex-Officio	U.S. Army, Representative

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**MRWPCA STAFF PRESENT:**

Keith Israel	General Manager
Rob Wellington	Legal Counsel
Brad Hagemann	Assistant General Manager
John Tiernan	Director of Admin Services/Deputy GM
Tom Buell	Director of Finance
Bob Holden	Principal Engineer

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Karen Harris	Community Relations Specialist
Jerry Valladao	Associate Engineer
Robert Locke	WWTP Operator III
Bill Ragsdale-Cronin	Maintenance Supervisor
Maddi Bell	Admin Support Specialist I
Betty Nebb	Executive Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Frank Aguayo – City of Salinas  
George Riley – Citizens for Public Water  
Jeff Krebs – City of Monterey  
Jan Shriner – Marina Coast Water District  
Carl Niizawa – Marina Coast Water District  
Paula Riso – Marina Coast Water District  
Wayne Downey

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mr. Allion.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At 7:02 pm, Chair Stefani opened and closed Public Comments.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Nishi asked to pull Items G and H.

**ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Ms. Downey, seconded by Ms. De La Rosa, the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda Items A through F as follows:**

- A. Approve Minutes/Report for the Regular Board Meeting of August 29, 2011
- B. Receive Percentage of FY 2011/12 Budget Expended through August 2011
- C. Receive Check Register for August 2011
- D. Receive Waste Discharge Report, August 2011; NPDES Monitoring Report for August 2011' and Plant Flows and Effluent Quality for Connected Agencies, Plus Flow Charts for RTP, Salinas, Monterey Peninsula, Marina, Fort Ord and Castroville for August 2011
- E. Receive Actual vs. Budgeted Fiscal Year 2011/12 Expenditures for the Capital Improvement Program, Capitalized Equipment Fund, and
- F. Receive Actual vs. Anticipated Fiscal Year 2011/12 Revenues from Capacity Charges.

Mr. Nishi asked if there was a contingency on the amount of the contract award to Blocka Construction Inc. Mr. Buell responded that the Board is asked to approve

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the bid amount and based on policy our staff can provide change orders for up to 10% of the contract amount. If the cost is more than that, it will come back for Board review and approval. Mr. Nishi had further questions about the amount of money previously expended in FY10/11 for this project. Mr. Buell stated that the Design was completed in FY10/11 in the amount of \$26,000 as reflected in the "Amt Expended to Date" line item on page 40. The amount in the "Total Estimated Cost" line item should have had "FY11/12" after the \$129,500, bringing the total cost of project to \$155,500.

**ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Mr. Nishi, seconded by Ms. Garcia, the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda Item G as follows:**

- G. Approve Contract for Salinas Valley Reclamation Project Backwash Water VFD Replacement Project

Regarding Consent Agenda Item H, Mr. Nishi asked about the increase in cost for the repair. Mr. Hagemann indicated that as the contractor began the work, scaffolding was installed. Staff was able to inspect the West Grit Chamber area more thoroughly and found significantly more damage to the liner system than was previously visible. As a result staff negotiated a change order for the additional time and work needed in the West Grit Chamber. As a result of these increased costs, staff has decided to temporarily defer work in the East Grit Chamber until FY 2012/13. Mr. Valladao suggested that staff may find additional work is also needed in the East Grit Chamber and next year's budget will reflect the possible increase in cost.

**ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Mr. Nishi, seconded by Ms. Garcia, the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda Item H as follows:**

- H. Approve Amendment to Construction Contract for Grit Chambers Linabond® System Rehab Project

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RELATED ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Recycled Water Committee**

**1. Receive Committee Recommendations from RWC Meeting of September 15, 2011**

**Item 1 – Update on Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Water Supply Alternatives Workshop**

Mr. Israel reported that the MPWMD held a workshop on water supply alternatives on August 25. As part of the program, General Manager Darby Fuerst presented information regarding required water supply reductions/Cal Am usage. Tables

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prepared were based on the possibility that current WY 2010 consumption will not increase because of increasing conservation and tiered rate increases.

Mr. Israel noted that of particular interest were the nominal shortages in allowable water production for Cal Am that begin to appear in 2015 and 2016. In 2017 the predicted shortage is 5,288 AF and that would be the time when alternative water projects could be online to help supplement that shortage. He added that if conservation continues, small projects may provide interim relief and could supply up to 5,000 AF by 2017; and there may be even extra time before the regional desal project is needed. Mr. Israel presented two charts that illustrated Cal Am's allowable production from the Carmel River and Seaside Basin and the amount of surplus and shortage relative to estimated production levels.

Mr. Israel reported that he had met with the MPWMD's new General Manager David Stoldt and looks forward to continuing our positive relationship with the District. He also learned that the City of Monterey is planning a workshop to review MPWMD and Cal Am information and alternative water supply options.

➤ **Information only – no action needed.**

**Item 2 – Consider Work Plan for Expediting the Groundwater Replenishment Projects**

Mr. Israel provided a presentation for the RW Committee on the Monterey Peninsula Groundwater Replenishment Project that staff will continue to refine and enhance based on feedback from the members. Mr. Holden introduced information about the Project Team for GWR and the formation of an Independent Advisory Panel that will review and provide recommendations for implementing a successful project. A draft overall work plan was provided for the Committee's review, and after some discussion the consensus was for staff to further develop the presentation and enumerate the details of the project work plan for presentation at the September Board meeting. Mr. Holden confirmed this updated and refined information will be presented later as part of tonight's Board agenda.

➤ **Information only – no action needed.**

Mr. Bachofner asked that his arrival time to RW Committee meeting be corrected to reflect that he arrived just after the start of the meeting.

**ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Mr. Calcagno, seconded by Ms. De La Rosa, the Board unanimously approved the Recycled Water Committee Minutes/Report, of September 15, 2011, as corrected.**

**7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Reclamation Project Status Summary**

Mr. Israel stated the report has been updated.

**B. Strategic Planning Goals (2011-2014) and One-Year Objectives Update**

Mr. Israel stated staff continues to make progress on the goals.

Mr. Hagemann stated a report (page 84) has been provided as part of the Strategic Goals to “Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Energy Plan.” Staff is conducting an Agency-wide energy audit and will report the findings and recommendations to the Board in March 2012.

**C. Status Report of Other Significant Projects**

No questions or comments.

**D. Operational Report**

No questions or comments.

**8. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. General Manager/Assistant General Manager/Legal Counsel**

Mr. Israel reported that the next Recycled Water Committee meeting would be held on October 20 at 3:00 pm and that the next Budget/Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 1:30 pm. He also called attention to the CSIP exhibit at the entrance to the Board Room that was used at the Monterey County Fair this year to highlight the recycled water irrigation of food crops.

Mr. Hagemann provided photographs and an update on Salinas River Diversion Facility and the repairs to the rubber dam. Mr. Calcagno stated that the County has hired a separate contractor to evaluate the needed repairs and determine what errors were made in the construction/design of the project. Currently the estimated cost for repairs to the rubber dam range from \$900k to \$1.1m. Mr. Hagemann explained that the Agency is assisting the County as much as possible; however, because we had no involvement in the construction, we are not directly participating in the repair of the facility.

Mr. Orman asked about supplying water to the growers while the repairs are being completed; and Mr. Hagemann explained that since it is late in the irrigation season, we will be able to use well water to supplement the production of recycled water, if needed.

**B. Presentation(s): Update on Groundwater Replenishment Project (GWR)**  
**– Part 2, General Manager Keith Israel / Bob Holden, Principal Engineer**

Mr. Israel began the presentation by providing GWR milestones since the Board approved funding for the project, awarded contracts to begin work, and development of the overall workplan for expediting the project. He explained that our public outreach/education efforts include the upcoming tour of the Orange County Water District Groundwater Replenishment System and stated a second trip may be arranged the first week of December. A press conference is scheduled for October 27 to announce the kickoff of the expedited GWR project.

Mr. Israel stated the GWR will produce 2,700 AFY of replenishment water to recharge the Seaside Aquifer and will operate about five months during the October through March time frame (during reduced CSIP demand). Options will be evaluated in the first quarter of 2012 to consider year-round micro-filtration/reverse osmosis operations. He explained that the recycled water available is the 8,000 AFY that is currently being discharged to the Monterey Bay through the outfall.

Mr. Holden provided background information on the GWR project team and the expertise our consultants bring to this project. He also explained the requirement by the California Department of Public Health to have an Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) to provide oversight and guidance/recommendations to help implement a successful project. He explained the advanced water treatment process, where the facilities would likely be located at the treatment plant and provided photos of each: 1) micro- or ultra-filtration, 2) break tank, 3) reverse osmosis, 4) UV/hydrogen peroxide advance oxidation, 5) post treatment/clear well, and 6) pump station. Mr. Holden explained the GW recharge methods, the proposed location for the injection and/or vadose zone wells and the numerous levels of safety monitoring.

As Mr. Holden reviewed the Draft Overall GWR Workplan and discussed the specific tasks, the Board had a thorough discussion of the process. Mr. Allion asked if our workplan followed the steps used by Orange County for their replenishment project, and Mr. Holden explained that in terms of the processes it will be very similar – he noted that their pilot project was 5 MGD and that is equivalent to the size of our final project. There was further discussion about the schedule and whether this project could be implemented by February 2017. Mr. Holden stated he felt the schedule was very realistic, but that staff will continue to adjust the schedule as work proceeds and tasks are more defined. Mr. Allion asked about the safety of the replenished water and wondered if there were any cases of people getting sick. Mr. Holden stated that not one person has ever gotten sick from even Title 22 recycled irrigation water – drinking that water is not encouraged, but statistically it has proven to be safe water.

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Discussion followed with members offering suggestions on enhancements to the presentation, and staff noted that a change would be made to the Project Team organizational chart to show that the IAP is truly independent of our Agency and Board. Mr. Holden explained that the National Research Institute, a non-government organization, gathers the experts to form an IAP and ensures that their integrity in evaluating a project is directly in line with regulations and requirements of the California State Department of Public Health. He stated that the Department of Public Health then reports directly to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Our GWR project must be vetted by independent and outside parties before it can be fully endorsed.

Mr. Allion stated that a Gantt chart would be a useful guide to display how the project is progressing and it would help the Board to better understand the process. He noted it is not the Board's position to manage this work but part of the Board's function is to anticipate the blocks that may stop progress and work to keep everything moving forward.

Mr. Holden explained that staff would come back to the Board with proposed Next Steps and FY 2011/12 GWR cost estimates. Additionally he will address different ways that the project could be further accelerated. Ms. Garcia noted that it may be advantageous to bring more of the financial items before the Board to approve larger contract amounts which may allow staff to continue the process forward. Mr. Holden explained there will be requests for additional funding for January through June 2012 (the balance of this fiscal year). Mr. Israel added that staff will move forward, but cautiously, in order to spend money wisely.

Chair Stefani congratulated staff on the excellent presentation and then called for Public Comments.

Mr. George Riley, Citizens for Public Water, stated he applauded the Board for their action to move forward on the Groundwater Replenishment Project. He noted that when PR is needed, he knows many who would gladly help promote this project as we should all be working in the same direction to help solve our community's water issues. This Board is leaping ahead and should be commended.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Israel stated a letter from NRS Consulting Engineers and Water Globe Consulting has requested our participation in a national workshop on issues critical to the permitting of inland brackish and seawater desalination projects and that Mr. Hagemann will be involved in the workshops.

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Mr. Israel announced that of particular note is the letter from the WaterReuse Research Foundation announcing the publication of the final report – “Filter Loading Evaluation for Water Reuse.” This is the completion of a major project managed by Mr. Holden that will have significant impact on water reuse in California.

Mr. Stefani noted the correspondence from MPWMD thanking our agency for the many years of cooperation between our agencies on the variety of water-resources augmentation related programs and projects of mutual interest.

**10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chair Stefani announced his appreciation and a thank you to those Board members (Mr. Pendergrass, Ms. Downey and Mr. Cortez) who gave up their seats in order to allow others to participate in the trip to Orange County to view the Groundwater Replenishment Project.

Mr. Allion stated he just returned from visiting friends on the East Coast in Norfolk, Virginia and learned that they pay a lot more for water – nearly 4 to 5 times what we are charged here.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:30 pm with no further business, Chair Stefani adjourned the meeting to the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting to be held in the Board Room at 5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey, California on Monday, October 31, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

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Keith E. Israel, General Manager  
Secretary to the Board

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Ron Stefani, Chair  
MRWPCA Board of Directors