MINUTES OF A MEETING
of the
CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD
Held at Goleta Water District Board Conference Room

March 6, 2025, 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by Board President Kristen Sneddon. Those attending the meeting were:

Directors Present:

Kristen Sneddon	City of Santa Barbara
Tobe Plough	Montecito Water District
Lauren Hanson	Goleta Water District

Also Present:

Ryan Drake	Dakota Corey
Nick Turner	Dana Hoffenberg
Peter Cantle	Scott Shapiro
Joel Mulder	Brian Van Lienden

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the general public attended or sought to comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Plough moved, and Director Hanson seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

RA-1, Water Board and Consultation Update. Regarding the Water Rights Order, Executive Director Cantle advised the Board that Reclamation continues to release water from the reservoir at rates considerably higher than required under the Order's Table 1 requirements, which took effect February 15. This is partially due to Reclamation's deferred valve maintenance, as well as a California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife-imposed 4.3 cfs additional flow requirement at the Highway 154 gage, which is contained in a May 2024 Water Board letter to Reclamation. Reclamation will issue a counter-response to the Water Board regarding the additional flow requirement and seek a multi-agency meeting to address CDFW's apparent concern about water loss in the vicinity of the Highway 154 gage. CCRB has offered technical assistance, and Reclamation is considering the offer.

Regarding the federal Consultation process, the Board discussed recent staffing changes within Reclamation and the potential impacts of these changes on the Cachuma Project. Reclamation staff have stated that Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service will move forward in the near future, but have not updated the expected schedule for distribution of the draft Biological Assessment for review, hydrological modeling or submittal of the document to NMFS for consideration.

RA-2, Executive Director's Report. Cantle advised the Board that, in its February 2025 meeting, the California Fish and Game Commission adopted findings necessary for listing Southern California Steelhead as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. The Commission had found listing warranted in April 2024; its adoption of findings completes the listing.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into closed session at 2:26 pm; the Board came out of closed session at 4:30 pm with no reportable items.

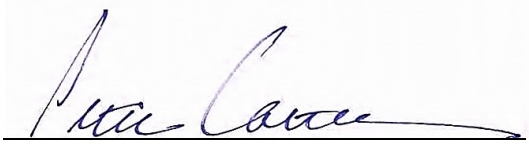
REGULAR AGENDA – CONT.

RA-3, Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings. Cantle noted that the April 2025 Board meeting would include a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

RA-4, Confirm Next Meeting(s) and Adjourn. The next regular meeting was scheduled for 2:00 pm Thursday, April 3, 2025 at the City of Santa Barbara's Water Resources Conference Room.

President Sneddon adjourned the meeting at 4:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary to the Board