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

November 7, 2024, 2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 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
Dana Hoffenberg	Scott Shapiro
Peter Cantle	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, FY2023/2024 Audit Report. The Board received a presentation from Alejandro Robles of Nasif, Hicks, Harris & Co., LLP regarding its audit of CCRB's finances for FY2023-2024. The audit resulted in an *unqualified opinion* and identified no deficiencies in internal controls or material weaknesses. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Robles offered that CCRB's financial checks and balances and level of board member oversight work well for the size of the organization. Director Plough moved, and Director Hanson seconded a motion to receive and file the 2023/2024 Audit Report. The motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

RA-2, Water Board and Consultation Update. Regarding the Water Rights Order's Term 24(a) requirement to study steelhead passage around Bradbury Dam, Executive Director Cantle advised the Board that CCRB and other Cachuma interests recently provided detailed input on Reclamation's draft Value Planning Study report. Reclamation will use the input to complete the Study over the next several months. The report will be used to support the Term 24(a) steelhead passage study that is due to the Water Board in June 2026.

The Board discussed and expressed no issues with an updated Term 19 plan developed by the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) with input from CCRB and other Cachuma interests. COMB will eventually provide the updated plan to Reclamation.

Cantle advised the Board that Reclamation continues to release considerably more water from the reservoir than is required by the Water Rights Order, with Table 2 minimum flow targets being exceeded by a factor of three to four. The Board discussed possible approaches to conveying its concern to Reclamation regarding the water supply impacts of the ongoing over-releases.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 2:46 pm. The Board then reconvened in Open Session at 3:27 pm, with no reportable actions.

REGULAR AGENDA – CONT.

RA-3, Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings. None were identified.

RA-4, Confirm Next Meeting(s) and Adjourn. The regular December 5, 2024 meeting was rescheduled to 3 pm December 12, 2024 at the Goleta Water District. Additionally, the regular 2 pm January 2, 2025 meeting was rescheduled to 2 pm, January 9, 2025 (location TBD). As President Sneddon will not be able to attend, Cantle will check with the City of Santa Barbara alternate, Eric Friedman, for his availability to attend in her place.

President Sneddon adjourned the meeting at 3:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary to the Board