

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

**Tuesday, May 3, 2011  
3:00 p.m., Special Meeting**

Board Members Present: CHAIRMAN LOWELL JARVIS, GRAY ALLEN, ALEX FERREIRA, MICHAEL LEE, and BEN MAVY

Board Members Absent: None

Agency Personnel Present Who Spoke: DAVID BRENINGER, General Manager; ED TIEDEMANN, General Counsel; CHERI SPRUNCK, Agency Secretary/Clerk to the Board; MATT YOUNG, Director of Customer Services; EINAR MAISCH, Director of Strategic Affairs; JOSEPH PARKER, Director of Financial Services; BRENT SMITH, Deputy Director of Technical Services

### A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll call

Chairman Jarvis called the special meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors to order at 3:00 p.m. in the American River Room, Placer County Water Agency Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, California.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Director Mavy

### B. GENERAL ITEM

1. Impact and consequences regarding water shortage and delivery and use restrictions to PCWA's Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3 and Zone 5 customers caused by the loss of water supply to PCWA from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) as a result of the failure of a segment of PG&E Bear River Canal (on April 19, 2011): status report on possible actions available to the Agency until normal water supplies can be restored.

General Manager introduced the item and explained the history of the canal failure. He noted the serious risk people are facing and what the Agency is doing to supplement water supplies.

He expressed appreciation to the Auburn Journal for assisting the Agency by having the legal notice of the Agency's May 10 public hearing in the paper on short notice.

He provided handouts of the following:

- May 2, 2011, letter from the Agency Chairman to Michael Jones, PG&E Power Generation Lead, along with the April 29, 2011, news release
- Draft letter to Mr. Jones asking authoritative representatives from PG&E to explain what they are doing to remedy the canal failure
- Copy of the published legal notice for a Hearing on Declaration of Water Shortage Emergency

He noted the neighboring water utilities that are making an extra effort to try to get water to the Agency for the customers.

Due to concern there will be a larger than expected crowd and more parking needed, the General Manager requested the Board consider moving the May 10 public hearing location to a larger facility than the Holiday Inn, as published in the legal notice.

Director of Financial Services reported the Gold Country Fairgrounds has a large building that can seat 800 people and there is plenty of parking.

The General Manager noted staff can work with the media to notice the new location.

The Board agreed to change the venue of the May 10 public hearing from the Holiday Inn to the Gold Country Fairgrounds.

Legal Counsel recommended the Board convene the meeting at the Holiday Inn and then make a motion to adjourn to the fairgrounds.

General Manager reported staff is calling customers to keep them informed of the status of the situation.

He noted the Agency has less than 50 percent of emergency backup supplies.

He reported Agency staff had briefed the Placer County Board of Supervisors that morning.

Director of Customer Services reported two public meetings will be held on Wednesday, May 4, and Thursday, May 5.

Rui Cunha from Placer County Office of Emergency Services reported the County is currently under a declaration of an emergency due to weather-related items. The state of emergency was extended another 30 days. Placer County staff had an opportunity today to discuss with California Emergency Management Agency the possibility of expanding Placer County's current declaration to include the water shortage problem. It will be helpful for preliminary damage and assessments of public costs by all entities, such as San Juan Water District, City of Roseville, Nevada Irrigation District, etc.

Impacts on agriculture could be 3,500 acres that may not go to plant this season due to the uncertainty (\$10 million in agricultural crop loss costs) of water availability. The numbers will be reported to the State and Department of Agriculture.

Board inquiry and response followed.

General Manager noted the agricultural losses referenced are mostly in the Agency's Zone 5 agricultural area.

Brad Harris, Unit Chief, CalFire Nevada/Placer Unit and Fire Warden for Placer County, expressed how the lack of water is a huge concern for fire protection. Irrigated pastures act as a fire break. Dry landscapes around homes will increase fire hazard in residential areas.

Director of Strategic Affairs reported that at today's Board of Supervisors' meeting, the Supervisors expressed concern for those in the impacted areas. Supervisor Montgomery called the State Capitol and PG&E for assistance.

The amount of water the Agency can provide to Zone 3 is still 10 percent less than the amount needed for the treated water system in Upper Zone 1 on a peak day. PG&E may have a bypass line to the Agency by peak summer days. Agency staff communicated to PG&E the minimum water necessary via the bypass is 80 cfs. That includes asking all treated water customers, including those in Zone 3, to implement stage 2 voluntary cutbacks, which includes odd- and even-day watering and eliminating any unnecessary outdoor water use. In the Auburn/Bowman system the Agency might have to ratchet up to 25 percent cutbacks, which would be mandatory conditions. With reorificing all customers back to 50 percent of their normal summer demands (except for commercial, which would be reorificed to 75 percent of their normal demands), help from neighboring entities, pumping from the American River, 10 percent cutback on treated water and 80 cfs coming from PG&E, Agency staff believes there would be enough water for everyone, every day. However, it wouldn't be the normal supply. There are heavy costs to pump from the American River.

Deputy Director of Technical Services described the Upper Zone 1 area and communities involved. He noted where the Agency is receiving water from other entities via interties to supply water system.

Director of Customer Services described some of the canals affected in the Upper Zone 1 areas—Shirland, Upper Greely, Gaylord, Boardman, Upper Banvard, Rock Springs, Newcastle. Debris in canals is building up on canal turnouts; employees are being sent out to address concerns. There are rolling canal outages and 34,000 letters have gone out to customers.

Deputy Director of Technical Services reported on water supply in the Zone 1 service area. There are extensive treated water pipelines. Two plants move water throughout the system, including the City of Lincoln. The City of Roseville is supplementing water to the Sunset industrial area, the Stoneridge area, and a large service area below Baseline Road normally served by CalAm. San Juan Water District is supplying the Agency with supplemental water on Auburn-Folsom Road. The City of Lincoln is serving a significant amount of water to the irrigation customers, which is reducing the demand on the treated system. The Agency is pumping water from the American River. Some water from the American River is going to Nevada Irrigation District in exchange for NID foregoing its diversions of water high in the system that can be used for Upper Zone 1. Most of the water being pumped by the Ophir Road station and being delivered to PG&E's South Canal is for

the Foothill Water Treatment Plant and canals. The Agency is pumping 75 cfs at the site. A typical maximum capacity is 140 cfs. The Ophir pump station is currently double-lifting 70 cfs. In order to meet peak demands pumping has been increased to 120 cfs by modifying and doing temporary piping to the South Canal.

The General Manager added the Agency is paying unexpected electricity costs due to the pumping.

Director of Customer Services conveyed a positive story from a customer who expressed appreciation to canal staff who assisted him. He also conveyed concern by a mandarin grower who has 17 year-old trees and doesn't have enough water for them.

General Manager expressed appreciation to Bridget Jones of the Auburn Journal and to the Gold Country Media papers to get the Agency's concerns into the papers to notify customers.

Board inquiry and staff response followed.

Alvin Thoma, PG&E Director of Operation and Maintenance, reported that every level of PG&E has been involved in discussions. They are working on two solutions in parallel—a temporary bypass to meet immediate needs and a permanent solution. They don't have a plan they can deliver to the Agency today. They are currently removing hazardous trees, enlarging a parking area to get access to the site, moving in gravel, putting up adequate signage for area, having survey work done, and developing topographical maps. They have had boring machines in, engineering and construction firms working collaboratively, and are working on a schedule for solutions and identifying the hazards they might run into. He expressed concern about getting workers and equipment into the area due to danger of slides. They are trying to not spend too much time stabilizing the slope because they know the urgency of the situation. They are expecting to have a plan for both the short-term and long-term solution in a matter of days. They are going to send senior representatives to the May 10 public hearing and anticipate having a plan that they will share with the Agency before the hearing. Their staff is meeting with Agency staff and keeping Agency staff informed by phone.

Board inquiry and PG&E staff response followed.

Jack Bell who is off the Middle Fiddler Green Canal expressed concern because he only receives irrigation water. He uses bottled water for domestic use.

The General Manager and Kevin Goishi of PG&E responded.

Donald West who lives in Zone 1 expressed concern about loss of irrigation to pastures. If pastures dry up, noxious weeds will take over and the pasture will have to be rehabilitated and reseeded. It will impact costs for more than just this year. He expressed concern that PG&E isn't responding to the water shortage as it should nor responding timely. He has only 10 acres, but hasn't had any water since this water shortage emergency. He is losing his irrigated pasture and has to buy hay for his livestock.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No member of the public commented.

D. REPORTS BY DIRECTORS:

Director Lee noted he is starting to get calls related to the water shortage.

Chair Jarvis noted he is getting calls related to the water shortage. He thanked the staff for the work they have done; he thanked PG&E for being at the meeting; and he thanked the public for their patience and helping with water conservation.

E. REPORTS BY LEGAL COUNSEL

No report received.

F. REPORTS BY GENERAL MANAGER

No report received.

G. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:08 p.m. Director Mavy made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Director Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of Directors present.

ATTEST:

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Cheri Sprunck, Clerk to the Board  
Placer County Water Agency