

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 7, 2004

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, in the Board Chambers of the District Office at 19039 Bay Street, El Verano, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ROLL CALL

President Michael Woods called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call by **Deputy Secretary Walk** noted the following present:

Directors Present:	Mark Bramfitt Ron Prushko Sanford Smith Michael Woods
Directors Excused:	Ed Kenny
District Personnel:	Shari Walk, Office Supervisor Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Board Secretary:	Shari Walk
Public Present:	Curtis Duff, Linda Duff, Mickey Cooke, Eric Holbeck, Steve Perry, Barbara Roy, Win Smith, David Stollmeyer, Vicki Stollmeyer, and Sandi Hansen, Sonoma Index- Tribune

At the request of Director Kenny, **President Woods** declared a moment of silence in honor of those lives lost at Pearl Harbor.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Receive and Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 16, 2004

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt the Consent Calendar, as shown.

4. **PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

There was no public presentation.

5. **OPERATIONAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Approve Current Financial Reports for October 2004

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of October 2004 in the amount of \$297,426.00.

B. Review/Comment on Current District Projects and Significant O & M Issues

Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Paul Gradolph presented the summary review of current District projects and significant operations and maintenance issues for November 2004, as follows:

- **Project #2855 - Glen Ellen Storage Tank:** Review of the 70 percent complete plans had been put on hold pending public comments regarding landscaping and partial screening of the tank. The project was on schedule to bid early in 2005.
- **Project #2865 - Future Production Well at Arnold Drive and Felder Road:** The project had been placed on hold pending investigation of an alternative well site at Gillman and Arnold Drives.
- **Project #2891 – Locust Avenue, Spring Street, Toy Lane and Queeno Lane Main Replacements:** A project kickoff meeting had been held with Winzler & Kelly on December 2. District staff to accompany the engineer on site visits to discuss design requests. The project would be ready to bid in the spring of 2005.

Mr. Gradolph advised that on November 23, the interconnection between the Sonoma Developmental Center and the VOMWD had been utilized for the first time as a result of an unanticipated shutdown of water to the area in Glen Ellen south of Warm Springs Road. While the interruption was for only two hours, a major inconvenience to the local businesses and residents had been averted. The water used was transferred back to the Developmental Center after the VOMWD's system had been restored to normal operation.

C. Water Source Report

In response to Director Prushko, **Mr. Gradolph** advised that all but the Larbre well were currently off, which would show up in the next report. He also explained that the intent was to monitor the wells on a weekly basis.

6. **RECEIVE & FILE PRESIDENT'S AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS OR COMMENTS**

Director Smith reported that he had attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Conference in Palm Springs. He described the sessions as very interesting and reported that the VOMWD would receive reimbursement from the rate stabilization fund in the amount of \$2,367. He noted that of all the insurance carriers, the ACWA/JPIA was in the top third in every category.

Director Smith also reported a JPIA mid-year adjustment of 16.1 percent reduction in premium with respect to Workers' Compensation rates. He commented that was better than the State fund. He further described the session on security that he had attended which included a simulated hostage taking.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S AND DISTRICT COUNSEL'S REPORTS

- A. Report on SCWA Presentation to the State Water Resources Control Board on November 18, 2004, Regarding Status of Water Conservation Efforts

General Manager Krishna Kumar referred to the report the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) had presented and advised that at the workshop, the State Water Resources Control Board had indicated that it had not received the specific water conservation information which had been requested from the SCWA. He noted that information included the trend in the total consumptive water use by cities and districts supplied by the SCWA. Such water use included both the supply from the Russian River and the local supply. He explained that the example had been given that the City of Los Angeles had been using the same amount of water for the last twenty years in spite of its growth, presumably through conservation. Another presentation from the SCWA, to include that data, had been requested to verify whether or not conservation was being pursued. He emphasized the effect population growth and weather had on the measurement of total consumptive water use, which factors the report would have to address.

- B. Report on Regular WAC Meeting of December 6, 2004

General Manager Kumar reported that the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) had approved funding in the amount of approximately \$400,000 to the City of Sonoma to construct a 200 gallons per minute (gpm) capacity well and approximately \$1.6 million to the City of Santa Rosa for a 2,400 gpm capacity well under the Local Supply Recycled Water Tier 2 Program. Two million dollars would be included in the WAC's 2005/06 budget for this purpose. He stated that \$627,000 had been allocated to the VOMWD under the same program although the VOMWD had not used those funds to date. He added that there had been a discussion of the allocation methodology during shortage periods, which discussion would be continued at the January meeting.

Mr. Kumar commented that a Councilmember from the City of Petaluma had suggested as part of the discussion that the SCWA not consider requests for increased allocations to water contractors under the provisions of Section 1.6 of the Eleventh Amended Agreement until such time as the SCWA had been able to perfect water rights beyond the 101,000 acre feet that were currently contemplated. He had pointed out at that time that the VOMWD's current allocation of 3,200 acre feet had been tied to demand projections up to 2005 only and the VOMWD's pending request for an increased allocation needs to be considered. He explained that the Councilmember had acknowledged that the VOMWD's request needed to be accommodated.

- C. RFP for Audit Services

As previously directed by the Board of Directors, **Mr. Kumar** stated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) for audit services for three years from fiscal year 2004/05 had been sent out. The evaluation process was expected to be completed in mid-January with a proposal for Board consideration by early February.

D. ACWA Conference

Having also attended the ACWA Conference, **Mr. Kumar** summarized the informative sessions that he had attended.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Direct Staff: Regarding Landscaping and Partial Screening of the Glen Ellen Storage Tank

Mr. Kumar advised that the Board had held a special meeting on September 13, 2004 to solicit input and comments regarding landscaping and partial screening of the Glen Ellen Storage Tank. He explained that the VOMWD's engineer, Winzler & Kelly, had combined the comments received at that meeting with recommendations for changes in the design to accommodate the public input.

Tony Cinquini of Winzler & Kelly responded to the 22 items from the public meeting, as follows:

1. *Place the tank farther back on the property:* The tank had been moved back by one foot. Due to the fixed elevation of the tank, going farther away from the road would impact the downslope.
2. *Need for the 40 foot radius for turnaround for emergency vehicles:* The Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department would not require a 40 foot radius and neither would the Fire Department. While there was no written requirement, the existing turnaround would be improved slightly due to the improvements for the tank. A 40 foot turnaround was not possible given the existing layout/easements.
3. *Concerns about drainage:* The existing drainage patterns would be maintained. No additional drainage would be added down Hill Road. A pervious surface would be used around the tank, such as crushed shale, and for the access road. The only increase in impervious surface is the tank. The increase in pervious surface due to the tank resulted in an increase of 0.2 cubic feet per second of storm water runoff for a ten year storm. This increase would likely not be noticed.
4. *Concerned that the tank cannot be screened at the present location and the fence is too close to the road edge:* Based on public input the entrance to the tank site had been relocated to the west of the existing pump shed which would offer more screening directly in front of the tank. A graphic was offered to show that change. The combination of that and pushing the tank back by one foot would allow better screening.
5. *Landscape should include a berm with two types of fast growing trees:* Shrubs and fast growing trees would be planted along with slower growing varieties, such as oak trees, in a two stage screening process. The plantings would be irrigated.
6. *Is proposed 10 foot road around the tank necessary?* For maintenance and practical purposes the road would be required although it had been reduced to 8 feet with blue shale to offer the needed perimeter road.
7. *Suggested building a dry wall or block wall 180 degrees around; eliminate the 10 foot depth from the tank out to the edge of the road; tie back into the slope or retaining wall, backfill up 6*

to 8 feet and plant with fast growing trees: A 3 to 4 foot cast in place concrete retaining wall would be placed around a portion of the tank not quite to the road entrance, with backfilling and berming up against the retaining wall along Hill Road and with planting and shrubbery to maintain a 2:1 to a 3:1 fill slope along the wall.

There would be planting along the berm with a black, vinyl coated chain link fence on the top of the berm to help screen the site. Some plantings would be installed around the fence to further provide screening.

8. *Try to make as clean as possible in front of the tank, moving all valves off to the side of the tank, and changing the location of the entry to the tank:* That would be done.
9. *Eliminate fence around tank:* Not recommended for security reasons.
10. *Use native trees and plants:* Native trees and plants would be utilized.
11. *Use rustic looking chain link fence, if needed:* A fence to blend in with surroundings, such as a black, vinyl coated chain link fence would be pursued.
12. *Make sure there will be no curb and gutter; concerned that the County will require curb and gutter, since that seems to be the norm; wants to keep the rural atmosphere:* Curb and gutter was not part of the project and the County would not place that requirement on the VOMWD.
13. *Color of tank should blend in with landscaping:* VOMWD standard water tank colors, dark green, would be utilized. Mr. Cinquini noted that the VOMWD did not use white roof tanks.
14. *The location of the main pipeline?* The pipeline was to be located to one side of Hill Road.
15. *Access for emergency vehicles during construction:* Special requirements would be included in project specifications to limit the traffic, offer traffic control and accommodate emergency vehicles, if needed.
16. *Number of fire hydrants?* Currently five hydrants are planned, spaced at standard 500 foot intervals.
17. *The start date and duration of the project:* Start was expected in mid-April 2005 with a four to five month duration.
18. *Concerned about the inconvenience during the project. How will the vehicles get back and forth?* Limitations would be placed on the contractor to allow access. Residents would be notified of the construction and the request to limit trips. Hill Road would not be closed and access would be maintained.
19. *Concerned about the noise during construction:* The contractor would have to comply with standard noise requirements, with an 8 hour workday and with no weekend work. Work was expected to be stopped at 5:00 P.M.
20. *Will water be provided to the residents on Hill Road?* The project was designed to include customers already connected to the VOMWD. Anyone living along the boundary of the project

who was interested in hooking up to the VOMWD would have to apply to the VOMWD for a connection and pay the appropriate fees related to that connection.

21. *Concerned about the size of the tank:* The size of the tank was the minimum required for the VOMWD to provide fire protection to the Glen Ellen region. Due to the existing hydraulics of the system the height and diameter of the tank was fixed.
22. *Will the District be maintaining the landscape maintenance?* Landscape maintenance typically done for the first year or two to ensure that the plants had taken root and that dead plants had been replaced. After that time irrigation could be curtailed and the plants would self-sustain.

Sandra Reed of ZAC Landscape Architects, Inc. described the two phased planting approach with fast growing trees and at the same time planting longer lived trees. She pointed out the existing trees, the proposed permanent planting trees and the fast growing permanent shrubs along with two types of vines along the edge of the chain link fence. There would be a fast growing vine such as a native morning glory that was deciduous and a more permanent evergreen vine that grew slower and would also offer more coverage over time. Large shrubs 8, 12 and 16 feet high would be planted in the berming area.

Ms. Reed pointed out two significant oak trees and stated that the berming had been kept outside the immediate root zone. She presented a rendering to show the tank and the existing and proposed plantings and explained that the tank in its entirety would not be visible from the road. One oak tree situated on the circular drive would have to be removed.

Director Prushko commented that the plan looked good to him.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Win Smith, 1457 Hill Road, Glen Ellen, thanked the Board for allowing the public input on the screening of the tank. With respect to security and maintenance and accessibility to such a facility, he questioned whether an 8 foot road around the tank would be required. He questioned whether or not Homeland Security regulations specifically required a fence. He opposed a fence. He noted that there was no fence or road around the Saddle Road tank and he did not believe a fence would be needed. He also suggested that the tank could be painted once every fifteen years. While he appreciated the changes such as hiding the valves behind the tank and securing those valves with fencing, he had a problem with security, the fence and the road.

Mr. Smith still had a question whether or not a Class A water tender could be turned around the hill. He had a concern for emergency access during construction. He stated that the trees to be used were “weed” trees, quick growing trees, which were not native but which were quick and fast. With respect to moving the tank back one foot, he suggested that was insignificant. He asked if it was a matter of cost or redesigning plans. He suggested it was possibly footings, additional grading and compaction and he urged that the tank be moved back more which would make the screening much easier.

Mr. Smith asked for a copy of the 70 percent drawings. He suggested that something more sensitive and innovative could be pursued to hide the tank.

Mickey Cooke, 1457 Hill Road, Glen Ellen, asked where the landscaping would begin and how wide it would be given the need to accommodate garbage trucks and other big vehicles on Hill Road.

David Stollmeyer, 1455 Hill Road, Glen Ellen, also thanked the Board for listening to the residents' concerns and for going a long way to mitigate those concerns. Noting that some concerns remained, he urged that the tank be moved back farther on the site, he asked that the height of the berm and the retaining wall be raised and he requested that the landscaping be irrigated for more than one or two years. He also verified with Mr. Cinquini that the piping would not go down the center of the road.

Vicki Stollmeyer, 1455 Hill Road, Glen Ellen, commented that many communities were faced with undergrounding utilities and were incurring enormous costs as a result.

Ms. Stollmeyer suggested that the VOMWD be forward looking and weigh the costs and ramifications involved and be creative in this case.

Barbara Roy, 1310 Hill Road, Glen Ellen, expressed concern for the placement of the pipeline to avoid impacting the trees along Hill Road. If the pipeline was not to be placed in the center of the road, she questioned the impact to the existing mature oak trees.

Steve Perry, Glen Ellen, also thanked the Board for listening to the public. With respect to the drainage, he questioned whether or not there would be any change to the existing drainage along Hill Road. He sought a clarification of the County's role in this case. While he supported the efforts to install appropriate landscaping he commented that it would take some time for the trees to reach maturity.

Eric Holbeck, 1457 Hill Road, Glen Ellen, suggested that the project would offer an opportunity to build a turnaround. He suggested that the County should build the turnaround. He also asked that the tank be moved back on the site farther than one foot. He otherwise thanked the Board for allowing the residents to address his/her concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CLOSED

In response to the comments, **Mr. Cinquini** stated:

- The site would not be made to look like a jail although people would have to be kept out of the site. The VOMWD had conducted a comprehensive Vulnerability Study, as required and enforced by the federal government. Fencing around the key structures was one of the government's recommendations. He did not recommend removing the fence from around the tank.
- While he did not know of a national standard for the road around the tank, from a practical standpoint in order to set square scaffolding around a round tank there would have to be room dedicated to do so. The 8 foot space would be the minimum required for maintaining the tank, particularly with a retaining wall along the side.
- With respect to the concern that a water tender could not access the area, the existing fence line would be retained as would the existing turnaround patterns. There would be no more impact to the road than currently existed.
- Moving the tank one foot back was not for financial reasons. It was an engineering requirement given that moving the tank farther back on the site would impact both the slope farther down the hill on the backside and two existing trees in that area. The placement of the tank was at its best location as opposed to being placed within a fill area.

- The 70 percent drawings had not yet been completed pending the receipt of public comments and direction from the VOMWD.
- The retaining wall would have a height maximum of four feet. Anything higher than that could impact the root systems of the existing trees. An earth berm of a maximum of 4 feet will be constructed against the wall. The berm will have a maximum slope of 3 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical (3:1).
- The pipe would be located towards the side of the road to avoid impacts to the road shoulder and root systems. A licensed arborist would be on site during construction to protect the large trees. The pipe would be kept to one side of the road to allow construction and to maintain the trees.
- As to landscape irrigation, one to two years of irrigation was typical although the VOMWD would do what was required to maintain the landscaping.
- The existing drainage patterns would be maintained given the contours of the land. The proposal would somewhat improve the existing drainage situation.
- The County did not have jurisdiction over the VOMWD although a County encroachment permit would be required to do anything within the County right of way when the County could impose specific requirements with respect to the condition of the roadway.

Ms. Reed also responded to comments related to the landscaping, as follows:

- With direction, non-native materials could be used as interim cover that could make the immediate coverage simpler. A mix of domesticated and natural plants on the site could increase the growth rate. The landscaping would be irrigated for the amount of time required for the chosen plant materials. The irrigation system would last quite a while.
- Noted that some cities used such projects as art projects although that had not been the direction in this case.

Win Smith suggested that the area around the tank could be reduced from 8 feet to 5 feet so that 10 feet of space could be added to the front of the tank for screening purposes. While he did not support the fence, if there was a fence he would like to see wild honeysuckle along the fence. He suggested that there were options other than fencing to deter graffiti on the tank.

David Stollmeyer challenged the statement that moving the tank was not because of financial consideration.

President Woods thanked everyone for his/her comments and Tony Cinquini and Sandy Reed for their presentations. He emphasized that VOMWD staff had done a lot of good work in good faith to address the residents' comments.

Director Prushko commented that the consultant staff had done a good job following up on the comments from the September 13 meeting.

As a resident of Hill Road, Mr. Sanford Smith stated that the question of access was a great concern to him. He still had a concern about how well those access issues would be addressed during the construction process, particularly with respect to emergency services. With respect to art and the water tank it was his

understanding that the residents preferred that the water tank be invisible. He therefore did not support any art project associated with the water tank and he did not want to see any more people using Hill Road than were already using it.

In response to President Woods as to why the tank could not be moved farther back on the site, **Mr. Cinquini** pointed out the existing 2:1 slope which was about as steep as non reinforced backfill could be placed. He emphasized that they did not want to increase the erosion downhill. No matter where the placement of the tank was, the height had to remain to ensure the required hydraulics for the tank. To be moved laterally farther back, one third to one half of the tank would have to be placed onto a fill slope which was not typically done. It was geotechnically preferred that a tank be placed on a solid bank.

Mr. Cinquini did not recommend moving the tank any farther back. He also noted that moving the tank back would result in the loss of two bay trees and could potentially impact other existing trees.

On the question of access and emergency vehicle access in response to President Woods, **Mr. Cinquini** stated that Hill Road was a narrow road and the construction of the tank would impact traffic. Everything was being done to move the pipe over to allow a wider lane for travel in an emergency situation. The number of construction vehicles and the size of equipment used to install would be monitored and there would still be impacts. He stated that those issues would be written into the specs to identify the standards and the appropriate restrictions in this case.

President Woods emphasized the use of some kind of communication methodology during construction given the width of the road and the nature of the area and the need to manage emergency vehicles.

Mr. Cinquini reiterated that those issues could be written into the specs and could be addressed through the preconstruction meetings.

In response to the question related to the required 8 feet of space around the tank, **Mr. Gradolph** affirmed that the Saddle tank did not have a fence. With past experiences in recoating and retrofit, he stated that there had been 8 to 10 feet in those cases and that space had been barely adequate. Eventually some sort of work would be required on the Hill Road tank. He suggested that 8 feet would be the minimum required.

Mr. Kumar stated that 10 feet would be ideal and 8 feet had been defined as the minimum required by staff.

In response to Director Prushko as to the amount of time required for the construction of the actual water line, **Mr. Cinquini** suggested that portion of the project would require a month to a month and a half of time. With respect to the construction sequence, after the project had been awarded the contractor would order the tank. While the tank was being fabricated the contractor would work on the waterline and then work on the tank area.

Mickey Cooke requested that the tank be completed prior to the fire season.

Mr. Cinquini estimated that the actual construction could begin in May, starting with the water main portion of the project, which could be completed within two month, followed by the tank, with the total project brought on line by the end of October or November 2005.

Given the Vulnerability Assessment, **Director Bramfitt** suggested that the access road around the tank was required. He supported the use of non native and yet local vegetation for the quick growing plantings that might be removed later on.

Director Bramfitt stated that the consultants and the community had done a great job. From the engineering and security standpoint he saw some great things for the landscaping and moving the road in response to the residents' concerns. He suggested that the project was close to where it needed to be.

Director Prushko agreed with those comments.

President Woods concurred. He stated that any additional comments should be forwarded to Mr. Kumar to help craft the proposal as a bid packet. He clarified that the 70 percent drawings would be submitted to the Board for comment at which time the residents would be allowed additional comment. He affirmed, when asked, that the residents would again be notified of when the item returned to the Board. He thanked everyone for his/her comments.

President Woods declared a recess at 8:10 P.M. prior to convening into Closed Session at 8:18 P.M.

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8; Negotiate Price and Term of Payment. Agency Negotiator: Krishna Kumar; Negotiating Party: County of Sonoma. Proposed Well Site at Ernie Smith Park on Arnold Drive

10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

President Woods reconvened into open session at 8:28 P.M. He reported that no action had been taken in Closed Session.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Bramfitt requested a status report on the Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Director Smith**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is on January 4, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary