

**VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT**  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 7, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, 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 Sanford Smith** 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 Ed Kenny Ron Prushko Michael Woods Sanford Smith
District Personnel:	Shari Walk, Office Supervisor Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	Ken Borba

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the public.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A.** Receive and Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 7, 2006
- B.** Receive and File Information Regarding Joint Grant Proposal – Sonoma Ecology Center, VOMWD, and the City of Sonoma
- C.** Authorize Notice to Bidders – Glen Ellen Water Mains, Project No. 2901
- D.** Ratify Expenditures Incurred for Emergency Repair Work in Connection with the Recent Flood Event

Motion by **Director Woods**, seconded by **Director Kenny** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt the Consent Calendar, as shown, with the removal of Item A.

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2006, as submitted, carried with abstentions from Directors Kenny and Woods due to absence.

4. **PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

There was no public presentation.

5. **OPERATIONAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Approve Current Financial Reports for January 2006

**Director Prushko** asked for clarification of the expenditure on the PG&E bill for Booster Station No. 2. **Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Paul Gradolph** reported that Booster Station No. 2 had required a new service connection and the increased cost was on account of the new service connection charges and not consumption charges.

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 January 2006 in the amount of \$634,858.82.

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 February 2006, as follows:

- **Project #2855 - Glen Ellen Storage Tank:** The coating of the interior and exterior of the tank had been completed and the tank to be filled with water upon installation of final appurtenances, to occur within two to three weeks. Water quality samples to be collected after the tank had been filled for 21 days. A mid-April use of the tank was anticipated. Final grading around the tank had been started in preparation of the electrical and landscape work. Final completion of the project had been delayed by inclement weather.
- **Project #2892 – Agua Caliente Booster Station:** Staff and Winzler & Kelly were currently reviewing material submittals from the contractor. Once submittals had been reviewed and approved, construction would commence, weather permitting. The project was expected to be completed prior to commencement of the peak demand period.
- **Project #2899 – Boyes Springs Water Mains:**
- **Project #2900 – El Verano Area Water Mains:** Staff comments on the 50 percent drawings for both projects had been returned to the designing engineer for incorporation into the 90 percent drawings. The 90 percent plans were expected by mid-March, with a completed package anticipated by the April 4 Board meeting.
- **Project #2901 – Glen Ellen Area Water Mains:** Plans and contract documents were 100 percent complete. Streets included London Ranch Circle, Robinson Road, London Ranch Road, a portion of Arnold Drive and Flynn Way.

C. Water Source Report

**Director Prushko** clarified with staff that well usage had been reduced to three percent given the reduced need for water deliveries.

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

There were no reports.

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

A. Water Advisory Committee (WAC) Meeting of March 6, 2006

**General Manager Krishna Kumar** stated that a few WAC members had formerly met under the leadership of Santa Rosa Councilmember Mike Martini per letter dated February 10, 2006 presented to the Board of Directors, who had urged the WAC to give the highest priority to the completion of the Urban Water Management Plan, to update the Sonoma County Water Agency's (Water Agency's) Water Policy Statement last visited in 2002, and to consider including an alternative in the Water Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for delivery of additional water through a new conveyance system, to be separate from the Russian River and reduce demands affecting endangered species.

**Mr. Kumar** stated that the Urban Water Management Plan was expected to be completed by June or July 2006. The draft Water Policy was expected to be available in April. With respect to the pipeline, the pipeline alternative was planned to be included in the Water Project EIR, although that would not relieve the Water Agency of its responsibility for species recovery and habitat restoration.

**Mr. Kumar** stated that the letter had not been approved by the WAC at this point. He noted, when asked, that the letter was to be approved by the various boards prior to distribution. He suggested that the letter could be available for consideration by the VOMWD Board of Directors at its next meeting.

**Mr. Kumar** provided information regarding a Preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), whose signatories include the Water Agency, Home Builders Association of Northern California, Sonoma County Grape Growers' Association, United Winegrowers, Russian River Property Owners Association, and Syar Industries. This MOU reflected the Water Agency's commitment to work with affected stakeholders to develop a potential conservation strategy. The WAC nominated Mike Bierman from the City of Petaluma and Jake Mackenzie from the City of Rohnert Park to represent the WAC at the meetings of this newly formed group.

B. Miscellaneous

**Mr. Kumar** reported that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Spring Conference would be held in Monterey from May 10 to May 12. Board members interested in attending were asked to identify that interest.

8. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Discuss/Direct Staff:** Sonoma County Water Agency's Preliminary Budget and the Proposed Wholesale Water Rates for Fiscal Year 2006-07

**Mr. Kumar** stated that the Board had directed staff to work with the Water Agency to discuss the possibility of reducing the proposed water rates. As a result of discussions between affected staffs the wholesale water rate for the VOMWD had been reduced from 5.4 percent to 4.3 percent. If the Board chose to pass the increase to the ratepayers that would raise the retail water rates to 1.4 percent.

**Mr. Kumar** advised that staff had completed a preliminary review of next fiscal year's budget and was confident that the rate increase for its customers would not exceed a nominal 2.5 percent. The Board would be presented with specific recommendations regarding the issue as part of the District's preliminary budget for FY 2006-07 at the April Board meeting.

**Director Prushko** questioned what the water reduction would be in terms of dollars, reported by **Mr. Kumar** that the reduction would represent approximately \$15,000.

**Mr. Kumar** noted that the other water contractors had thanked the VOMWD for the corresponding reduction to their own water rates as well.

The Board thanked **Mr. Kumar** for his successful efforts in the reduction of the fee.

- B. Discuss/Direct Staff:** Receive Memorandum Dated February 3, 2006 from Maddaus Water Management Regarding the District's Projected 2030 Water Savings from Tier One Conservation Measures

**Mr. Kumar** referred to the March 7 staff memo which indicated gross water demand in 2030 to be approximately 4,198 acre feet, less projected plumbing savings and Best Management Practices (BMPs) savings. Currently the projected demand stood at 3,995 acre feet. He also referred to Tier Two water conservation savings and potential water supply allocations from the Water Agency.

**Mr. Kumar** stated in response to Director Woods, that the contractual allocation was tied to the average daily peak month demand and not to the annual allocation.

- C. Discuss/Indicate:** The Preferred Training Option to Obtain Mandatory Ethics Training for Boardmembers of the District

**Mr. Kumar** advised that the ethics training portion of AB 1234 required designated staff and elected officials to undergo training with four options for training, including a free on-line course developed by the Fair Political Practices Commission and Attorney General's Office, a two hour training offered by the League of California Cities, an on-site two hour training session to be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Board meeting; or a training session offered at the two ACWA conferences in 2006.

**President Smith** expressed an interest in determining whether the provisions of AB 1234 applied to members of the Legislature as well.

**Director Woods** noted his understanding that the State Legislature was exempt from the provisions of AB 1234.

As to the options to pursue with respect to ethics training, **Director Bramfitt** supported the online training course developed by the Fair Political Practices Commission and the Attorney General's Office. On the discussion, it was noted that the training options were up to the individual. The Board members were not required to pursue the same training option.

**Mr. Kumar** clarified that the training would have to be completed by January 2007. He advised that there would be another local training opportunity prior to that deadline.

- D. Discuss/Approve:** Task Order 06-2909-01 to Core Utilities in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$5,900 to Prepare Plans and Specifications for the Installation of Two Remote Transmitter Units and Associated Work

**Mr. Kumar** stated that the VOMWD planned to install two remote transmitter units to help the VOMWD obtain instantaneous information regarding the amount of water obtained from the Water Agency's transmission system. To enable that, the VOMWD had received a proposal from Core Utilities, which had done the same work for the North Marin Water District. He recommended the approval of Task Order No. 06-2909-01 to Core Utilities, in an amount not-to-exceed \$5,900 to prepare plans and specifications for the installation of two remote transmitter units (RTU) and associated work, which would also update the SCADA system.

In response to Director Prushko, **Mr. Gradolph** explained why two remote transmitter units were required to identify the water use from the meter at the north end of the system and the water use at the City of Sonoma end of the water system to calculate the amount of water used by VOMWD. He described the remote transmitter units as a management tool.

**Director Prushko** clarified that all water flowing in the Sonoma Valley was metered, although the quantity used was unknown until an end of the month report.

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve Task Order No. 06-2909-01 to Core Utilities, in an amount not-to-exceed \$5,900 to prepare Plans and Specifications for the installation of two RTU's and associated work.

- E. Receive/File:** Letters to Senator Kuehl and Assemblymember Wolk Regarding the District's Position on SB 1166 and AB 1839

**Mr. Kumar** explained that as part of a series of State bond measures to fund wide-ranging infrastructure projects, a Water Resources Investment Fund had been proposed to fund water management programs, and which would generate \$5 billion over a ten year period for a variety of water projects. To finance the programs, a new fee in the form of an annual water resources capacity charge on retail water suppliers had been proposed, amounting to \$3 a month for single-family homes and varying rates for other structures.

**Mr. Kumar** advised that ACWA strongly objected to the fee given its policy principles related to water infrastructure financing specifying that no broad, ill-defined, water user fees should be imposed to finance water infrastructure programs without clearly defined benefits to users. Given the concerns for the controversial fee, the Marin Municipal Water District, the Sonoma County Water Agency and others had sent letters of concern to the Legislature.

**Director Bramfitt** clarified that the Water Resource Investment Fund was part of the Governor's water package. He noted that the Legislature had a Friday deadline to get the package together to be placed on the June ballot. As such, he emphasized that any response would have to be immediate.

**Director Woods** commented that he had not determined at this point whether or not he would support the bond measures, which he characterized as massive. He otherwise emphasized the need to edit the letter, specifically the first sentence in the third paragraph, as follows:

*VOMWD supports efforts to remedy flood control problems and incentives to institute further*

*regional collaboration.*

**Director Woods** also questioned the inclusion of the second sentence of the third paragraph, as written, and suggested that it be modified.

**Director Bramfitt** suggested it was premature to support the bond measure. He supported the letters with the change recommended by Director Woods.

By consensus, the Board supported the distribution of the letters after incorporating the changes.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no request for future agenda items.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by **Director Woods**, seconded by **Director Kenny** and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on April 4, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

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Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary