

**VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
September 4, 2007

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, 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 Ed Kenny** 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 Russell Townsend Ed Kenny
District Personnel:	Shari Walk, Office Supervisor Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	Ken Borba, Sandi Hansen, <u>Sonoma Index-Tribune</u>

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the public.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Receive and Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 7, 2007
- B. Adopt Resolution No. 070901, Approving Water Facilities Installation Agreement with Ivan Davila, Project 2917

By acclamation, the Consent Calendar was adopted by the Board of Directors, as submitted, with abstentions from Directors Bramfitt and Townsend on Item A.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

There was no Public Hearing.

**5. OPERATIONAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Approve Current Financial Reports for July 2007

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Smith** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly financial reports and disbursements for the month of July 2007, in the amount of \$295,551.97.

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 August 2007, as follows:

- **Project #2902 – Production Well No. 5:** Staff had reviewed the Preliminary Design Report and had returned comments to the Design Engineer for incorporation into the 50% design. Comments were mainly related to site layout and site access. Fifty percent plans were expected for review in October.
- **Project #2912 – Agua Caliente, Trinity Oaks, El Verano Water Mains:** Staff had received the 50 percent complete plans and contract documents for the project. With the completion of the staff review, the comments would be forwarded to the engineer for inclusion in the 95 percent documents. Bidding on the project could be deferred pending the completion of Project #2902.

When asked by Director Prushko, **Mr. Gradolph** advised that the Carmel Avenue water main was budgeted for 2010, although it might move up prior to that time.

C. Water Source Report

**General Manager Krishna Kumar** advised in response to Director Prushko that the VOMWD used 74 acre feet of local supply in July, the same amount used in July 2004, in which case the VOMWD had not increased the local supply and the reduction in water usage was from conservation.

**Director Bramfitt** noted that the VOMWD had not pumped more water than it had last year and was the only water district amongst the contractors to do so. He commended staff for working with VOMWD customers to meet the 15 percent reduction.

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

**Director Bramfitt** advised that as a member of the Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel, he had made a presentation to the Sonoma County Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC), and had met with local residents of the Felder Creek area with respect to groundwater issues. He noted that the Felder Creek residents were very complimentary of the VOMWD and were appreciative of what the Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel had been doing around groundwater issues. On his own and not representing the Board, he had indicated to those residents to the extent that reclaimed water could be delivered to the vineyards and other uses surrounding the Felder Creek area, at that point the VOMWD might indicate a need for a production well at that end of the VOMWD system. He stated that the residents were very receptive to that possibility. He reiterated that the discussion had been very positive.

**President Kenny** advised that he had attended the Sonoma County CAC meeting when Director Bramfitt had made the presentation on groundwater issues.

When asked by **Director Prushko**, Mr. Kumar reported that the water contractors had collectively been able to obtain an 18.3 percent reduction in water use as of September. He noted that total provided a 3 percent buffer to the required 15 percent reduction requirement to meet any potential hikes in the temperature during the remaining two months.

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

A. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of July 2, 2007

**General Manager Kumar** reported that there had been no TAC meeting on September 3 due to the Labor Day Holiday. The meeting had been continued to September 10.

B. Joint Session with the City of Sonoma

**Mr. Kumar** advised that the Sonoma Valley Basin Advisory Panel had requested an opportunity to present the draft Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan to a joint session of the VOMWD Board of Directors and the City of Sonoma Council. That joint session had been scheduled for the VOMWD Chambers on November 6. Since the VOMWD Board was scheduled to meet at that time, the joint session could be scheduled for 6:30 P.M. after which the Board could conduct its normal business.

C. Meetings Attended

**Mr. Kumar** reported that he had attended a public meeting jointly held by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources in Sacramento on “Climate Change and Water Resources,” a public hearing held by the Sonoma County Supervisors on the Water Resources Element of the County General Plan 2020, and a Regional Executive Water Forum jointly conducted by the Governor’s Office and the Department of Water Resources in Santa Rosa.

**Mr. Kumar** summarized those meetings and added that the Department of Water Resources would be holding a series of Drought Workshops throughout the State. One of those workshops would be in Santa Rosa on September 13 from 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the office of the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency).

D. Online Payment Registrations

**Mr. Kumar** reported that 225 of the VOMWD’s customers had signed up for online payments.

8. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Discuss/Approve:** Resolution No. 070902 Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Well No. 5 Replacement Project, and Authorizing the General Manager to Sign the Notice of Determination, and Proceed with Design and Bidding of the Project

**Mr. Kumar** presented the environmental documentation for the Well No 5 Replacement Project and explained that a copy of the Mitigated Negative Declaration had been included in the Board packet.

**Mr. Kumar** advised that the Board's action would complete a substantial portion of the environmental work on the project. He recommended that the Mitigated Negative Declaration be approved and that a Notice of Determination be executed.

When asked by **Director Prushko**, Mr. Kumar described the mechanism designed to remove manganese from the water. He added, when asked, that the mechanism would remove iron as well, if iron was in the water.

**President Kenny** verified with Mr. Kumar that potential seismic costs would be included in the bid.

**Mr. Kumar** also noted that Well No. 5 would be the VOMWD's first well in almost three decades. He explained, when asked, that the well would not be pumped all year round in that the VOMWD would have to practice conjunctive use where the VOMWD would be able to use its groundwater resources in conjunction with the water from the Russian River.

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Smith** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve Resolution No. 070902 adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Well No. 5 Replacement Project, and authorizing the General Manager to sign the Notice of Determination, and proceed with design and bidding of the project.

- B. Discuss/Approve:** Agreement for Geotechnical Services with RGH Consultants, Inc. for an Amount Not to Exceed \$5,765 to Perform Geotechnical Study, Consultation and Plan Review Work for the Well No. 5 Replacement Project #2902

**Mr. Kumar** stated that with the approval of the former item, there was a need to perform geotechnical study, consultation and plan review work for the Well No. 5 Replacement Project. He recommended the approval of an agreement.

Motion by **Director Smith**, seconded by **Director Bramfitt** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve an agreement for geotechnical services with RGH Consultants, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$5,765 to perform geotechnical study, consultation and plan review work for the Well No. 5 Replacement Project #2902.

- C. Discuss/Authorize:** Distribution of free showerhead, faucet aerators, and hose-nozzles to and participation in the toilet and clothes washer rebate programs by non-customers residing within the District's boundary and non-customers residing outside the District's boundary but immediately adjacent to the District boundary, at the discretion of District staff, on a one-year pilot basis.

**Mr. Kumar** explained that in the spirit of extending the water conservation efforts, the item was a recommendation to offer the same incentives to non-district customers, those close to or immediately adjoining the VOMWD's boundaries. He stated this was a way to encourage those with wells to also conserve water making that groundwater available, if needed. He described the proposal as a one-year pilot program and did not anticipate that there would be a huge response to the effort.

In response to **Director Prushko** as to the percentage of water storage needed for Lake Mendocino to accommodate fish runs, Mr. Kumar stated that the State order had not been tied to a specific amount of water

in Lake Mendocino. He referred to Decision 1610, a 1986 decision which laid out the flow requirements that should be maintained by the Water Agency throughout the entire Russian River. He explained that the Water Agency had feared that Lake Mendocino could be drained with compliance with Decision 1610 and had asked for a reduction in the hope that reduced flows would result in higher water storage in Lake Mendocino. As part of the process to reduce flows, the State directed the Water Agency to reduce its take from the Russian River by 15 percent. He reported that the storage requirement, although not mandated, was being met.

**President Kenny** objected to offering the same incentives to non-district residents as those offered to VOMWD ratepayers.

**Director Prushko** understood President Kenny's concern although he recognized the importance of conserving water since everyone would be affected. He suggested that perhaps the ratepayers should be surveyed as to the consensus for the proposal, and that potentially Water Agency funds might be used instead of VOMWD funds.

When asked, **Director Bramfitt** spoke to washing machine rebates and noted that PG&E also offered rebates for the energy efficient washing machines and there were a limited number of machines on the list of qualified equipment. He commented that on average the VOMWD was drawing over 10 percent of its total supply from groundwater and suggested that the VOMWD would be relying on groundwater one way or another for the next five years. As such, he suggested that offering the services was in the best interest of the ratepayers.

**Director Bramfitt** suggested that the key issue would be the staff discretion. He recommended that the recipients either need to be in the VOMWD service area and on a well, or be situated immediately adjacent to the VOMWD. He suggested, for instance, that those residents immediately adjacent to Well No. 5 needed to have access to the VOWMD's water efficiency programs. He also commented that the VOMWD was a leader in offering water conservation incentives which spoke well to its programs. He suggested that the proposal was the right thing to do and he fully supported it.

**Director Smith** agreed with Director Bramfitt's remarks. He noted that his only concern was the staff discretion. He suggested it would be easier for VOMWD staff to establish specific boundaries, such as only those who lived within a specific zip code. He supported the program with specific restrictions.

**Director Bramfitt** did not oppose an establishment of boundaries or neighborhoods that would qualify for the conservation incentives as a way to make it easier for staff to identify those who might be eligible. He suggested that if staff had a problem or if there was a run on the program, the proposal would need to return to the Board for reconsideration.

**President Kenny** commented that he might be able to support the program if better defined.

**Mr. Kumar** suggested that this be approved on an experimental basis, if there was an issue, he would return to the Board to reconsider the proposal. He reiterated that he did not anticipate a great number of people taking advantage of the program.

On the discussion, **Office Supervisor Walk** advised that there was \$10,000 in the regular budget for water conservation use.

By consensus, the Board authorized distribution of free showerhead, faucet aerators, and hose-nozzles to and

participation in the toilet and clothes washer rebate programs by non-customers residing within the District's boundary and non-customers residing outside the District's boundary but immediately adjacent to the District boundary, at the discretion of District staff, on a one-year pilot basis.

**D. Discuss/Authorize:** The President to sign the ACWA Committee Consideration From and the Official ACWA Region 1 Board Ballot

**Mr. Kumar** noted that Director Smith was currently a member of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Insurance and Personnel Committee. The Board was requested to discuss and decide on a nomination to that committee. The second item related to a slate of officers for ACWA Region 1 recommended by the ACWA Region 1 Nominating Committee.

**Director Bramfitt** recognized the difficulty of endorsing a slate of candidates that most did not know. He otherwise endorsed the Nominating Committee's recommended slate. He also supported Director Smith's continued membership on the ACWA Insurance and Personnel Committee. He took this opportunity to thank Director Smith for his service on that committee.

**Director Smith** commented that Region 1 had a difficulty getting people to serve. He noted that he was the only one from Region 1 on the Committee and only one of two elected Boardmembers on the Committee in that everyone else was an employee of a water district. As such, he suggested that he would be able to contribute to the Committee. He expressed a willingness to continue to serve.

By acclamation, the Board authorized the President to sign the ACWA Committee Consideration From and the Official ACWA Region 1 Board Ballot and reappointed Stanford Smith to serve on the ACWA Insurance and Personnel Committee.

**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**

**President Kenny** adjourned the meeting at 7:38 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

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Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

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Ed Kenny, Board President