



**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
OF THE TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

Turlock, California  
28 February, 2017

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Turlock Irrigation District was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in regular session on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017. Present were: Directors Joe Alamo (President), Charles Fernandes (Vice-President), Michael Frantz (Secretary), Rob Santos and Ron Macedo, General Manager Casey Hashimoto and Executive Secretary to the Board Tami Wallenburg.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**MOTION APPROVING CONSENT CALENDAR**

Moved by Director Santos, seconded by Director Fernandes, that the consent calendar consisting of the following be approved:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2017.
- B. Demands against the District represented by check numbers 360861 to 361024 in the amount of \$3,470,771.19.

All voted in favor with none opposed. The President declared the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was none.

**FEBRUARY 2017 INCREASED FLOWS**

Tou Her, Assistant General Manager Water Resources, reviewed the increased flow incident involving the need to open one spillway gate at Don Pedro. From September 1 to present, the watershed has received 51.4 inches of precipitation, or 204.7 percent of average. Snow sensors used in the Tuolumne River forecast shows 191 percent average to date. Once the elevation of the Don Pedro reservoir reaches 801.9 feet it enters flood control space and the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) dictates all flow levels at the reservoir, and also if and when the spill gates need to be opened. Strategic Issues and Planning Department Manager Wes Monier and Utility Analyst Jason Carkeet monitored levels through the holidays as several storms passed through the region and by the end of January it had risen to 815 feet elevation. Though it did lower slightly the first part of February, it rose quickly with several storms passing through the area the second week in February, and it soon became apparent the USACE would initiate a release through the spillway. Staff utilized watershed modeling through Hydrocomp

and it was confirmed on February 19<sup>th</sup> that the models did converge thus projecting Don Pedro to spill. Through a multi-agency coordination which included Modesto Irrigation District, and the Tuolumne, Merced and Stanislaus county Office of Emergency Services (OES) centers, the District prepared for the inevitable event. The activation level was changed from Level 1 to Level 2 on February 19<sup>th</sup>, and changed to Level 3 on February 20<sup>th</sup>. At 10:25 a.m. on February 20<sup>th</sup>, General Manager Casey Hashimoto issued an Executive Order which consisted of the following: 1) Demolition of Bonds Flat Road (located directly below the spillway); 2) De-energize electric customers along the river path; and 3) Preparations to open center spillway gate with a targeted combined river releaser of 18,000 cfs at 3 p.m. that day. As the elevation reached 826.5 feet (maximum capacity of 830 feet elevation), spillway releases took approximately 24-hours before reaching the Modesto 9<sup>th</sup> street bridge with the target of keeping it at 55 feet river elevation to minimize impact to the area. After requesting a deviation from the flood plan from the USACE to continue releasing 16,000 cfs., that request was ultimately denied due to levee impacts further downstream, and the Corp of Engineers ordered the spillway gate to be closed. At approximately 4:57 a.m. on February 27<sup>th</sup>, the spillway gate was closed with the reservoir elevation at 828.6 feet. Staff will continue to monitor precipitation and snow level forecast while being mindful that if snow runoff reaches 61 inches, 2.8 million acre feet of water would be entering the reservoir between now and July, basically one and a half times the amount of water currently in the reservoir. All coordinating agencies will continue to prepare and stand ready to react if the situation worsens.

Mr. Her also commended several staff members and agencies which spent countless hours assisting the District through this difficult situation:

TID Board of Directors – for their support;  
TID General Manager Casey Hashimoto – for his leadership and guidance;  
Wes Monier/Jason Carkeet/Chris Poley/Hydrocomp team – for precise modeling, monitoring and hourly updates;  
Jason Hicks/Dave Funk/Kurt Johnson – for coordinating every aspect of the Command Center 24-hours a day;  
Brian LaFollette/Power Supply staff – for the 24-hour days supplying data and staffing for this event;  
Michelle Reimers/Public Information team – for being instrumental in keeping customers/media/elected officials informed and updated;  
Tim Payne – for checking (and rechecking) reservoir impacts before and after the event;  
All TID/MID/OES employees who took shifts in the District Command Center – for coming in on scheduled days off and the holiday to assist during this difficult time.

Members of the public asked several questions in regards to power house releases and comparisons to the 1997 event. Mr. Her noted that the 1997 incident included a higher elevation level in the reservoir with it rising quickly at almost a foot an hour, while this time it stair-stepped so we were able to monitor it more effectively.

## **WATER UPDATE**

Tou Her, Assistant General Manager Water Resources, presented a water update for the 2017 irrigation season. Due to the above normal water year and the amount of snowpack in the

higher elevations, staff will recommend a full 48 inches of available water with additional replenishment water available for all irrigation customers. Replenishment water will also be made available to eastside growers within the Turlock Subbasin. Staff is looking to utilize the normal year water rate schedule and also strongly encourages flood irrigation for those customers able to do so. Several customers asked questions regarding the possibility of building an additional lake for recharge purposes, the status of the local water table, and the cities usage of storm drains.

Wes Miller, Supervising Civil Engineering Technician, presented an update on the SBX7-7 regulation. To date, 455 parcels have received Hach Meters to measure flood irrigations, 366 parcels have Fuji meters installed to measure drip/micro and sprinkler irrigations, and 550 offset frames have been installed at various locations along the system. FlumeMeter calibrations show 483 unique sidegates have been calibrated to date with the remaining sidegate calibrations being performed through 2017. SlipMeter calibrations show all 121 planned installs are now complete with over 2,100 parcels with valid calibrations. Staff will send out Flow Data letters and also conduct several outreach meetings in the community to inform customers of the calibration process and the comparison between old flow and new calibrated flows as some may decrease or increase, dependent on the final calibration results. Board members previously directed Water Resources staff to wait until 2018 to implement any possible changes to the billing process so all metered calibrations could be completed through the 2017 irrigation season. Customers asked several questions regarding the accuracy of the meters, how often the calibrations are performed and if customers can request calibrations. Mr. Miller noted that the various meters are calibrated several times a year and validated every five years.

Mr. Her then reviewed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This was signed into law in 2014 and became effective January of 2015. This empowers local agencies to develop management plans to assure the sustainability of groundwater resources SGMA also requires that all high and medium priority groundwater basins be managed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and must be formed by June 2017. It further requires the GSAs develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) within 3-5 years depending whether or not the Subbasin is critically over drafted. There are 21 local agencies within the Turlock Subbasin that is eligible to form GSA per the California Water Code. These agencies have either land use or water authority. Currently, two GSAs are being formed within the Turlock Subbasin. The West Turlock Subbasin GSA (WTSGSA) covers the TID service area and is comprised of 18 agencies. The East Turlock Subbasin GSA covers the remaining portion of the Subbasin and is comprised of 7 agencies (4 of which are also part of the WTSGSA). The WTSGSA held its initial board meeting on February 2 with two public hearings scheduled for March 1 in Merced County and March 2 in Turlock. Next steps include the development and submission of the GSA election package to the Department of Water Resources which will include a 90-day comment period.

Steve Boyd, Director of Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs, presented an update on the Substitute Environmental Document (SED) proposed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the FERC Don Pedro/La Grange Relicensing project. Mr. Boyd also thanked everyone involved in either attending the public hearings or who wrote letters to the SWRCB in opposition to the proposed SED. Members of the public were encouraged to keep doing what they are doing by supporting the Worth Your Fight campaign and contacting their

elected officials to voice their concerns.

**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

There was none.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Moved by Director Frantz, seconded by Director Fernandes, that the regular meeting of the Board of Directors be adjourned.

The President declared the motion carried.

*Tami Wallenburg*  
**Executive Secretary to the Board of Directors**