

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board of Directors Meeting Held
August 29, 2007

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held August 29, 2007 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Baggerly, Word, Hicks, Handley and Kaiser were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board and Attorney, Rob Sawyer. There were five staff members and 56 members of the public in attendance. Director Baggerly led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. Board of Director comments.

None

3. Public Protest Hearing for the adoption of rate changes per Proposition 218. Written protests must be received by Casitas prior to the close of the public hearing today. Adoption of the following resolutions cannot occur if there is a majority protest against the general rate increases.

The President of the Board may restrict the length of time to three minutes to address the Board.

President Baggerly announced that this is the time and date set for a public hearing to consider input regarding the Proposition 218 protest hearing on the revision of water rates and CEQA. He added that the district must receive written protest prior to the end of the hearing today.

The question of how many meters Casitas has and how many would be needed to be considered a protest was asked. The number needed would be 1,590 to be considered a protest. Mr. Wickstrum added there are 257 Ag meters.

President Baggerly asked the Clerk of the Board for the total number of people who called or submitted communications regarding the protest hearing. Rebekah Vieira responded that 14 people called and 87 written comments had been received prior to the beginning of this meeting. Of the 87 written comments 26 are not valid protests and 61 are considered protests. There are four written letter received today and they will have to be analyzed to determine if they are valid.

President Baggerly opened the public hearing at 4:40 p.m.

Speakers at the public hearing included Crystal Davis, Roger Essick, Jim Coultas, Jim Finch, Bill Gilbreth, Roland Messori, Bradley Miles, Ron Caulkins,

Scott Van Der Kar, Tony Thacher, Jim Churchill, James Varney, DeWayne Boccali, Emily Ayala, Nick Coetzee, Don Frazier and Mike Etchart.

There were suggestions offered by the Ag community to look at the rate model in a different way and increase the amount of meter charges to include additional costs to resale customers. Concern was expressed regarding the viability of Agriculture in the Ojai valley with the increased costs of water.

President Baggerly asked if there were any additional written protest to be turned in. Hearing no further comments or protest letters being turn in President Baggerly closed the public hearing at 5:40 p.m.

President Baggerly asked the Clerk of the Board if there were enough response from customers to be considered a majority protest. The Clerk of the Board answered no; there is not a majority protest.

President Baggerly then asked for comments from the board or a motion to adopt the resolution.

The board spoke briefly regarding the need to take care of the infrastructure which is approaching 50 years old. The proposed Ag rate does not include the cost of treatment. The cost of service minus treatment costs for Ag is \$418 per acre foot. The board acknowledged the Ag communities desire to work together and further discussion regarding rates along with communication with the City of Ventura regarding the agreement with the City.

- a. Resolution adopting revisions to the Rate and Regulations for Water Service ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed by the following roll call vote:

| | | |
|---------|------------|---|
| AYES: | Directors: | Kaiser, Handley, Hicks, Word and Baggerly |
| NOES: | Directors: | None |
| ABSENT: | Directors: | None |

Resolution is numbered 07-46.

- b. Resolution approving the preliminary assessment for the revision to the rates and regulations for water service and adopting the notice of exemption. ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Handley and passed by the following roll call vote:

| | | |
|-------|------------|---|
| AYES: | Directors: | Kaiser, Handley, Hicks, Word and Baggerly |
|-------|------------|---|

NOES: Directors: None
ABSENT: Directors: None

Resolution is numbered 07-47.

President Baggerly adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Secretary