

CAWELO WATER DISTRICT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Conference Room at District Office
Thursday June 21, 2018
9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Keith Watkins, Mark Smith, Brian Blackwell, John Gaugel
DIRECTORS ABSENT: Eric Miller
STAFF PRESENT: David Ansolabehere, Dave Hampton, Emilie Ortiz, LeeAnn Giles, Candice Valdez

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ed Kuykendall, Keith Jagels, Thomas Romani, Doug Raymond, Megan Chicone, Mark Payette, Leonard Bidart, Ariadne Cimental, Justin Qualls, Eric Hayashi, Glen Weinstein, Josh Newfield, Bruce Kelsey, Tim Gobler, Joe Butkiewicz, Michael Kroker, Julio Ramon, Jose Gomez, Harjeet Bassi, Ryan Lewis, Jeff Looker, Scott Hamilton, and Brent Walthal

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by President Watkins at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the District office located at 17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield, CA.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was open for any public comments, at which time there were none.

C. CAL WATER FIX

1) Consideration of Cawelo's Participation in the Cal Water Fix –

A PowerPoint slide presentation was displayed on the boardroom monitor, Mr. Ansolabehere welcomed attendees, introduced staff, guests and provided brief opening comments regarding the California Water Fix and Cawelo's current position. Mr. Ansolabehere then introduced Mr. Brent Walthal, with the Kern County Water Agency. Mr. Walthal provided background information of the California Water Fix and the proposed tunnels that are to be constructed. The project has received five of the ten needed permits and agencies continue to work to obtain the remainder of the permits. Mr. Walthal also provided an update on the construction schedule and management of the project. DWR retains full control of the project and has developed a JPA that allows an advisory group to oversee the project's finances, public education, timeline and delegate issues.

Mr. Walthal further reported the basis of the cost estimates to fund this projected are determined from a 2015 conceptual engineering report, prevailing wage rates, equipment operating and ownership costs using USACE standards, limited geotechnical data, tunnel advance rates and work shifts. Mr. Walthal also provided a cost detail of each phase/reach of the project that reflected 2015 cost estimated numbers.

Mr. Walthal also provided background information on the operations portion of the project. The information provided included historical loss of water supply and how it affects both the CVP and SWP and it is likely to continue.

Lastly, consultant, Scott Hamilton, provided a brief presentation on the impact of CWF on water supply and costs as well as other items to consider when making the decision. Items to consider are that produced water supplies are likely to diminish over time, demands for water will increase with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

(SGMA), there will be more of a dependence on water markets in the future, and CWF is only a wet year water supply.

An inquiry was made on Cawelo's participation in the CWF and whether or not it was necessary for the District to participate and if District choose to participate, at what percent.

In response, Mr. Walthal reported that the District could have the potential to choose to participate at a later time and that the District could participate with limitations.

An inquiry was made about how Cawelo would finance the cost of participating in the project.

In response, Mr. Hampton responded by stating there are various options , such a Prop 218 and Special Assessment tax, but there would be landowner input before any decision is made.

An inquiry was made on how the governor candidates felt about the tunnels being constructed.

In response, Mr. Walthal reported that he didn't have that information at hand but would forward the responses at a later time.

A landowner commented that the District currently relies heavily on produced water and that having a reliable source of water for the future should be the District's and growers' best interest..

An inquiry was made on whether Cawelo had any projects that could be used as a reliable source of water besides participating in the Cal Water Fix.

In response, Mr. Ansolabhere reported that although the District will always continue to look for more reliable water resources, the demands for water are continuously increasing and there are more water restrictions that continue to arise.

A landowner suggested that it would be good to see how the CWF project compares to other potential Cawelo water supply projects.

Mr. Ansolabhere agreed and committed to providing additional information on other potential projects in comparison to the CWF.

E. ADJOURNMENT – The Special Board meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Brian Blackwell, Board Secretary