

CITRUS HEIGHTS WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
February 24, 2009

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Director Dains. Present were:

Allen B. Dains, President
Charles T. Rose, Vice-President
Joseph M. Dion, Director
David B. Kane, Assistant General Manager/Treasurer
Joseph P. Scherrer, Special Programs Coordinator
Rex W. Meurer, Conservation Specialist

General Manager Robert A. Churchill was out of town on bereavement leave.

VISITORS

None

Director Dains led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

Surface Water Supply Conditions

AGM Kane presented a report on water supply conditions and the forecast of these conditions for 2009. The District annually declares or reaffirms water supply conditions for the District when water delivery forecasts and other factors become known for the year ahead. The 2008-09 rainfall season to date, like the two preceding rainfall seasons, has produced below-average amounts of precipitation and snowfall in the Sierra Nevada watershed. Most of the California is facing very serious water supply shortfalls.

A copy of a recent news release from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was provided to Directors. This report announces the USBR's initial 2009 Central Valley Project (CVP) water supply allocation. While this allocation may be adjusted in coming months based on changing conditions, the Dry Forecast currently allocates a 50 percent water supply for municipal and industrial (M&I) users in the North of Delta region. Under this allocation, SJWD could potentially be provided with less than 40,000 acre-feet of surface water depending on a number of variables, including low levels in Folsom Lake that could affect the USBR's ability to pump all of the water rights and CVP water to which San Juan Water District is entitled.

Staff believes that CHWD can meet reasonable water demands with a combination of surface water from SJWD and groundwater from its own wells. However, the historically low level of Folsom Lake is a very real concern, and increased conservation efforts by customers are needed to ensure that there is enough water to go around. The managers of all of the San Juan Family agencies have agreed to carry forward a recommendation to their respective Board of Directors for adoption of a Stage 3 – Water Warning.

Directors were provided with a copy of the Water Conservation Stages for the District. An identical set of Stages have been adopted by all of the San Juan Family agencies. The main difference between the current Stage 2 –Water Alert and Stage 3 – Water Warning is that under the Water Warning Stage, customers are asked to reduce indoor and outdoor water use by 11 to 25 percent. Customers with “smart” irrigation controllers are asked to set their controllers to achieve 75 to 89 percent of the evapotranspiration (ET) rate. As in Stage 2, Stage 3 also calls for the District to monitor users of fire hydrant/construction water meters for efficient water use. Stage 2 requirements have been in effect since May 2008. Because other agencies in the region have conservation stages that use a different numbering system, the SJWD Family is trying to focus on the “Water Warning – 20% reduction” message, along with measures that customers can use to help achieve this level of water use reduction.

The adoption of the Stage 3 – Water Warning is being coordinated with adoption of identical conservation stages by other SJWD Family agencies, and very similar water conservation stages being adopted by the cities of Folsom and Roseville. The joint announcement of conservation stages is designed to gain the maximum exposure to the conservation message from media coverage, and to minimize the confusion that can result from each agency making an announcement at different times. CHWD staff is prepared to respond to media inquiries that may result from a press release due to be issued by SJWD tomorrow, February 25. Directors were provided with a draft copy of SJWD’s press release.

By adopting the water conservation stage in February, the agencies that rely on Folsom Lake water will get a head start on encouraging increased conservation efforts during the summer and fall months ahead. Typically, CHWD and other agencies wait until the final allocation announcement from the USBR at the end of April before declaring a conservation stage. CHWD will continue to use its web site and newsletter to raise the level of customers’ awareness of water supply conditions and the importance of greater conservation efforts. The opportunity for customers to save money on their water bill by using less water will also be emphasized. The District will also leverage its efforts with those of the Regional Water Authority’s Water Efficiency Program.

Directors and staff discussed current water conditions and plans to declare a Stage 3 – Water Warning. Directors noted that while the level in Folsom Lake is now rising due to increased inflow from recent rains, those rains were also depleting some of the snowpack at higher elevations. The depleted snowpack will mean less runoff into Folsom Lake during the summer and fall months unless more snow falls over the next few months.

Drought stage declarations by other agencies in the region were also discussed. Directors were provided with a copy of a proposed resolution declaring a Stage 3- Water Warning for the District.

Directors discussed whether the Regional Water Authority could help to coordinate agencies in the region in developing the same conservation stages so that water users throughout the region would have a common set of conservation levels and measures. AGM Kane stated that the variation in conservation stages and measures among agencies has been an issue in the region for years. The differences in sources of water supply and other factors have made it difficult to get all agencies to adopt common measures. However, the San Juan Family agencies and the cities of Roseville and Folsom have adopted either identical or very similar conservation stages, and the coordination of these agencies' drought stage announcements will help to send a more united message to customers in the region. Directors further stated that they would be receptive to reconsidering the water conservation stage declaration in future months if changes to water supply conditions should warrant it.

It was moved by Director Dion, seconded by Director Rose and carried 3-0 to adopt Resolution No. 06-2009 Declaring a Stage 3 – Water Warning Within Citrus Heights Water District.

DIRECTOR'S AND REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:

Director Dains stated that he wished to schedule a Special Meeting of the Board to consider the matter of the Public Employee Performance Evaluation --General Manager that had been started, but not concluded, at several prior Board meetings. Directors and staff discussed a possible date for the meeting. Director Dains called for a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. for this purpose. He requested staff to prepare the agenda for the meeting and to make arrangements for District Legal Counsel Judy Albietz to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

APPROVED:

Original signed by: David B. Kane
DAVID B. KANE
Deputy Secretary
Citrus Heights Water District

Original signed by: Allen B. Dains
ALLEN B. DAINS, President
Board of Directors
Citrus Heights Water District