

# Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

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## AGENDA Board Meeting 34274 State Highway 16 Woodland, CA 95695 Tuesday, June 2, 2009 7:00 P.M.

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Documents and materials relating to an open session item that are provided to the District Board less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting will be available for public inspection and copying at 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, then please contact Christina Cobey at (530) 662-0265 or (530) 662-4982 fax. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

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## AGENDA

- 7:00 1. Board Consideration: The Board will consider adoption of the minutes of the May 5, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.
- 7:02 2. Open forum (Limited to five minutes): Guest introductions, unscheduled appearances and opportunity for public comment on non-agenda items.
- 7:07 3. Board Consideration: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda.  
In order to add an item to the agenda, it must fit one of the following categories:  
a) A majority determination that an emergency (as defined by the Brown Act) exists; or  
b) A 4/5ths determination that the need to take action that arose subsequent to the agenda being posted.
- 7:08 4. Board Presentation: Cache Creek Dam Maintenance Program Update.
- 7:25 5. Board Consideration: Resolution on CEQA Notice of Determination of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Canal Capacity and Conjunctive Use Project.
- 7:30 6. Board Consideration: Resolution in Support of USBR Challenge Grant.
- 7:35 7. Board Consideration: Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating and Capital Budgets.

- 8:00 8. Directors' Reports: Each member of the Board will have the opportunity to report on meetings and conferences attended during the prior month on behalf of the District.
- 8:05 9. Attorney's Report: The District's attorney will report on the following:  
a) Current legal and legislative activities.
- 8:15 10. General Manager's Report: The Board will receive a report from the General Manager or designated representatives regarding current general activities and projects of the District.  
a) General Activities  
b) Operations, Maintenance and Water Conditions
- 8:25 11. General Discussion: Opportunity for Board members to ask questions for clarification, provide information to staff, request staff to report back on a matter, or direct staff to place a matter on a subsequent agenda.
- 8:28 12. Board Consideration: The Board will consider the approval and the payments of bills.
- 8:30 13. Adjourn

The public may address the Board concerning an agenda item either before or during the Board's consideration of that agenda item. Public comment on items within the Board's jurisdiction is welcome, subject to reasonable time limits for each speaker. Upon request, agenda items may be moved up to accommodate those in attendance wishing to address that item. Times listed for consideration of agenda items are approximate only. The Board may consider any agenda item at any time during the Board meeting.

I declare that the foregoing agenda was posted at the office of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA on May 29, 2009.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Cobey, Administrative Assistant



Y O L O C O U N T Y

**FLOOD CONTROL &  
WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 7:00 PM

YCFCWCD Offices  
34274 State Highway 16  
Woodland, CA 95695

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The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) was held at 7:00 p.m. on June 2, 2009, at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Tadlock convened the meeting. Vice Chair Brice and Director Mayer were absent. In attendance were:

District Board

Ron Tadlock, Chair  
Bruce Rominger, Director  
Erik Vink, Director

District Staff and Consultants

Tim O'Halloran, General Manager  
Christy Barton, Assistant General Manager  
Sal Espinoza, Operations Supervisor  
Margaret Kralovec, Writer/Editor  
Anthony Lopez, Facilities Supervisor  
Max Stevenson, Water Resources Associate  
Paul Bartkiewicz, Legal Counsel  
Fran Borcalli, floodSAFE Yolo Program Manager

Members of the Public

Dave Pratt  
Don Rominger  
Bob Schneider  
Frank Sieferman

### **1. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes**

9.16 M/S/C approved minutes for the May 5, 2009, Regular Board Meeting as submitted.

### **2. OPEN FORUM**

Don Rominger expressed his appreciation to District staff for their efforts in getting the allocated season off to a smooth start.

Frank Siefertman expressed interest in the formulation of a recharge plan for next season because of the large drop in the aquifer this season. General Manager O'Halloran responded that the District sees groundwater recharge as one of its major missions and is increasing its groundwater monitoring program this year. This data will then be used in helping to improve its conjunctive use program.

### **3. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda**

Board approved General Manager O'Halloran's request to move the operations report to follow Agenda Item 4.

### **4. BOARD PRESENTATION: Cache Creek Dam Maintenance Program Update**

Facilities Supervisor Lopez provided the Board with photographic documentation of the improvements made at Cache Creek Dam. Phase 1 of the project consisted of safety improvements, site cleanup, and upgrades to operational security. Lopez described the removal of the storage shed, the replacement of a redwood decking walkway over the creek with a galvanized grating, and the installation of new stairs and a metal door to the pump room. Lopez also described cleanup to the pump room itself, including the installation of a new hydraulic system, new pump, and the addition of triple redundancy with an engine-driven pump as a secondary back-up system in the event of a power outage. Board members thanked Lopez for the obvious quality of the project to date. Lopez credited the hard work of various staff and contractors in accomplishing the tasks.

### **5. GENERAL MANAGER'S OPERATIONS REPORT** (formerly Agenda Item 10.b)

General Manager O'Halloran provided the Board with an update on the 2009 irrigation season. The allocated season began May 26 with releases from both the Cache Creek Dam and Indian Valley Reservoir. In order to ensure compliance with Solano Decree provisions, the Clear Lake releases have been minimized and Indian Valley releases increased. The hydroelectric plant at Indian Valley has been operational, but because of the increase in release volume, a portion of Indian Valley releases is now bypassing the plant.

Preliminary calculations indicate that the District initially experienced a significant loss of water in the reach from the reservoirs to the Capay Dam due to evaporation, plant intake, diversions, seepage, and extremely dry soil conditions. There is less loss now that water has been running for a period of time. O'Halloran noted that this is the first year that SCADA has been used to monitor flow and to calculate losses, and the system has proved to be an extremely effective and efficient tool for that purpose, saving innumerable trips and staff time that would have otherwise been required.

Individual allocations are updated daily on the District's website. Water customers are still

getting used to the allocation system, and District staff is working hard to keep customers informed and communication channels open. Some customers are nearing the end of their allocations, while others have used little. The District is prepared to monitor water usage closely so that all customers have their full allocations available to them. O'Halloran indicated that there are ongoing canal inspections and close monitoring of all water usage each day. Wheeling of private water is apt to increase because of improved efficiencies when the canals are in use, however, managing wheeling usage during delivery periods is expected to be challenging for District staff.

The District anticipates, based on current figures, allocated releases will end in early July. Some releases will continue to ensure adequate fish flows, and there will be a small amount of unallocated water releases during August and September.

O'Halloran noted the importance of farmers communicating closely with their irrigators about their allocations so that extra water will not be inappropriately diverted.

#### **6. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Resolution on CEQA Notice of Determination of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Canal Capacity and Conjunctive Use Project**

(formerly Agenda Item 5)

Water Resource Associate Stevenson reminded the Board that the funding application it approved in May required the District to conduct an Initial Study to determine that the project would have no significant environmental impact, and that it included some mitigation measures to lessen potential impacts.

Legal Counsel Bartkiewicz noted that once the Notice of Determination is filed, the District can begin the project, which will be considered valid until determined otherwise.

**09.05** M/S/C Resolution 09.05 accepting the Initial Study, approving the Mitigated Negative Declaration, and instructing staff to file the Notice of Determination for the project and pay the associated fees. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent.

#### **7. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Resolution in Support of USBR Challenge Grant**

(formerly Agenda Item 6)

The District has applied for nearly \$2m in stimulus funds under the Recovery Act of 2009 Water Marketing and Efficiency Grant (USBR Challenge Grant) for a project of nearly \$4m for installation of ten groundwater wells and eight automated check structures and lateral headings along Winters Canal. The balance of project funds is a cost-share portion borne by the District directly and with in-kind services. This grant application does not commit the District to detailed tasks and budgets, nor does it commit the District to proceed at this stage of the application process. General Manager O'Halloran noted that the District continues to seek out projects for which ARRA funds can be used.

**09.06** M/S/C Resolution 09.06 permitting the District the legal authority to enter into an agreement with Reclamation, supporting the submitted application, providing funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the funding plan, and working with Reclamation on a cooperative agreement in the event of proposal approval. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent.

## **8. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Fiscal Year 2009-10 Operating and Capital Budgets**

(formerly Agenda Item 7)

General Manager O'Halloran presented a fiscal year budget for 2009-10 for Board approval. District staff has met with the Finance Committee twice during May on the development of the new budget. The proposed budget anticipates \$4.16m in expenses, \$1.83m in revenues, and the remainder is to be made up by using \$2.33m in reserves. Budget accommodations contained in the proposal include a 10% reduction in expenditures over the prior year, no Cost of Living Adjustment on staff wages, reductions in outside services, limited activities on Phase II Cache Creek Dam Improvements. Savings on fuel and herbicide purchases, and no new vehicle purchases. Only Northern California Water Association (NCWA) dues represent a significant expenditure increase.

Capital Improvement Program financing is divided between assessment-based financing for large capital infrastructure improvements (e.g., charging special assessments for large projects, assessing users for defined projects, costs, and timeframes), and depreciation financing for all other capital funding. O'Halloran closed his presentation with a brief overview of the District's tier-based reserve policy.

Director Vink commented on behalf of the Finance Committee that it had kept in touch with other directors on the budget development process. He expressed the desire of the Board to support the District's efforts to maintain staffing as long as possible. He also noted the uncertainty of property tax revenues because of California budget crisis. Director Rominger added that District reserves exist for just such a situation as it faces now, and that such funds should be put to good use when necessary. Chair Tadlock reported on behalf of Director Mayer, who, though absent, had sent his support for the budget in an email, and who wanted the Board to consider how reserves might be restored. The ensuing discussion included ideas for reserve restoration, such as instituting a reserve replenishment assessment or raising water rates. Director Vink commented that the budget ideas and analysis were sound, and reflected the responsible approach that water customers expect of the Board.

### **9.17 M/S/C adoption of the proposed O&M and Capital Budgets for Fiscal Year 2009-10.**

## **9. DIRECTORS' REPORTS** (formerly Agenda Item 8)

Director Vink reported that he represented the District at the NCWA meeting and provided an expression of District support for NCWA's dues increase. A key NCWA board member asked for more information, and a decision on the NCWA dues increase was deferred by its board until its next meeting.

Chair Tadlock reported attending a committee meeting on the Yolo Bypass.

## **10. ATTORNEY'S REPORT** (formerly Agenda Item 9)

Legal Counsel Bartkiewicz reported that it was unclear how the District would fare as a special district under the Governor's proposal to borrow \$2b in taxes from cities and counties.

Bartkiewicz provided a brief status report of current legislative action. SB 681 proposes to expand the State Water Board's jurisdiction while instituting some reforms (e.g., utilizing administrative law judges per the public utilities model). Water conservation bills, including AB

49, AB 261, and AB 460, are currently directed at urban water conservation, but Bartkiewicz believes that agricultural water conservation legislation will be coming in the future. SB 12, which addresses the implementation of the Delta Vision, is in the hands of a bipartisan, bicameral group. Talk of a water bond has abated. The Governor has made a proposal for a government reorganization that consolidates departments and functions.

## **12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### a. General Activities

- O'Halloran reported that July 8 is an expected date for the next Lake County Watershed Protection District and Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation Standing Committee meeting.

On June 22, floodSAFE Yolo is hosting a Cache Creek Settling Basin symposium. Project Manager Borcalli will give the keynote talk, O'Halloran will moderate a panel discussion. The symposium will also include a tour of the south levee and the basin.

- The environmental permits are in process for the Capay Dam apron project. It will be a budget decision whether to start the project this year. In general, construction bids are coming in 30% lower this year.

## **13. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

None.

## **14. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills**

9.18 M/S/C approval for the following claim(s) for payment:

Yolo Flood Control Checks: # 42556-42568

## **12. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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Ron Tadlock, Chair

ATTEST:

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Tim O'Halloran, Secretary