

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
September 5, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Schoonover called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District to order at 6:30 p.m. at the District headquarters and the agenda was accepted as presented. Present were Directors Fraites, Baker, Petterle, Rodoni, Schoonover. Also present were General Manager Chris DeGabriele, Chief Engineer Drew McIntyre, Auditor-Controller David L. Bentley, and Acting Secretary Sue Kessler.

District employees Mike McMaster (Operations Superintendent), Robert Clark (Maintenance Superintendent) and Doug Moore (Construction Superintendent) were in the audience. Renee Roberts (District Secretary), Ryan Grisso (Water Conservation Coordinator), Christi Black and Analisa Schelle of Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide were also in the audience for a portion of the meeting.

**WORKSHOP WITH OGILVY PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Chris DeGabriele introduced Ms. Christi Black and Ms. Analisa Schelle of Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide (Ogilvy), to the Board members. He explained that Ogilvy had put together an agenda for the evening's workshop, based on information received from the recent customer outreach survey conducted by Charlton Research Company, and that the workshop would last approximately one hour. Ms. Black distributed an information packet to each Board member, as well as to others seated at the Board table (Messrs. DeGabriele, Bentley and McIntyre, and Ms. Kessler). She also asked each person at the Board table to introduce themselves.

Ms. Black explained that Ogilvy's job was to help make the District's work a bit easier by helping the District foresee pitfalls that other water districts had encountered when introducing tier rates. She commented that the survey indicated that NMWD's approval ratings were very high, and that the public thinks very highly of the District. She also stated that the process Ogilvy was planning to undertake included research and testing some of the assumptions from the survey through small focus group settings in the community. Once this process was complete, Ogilvy would provide the General Manager with recommended key messages to communicate the tier rate proposal.

Ms. Black also stated that the District's high favorability rating reflects the public's confidence in both staff and the Board of Directors, and reflects the fact that Novato citizens feel that water is in great supply. As to water conservation, Ms. Black commented that it is important to identify how aware the public is of available programs, and noted that if people are not aware, then it is reasonable to assume that they're not too concerned with water conservation, but that they become very aware when their water bills are very high.

Director Fraites asked if Ogilvy had done other surveys for other water districts, and how NMWD compared with those that had water conservation programs in place. Ms. Black replied that while she didn't have a response readily available, it was possible to find out specifically what polling has been done in the past. She also commented that because there was a lot of water supply in California, with voluntary measures in place, people become complacent as long as their water bills stay pretty much the same. Ms. Black also remarked that the best way to tell how the public felt the District was doing was by "how many angry people you get in your lobby."

Ms. Black also stated that the survey respondents were asked about their knowledge of a tiered rate structure, commenting that asking this type of question helps to explain what tiered pricing actually is – if you use more than a certain level of water, then it gets more expensive. She noted that most respondents already think they are doing the best they can – whether it be voting, driving or in water conservation – but they also know that the District is not in crisis regarding water supply, so they aren't doing absolutely everything they can to conserve; however, they are aware of a need to do so. Ms. Black further reported that when asked whether or not the tiered rate would impact their bill, most respondents thought that it would not.

Ms. Black then addressed the Board and asked them to comment on the section of the survey that dealt with message testing. Director Schoonover remarked that it seemed that people are not aware that Marin Municipal Water District's rates are higher than those of NMWD. Director Fraites commented that it is important that NMWD customers know that southern Marin is paying up to three times more than they are for their water. Ms. Black further noted that having "fair and reasonable" rates – having customers feel that they are paying an equitable rate – scores very high with the public when dealing with agencies. David Bentley asked if this was a summary of how this particular message resonates with the public, and Ms. Black responded that this is what the poll revealed. She also noted that the survey responses showed that people do not want to subsidize those who are wasting water, and commented that she was pleased to see that 57% of those surveyed felt that if they were using more water, there were things they could do to reduce their consumption.

Mr. DeGabriele asked for an explanation of the term “late ballot.” Ms. Black responded that “early ballot” meant those answers given early on in the survey, i.e., respondents’ initial responses. “Late ballot” referred to those answers given at the end of the survey, i.e., “now that we’re finished, have we changed your mind?” Ms. Black commented that a shift in opinion to favor a tiered rate after all survey information had been heard meant that NMWD’s customers are open to being educated, and she also stated that she wasn’t surprised to see that most of the customers opposed to the tiered rates are those in their retirement years, on fixed incomes, etc. She noted that these customers tend to be the demographic group that most opposes any type of increase, but commented that these are the people that may be most receptive to conserving.

Ms. Black then queried the Board to consider everything they’d heard so far regarding the survey and to comment on who they feel would be the audience groups to target. Director Rodoni commented that most retirees fit into the fixed income bracket, and that the District needs to let these customers know that they need not fear tiered rates. Director Schoonover stated that he would like to see further surveys reach customers who think they’re already doing as much as possible. Director Fraites commented that large landowners – people who have 1/2 acre of property or more – need to be addressed. Ms. Black also asked who were the business leaders – the “thought leaders” –in the Novato community, those that customers would most listen to. Responses from the Board included realtors, church leaders, nurseries and landscape contractors, stables and equestrians, PTAs and the Chamber of Commerce.

Director Rodoni commented that some people have the impression that the conservation program at the District promotes and encourages new growth and development by providing water service. Director Petterle noted that the City of Rohnert Park is using conservation to provide for new development and is pleased that North Marin is using the term “gallons” as opposed to “Ccfs”. Director Rodoni added that consumers need to know what the District is talking about, to understand what their allocations are and what is expected of them. Director Baker commented that customers feel that the District is “punishing” the large landowners. Director Fraites also noted that some people are using every conservation measure possible, but the root problem is that they have lots of landscaping. He further noted that those customers are the ones who need to make “hard choices,” and that losing some of their landscaping will be hard for them to do. Ms. Black added that it would help if really old irrigation systems were retrofitted and better choices were made regarding types of water-conserving plants.

Ms. Black then asked how NMWD wants its customers to use the resources available to them. Mr. DeGabriele stated that he would want people to know how much water they use. Director

Rodoni stated that the District should share with customers how their conservation efforts rate with customers from other districts. Director Schoonover suggested that the District could let customers know what areas of their households use the most water. Director Petterle commented that most people aren't aware that their outside water use (landscaping, etc.) is their biggest problem. Director Rodoni questioned whether there was a way to gauge how a single person would rate as far as water use. Mr. DeGabriele responded that the District has already done this, through periodic newsletters showing bar graphs of each customers' respective water use. Director Fraites commented that the District must convey to customers that water is in fact a finite resource, that future weather conditions cannot be predicted, and that it is only prudent to conserve water.

Ms. Black closed her presentation by asking the Board if they had any more questions and stated that any comments or questions regarding the survey could be sent to either Mr. DeGabriele or Renee Roberts, who could then forward them to Ogilvy. Mr. DeGabriele commented that he wanted to make sure the Board had had an opportunity this evening to ask whatever questions they had.

The presentation was well-received by the Board, and Director Schoonover thanked Ms. Black and Ms. Schelle, who then left the meeting, as did Renee Roberts and Ryan Grisso.

### **MINUTES**

On motion of Director Baker, and seconded by Director Petterle and unanimously carried the Board approved the minutes from the previous meeting as presented.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **Meeting with Consultant from City of Santa Rosa**

Mr. DeGabriele informed that Board that he had recently met with a consultant from City of Santa Rosa, and that they had discussed the District's comments on Santa Rosa's Discharge Compliance Project. He advised that he had attended a Santa Rosa scoping session in Santa Rosa last week with their city council. He noted that there was a lot of opposition from every corner of their customer base, both within and outside the City.

#### **Sonoma County Salmon Coalition Meeting**

Mr. DeGabriele reported that he also attended a Sonoma County Salmon Coalition meeting. He noted that Dry Creek Valley landowners were represented at this meeting. He commented that they are currently going through the signature process, enabling access onto their lands which could facilitate investigation regarding flow, habitat, etc. Mr. DeGabriele further commented that it

was not known how much habitat would need to be created to increase flows, and stated it was good to start some sort of dialogue. He noted that the biggest challenge the Agency would face would be how to manage release out of Warm Springs Dam into Dry Creek for increased diversions.

#### Labor Day at the Lake

Mr. DeGabriele stated that the previous Sunday was the Labor Day at the Lake celebration. He noted that it was well-attended, even though the weather had been a bit chilly. He commented that it “went off without a hitch.”

#### Letter to State Water Resources Control Board

Mr. DeGabriele informed the Board that he was preparing a comment letter to the State Water Resources Control Board on the draft permit for Lagunitas Creek water rights license, and noted that Mike McMaster is working with him in this regard. He stated that he had had a conference call with NMWD’s attorney to be sure the District had enough legal basis to make claims, and noted that the letter will be available to the Board at the next meeting.

#### **OPEN TIME**

President Schoonover asked if anyone in the audience or staff wished to bring up an item not on the agenda and the following items were discussed:

#### Measure B Project Paving

Mr. McIntyre informed that Board that the City of Novato is working aggressively on the Measure B projects, some of which had been delayed from last year. He noted that in the vicinity of Raposa Vista (off Novato Blvd., near Novato Square Shopping Center), there had been some coordination problems, such as having to lower water service laterals. He commented that the project so far had cost an estimated \$10K, and would probably total between \$40-\$50K.

Director Schoonover asked if in fact the service laterals were low, and Mr. McIntyre responded that they were at shallow depths, but he commented that once the City was finished working in that area, future Measure B projects would not be as invasive.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Rodoni requested that Item 7 – 17 Lockton Lane (Wecker Remodel/Addition) – be removed from the Consent Calendar. On motion of Director Petterle and seconded by Director Baker, the following items on the Consent Calendar were unanimously approved:

### **SEWER SERVICE AGREEMENT PARCEL L – OCEANA MARIN**

The Board approved a sewer service agreement for Parcel L, in Oceana Marin, which is a 6.65-acre vacant parcel located at 55 Ocean View Boulevard in Dillon Beach. The project proposes to subdivide the parcel into four single-family residential lots for custom home development. The District has obtained all required off-track easements for this project. On April 13, 2006, the Marin County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution adopting a negative declaration of Environmental Impact, Coastal Permit, Precise Development Plan and Land Division for the subdivision.

The Board approved Resolution 06-37 entitled, "Authorization of Execution of Sewer Main and Side-Sewer Agreement with Alvie Floyd."

### **HAMILTON LANDING PHASE 2B – HANGAR 8**

The Hamilton Landing – Phase 2B – Hangar 8 project proposes development of 64,000 square feet of commercial space for Hangar 8 within the Hamilton Field Master Plan area. The project is located on Hangar Avenue, north of all other hangars and the existing U.S. Coast Guard facilities at Hamilton Field. The Applicant also requested installation of water facilities for the adjoining three lots at the same time, so that demolition of newly-improved areas could be avoided during future development of the additional lots. Sewer service will be provided by the Novato Sanitary District.

The Board approved Resolution 06-38 entitled, "Authorization of Execution of Water Service Facilities Construction Agreement with BPG Hamilton, L.L.C."

### **CREW TRUCK REPLACEMENT SOLICITATION**

In the current FY07 budget, staff recommended replacement of the large crew truck with a new, 26K GVWR lo-profile cab and chassis truck. After reviewing the California State vehicle list, staff determined there were no longer any vendors able to meet the District's specifications. Staff is therefore recommending that a Request for Proposal be sent to several dealers for competitive bids. As this vehicle is no longer available through the state bid process, the forecasted cost of \$50,000 is expected to increase by 10-15%.

The Board authorized staff to solicit bids for the purchase of a new 2006/2007 model year lo-profile cab and chassis truck.

**POLICY NO. 19, FLUORIDATION AND POLICY NO. 20, WINTER SAFETY JACKETS**

The Board adopted the revised Policy No. 19, Fluoridation, as well as revised Policy No. 20, Winter Safety Jackets.

**DISBURSEMENTS**

The Board authorized payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$1,572,083.19.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**17 LOCKTON LANE (WECKER REMODEL / ADDITION)**

This project is located at 17 Lockton Lane in Novato. An approximate 5,140 square foot addition to the existing single-family home is proposed. New water facilities required include 20 feet of 2-inch copper lateral and one 2-inch meter. The existing 5/8-inch meter will be killed. High-pressure water service to this project will continue to be provided from Zone 2. There is no new water demand associated with this project.

Director Rodoni took issue with the phrase “no new water demand,” and asked if this was really an equivalent dwelling unit. He commented that in the future the District needed to look at a policy to see if there were any criteria to collect fees for additional equivalent dwelling units (EDU). Mr. DeGabriele reported that he and Mr. McIntyre had discussed this, and stated that this customer was about to be hit with tiered rates. He commented that in essence, the District tier rate structure would collect connection fees through water usage. Director Rodoni stated that the customer should know up front that they would be paying tiered rates. Directors Schoonover and Petterle both agreed that this was a massive project.

On motion of Director Rodoni, seconded by Director Petterle and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution No. 60-39, entitled “Authorization of Execution of High Pressure Water Service Facilities Construction Agreement with William Wecker.”

**REVISE REGULATION 105 – USE OF SEWER MAINS**

Staff is requesting changes to Regulation 105, Section j. – Flow Reduction Devices and Restrictions for New Development – wherein interior plumbing requirements for new buildings have been revised to reflect water conservation measures consistent with that required in both Novato and West Marin.

On motion of Director Rodoni, seconded by Director Petterle and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution No. 06-40, entitled “Revision of North Marin Water District Regulation 105 – Use of Water Mains.”

### **PG&E EASEMENT**

Mr. McIntyre informed the Board that this item is a request by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to acquire an additional 5' by 81' easement onto the District's Cherry Hill Tank property paralleling the private road in order to accommodate electrical upgrades to communication facilities. He noted that PG&E currently has an existing 10' wide underground easement, but commented that adjacent homeowners don't want PG&E to cut into any of the existing private roadway (Robinhood Drive), and are in favor of NMWD granting said new easement. Mr. McIntyre further noted that granting the new easement would not interfere with any District facilities, and that the easement language is currently being reviewed by District legal counsel to ensure that the District's interests are protected.

Director Rodoni asked if the practice of exchanging rights-of-way is still ongoing, and noted that it "doesn't seem you get anything for free anymore." Mr. DeGabriele commented that he could check on this issue, but noted that typically, the District did not get a lot of financial gain by granting these types of easements. Mr. DeGabriele further commented that it was his understanding that the purpose for the easement was PG&E's need to improve the power supply to a cellular site adjacent to District property.

On motion of Director Baker, seconded by Director Fraites and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the General Manager to execute a Grant of Easement to PG&E after final review and approval by legal counsel.

### **REVISE BILL ADJUSTMENT POLICY**

Mr. Bentley reported that the Bill Adjustment Policy was recently revised in January 2006, at which time it was simplified to split the difference between a customer's normal bill and the disputed bill. However, the Conservation Incentive Rate (CIR) presents a problem that should be addressed, especially in light of the proposed expansion of the tier rate structure. The existing policy credits only half of the CIR charge back to the customer, but the proposed amendment to the Bill Adjustment policy would credit the entire amount, and also provides for an additional credit of half the tier surcharge.

Director Petterle asked whether or not the adjustment would be retroactive, and Mr. Bentley responded that the District had not done so in the past.

On motion of Director Petterle, seconded by Director Fraites and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposed policy addition.

## **SOLAR GENERATION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Robert Clark informed the Board that SPG Solar had prepared a feasibility study for North Marin Water District in which they looked at two types of solar energy production – one for covered parking structures at the main District offices and the second for a ground-mounted system near the Stafford Lake Water Treatment Plant. The sizing of these two proposed systems is based on the actual PG&E power requirements for the District office, warehouse shop and yard services, as well as an estimated load for STP. Mr. Clark noted that the system for the District office site would total 88 kW, and would require that 588 solar panels be mounted on parking structures in the employee parking area and in the service yard, at a cost of approximately \$860K, which could be recouped within 16-17 years, based on SPG data.

Mr. Clark further noted that a fixed 450kW system at STP would require 2,928 solar panels in a field array located near the end of Center Road, on about two acres of District open space. This system would cost \$3.6M and would pay back in 13-15 years.

Mr. Clark also explained that with the various District long-range plans presently being investigated, the solar parking structures at the main office site do not warrant further action at this time. However, he did comment that the potential to produce a sustainable alternative energy supply for STP does warrant further investigation. Also, Mr. Clark explained, developing a potential solar energy supply at STP would require that the District sign up for PG&E's Solar Net Metering Rebate Program, which would require an application fee of 0.5% of the estimate rebate amount (or about \$10K). He noted he would put together a Request for Proposal to send out to vendors to look at doing a feasibility study for the District, as well as checking with other water districts to see what energy supply plans they have in place.

Mr. DeGabriele stated that the District wants the Board's authority to go forward, but also desires the ability to potentially negotiate with the selected vendor. He commented that there would always be energy needs at STP to produce water in peak summer months, and that this study would be a good tool to see that happen.

Director Schoonover asked what the significant benefits of an alternative energy supply would be. Mr. Clark responded that the benefits would be fairly significant, and that production of approximately 4,250 lbs. of greenhouse gases could be avoided because PG&E would not have to produce a peak load. Director Fraites commented that he had read that most silicon plants which make computer chips, etc., are overstressed and moving at complete capacity, and that the cost of making little filaments for solar panels could possibly go up in the future. He also noted that the state of California had recently passed legislation, which the Governor had signed, regarding solar

roofs, and asked if this legislation would affect the District or if it just pertained to residential customers. Mr. Clark replied that the rebate is from the California Public Utilities Commission, but noted that he would be investigating where money was available, but that he didn't have any details yet. He acknowledged that he wanted to keep the Board apprised before getting too involved.

On motion from Director Fraites and seconded by Director Rodoni, the Board unanimously authorized the General Manager to develop a Request for Proposal for design and construction of a solar energy system for Stafford Water Treatment Plant and enter into the PG&E Solar Rebate Program.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **ENERGY POLICY NO. 18**

Mr. Clark informed the Board that the current energy policy had been developed in the early 1980s, and noted that over the years, the District has tried several times to implement alternative energy programs that hadn't really come to fruition as they were very expensive and offered no incentives. He commented that over the past twenty years, the District had also initiated a lot of energy conservation work, wherein the District has been able to reduce the energy used (kW) per gallon of water produced, as well as saved energy costs by entering into off-peak pumping rates with PG&E on several of the District's systems.

Mr. Clark stated that he felt that a totally self-sufficient energy policy is not realistic, and noted that it will cost the District and its customers a great deal. He commented that the new policy gives the District a good outline on being as energy-wise as possible, such as minimizing water usage at higher elevations, continuing conservation incentive rates, etc.

Director Petterle questioned the detriment in keeping the current policy. Mr. Clark responded that the policy clearly states that the District must pursue being 100% self-sufficient, and noted that if the District stays with the current policy, the District needs to plan how to accomplish this task, such as with a solar project to procure power generation. Director Petterle further stated that he understands that total self-sufficiency is not a realistic goal but at the same time sets goals high.

Mr. DeGabriele also stated that long-range plans haven't been ignored and that the District continues to have a goal of energy self-sufficiency, but noted that the policy says that the District will continually optimize and work toward a goal of energy self-sufficiency. He acknowledged that the goal itself sounds great, but admitted that the District hadn't been able to get there in almost 30 years, and that the likelihood of getting there in the next 30 years was probably not very good.

Director Rodoni commented that maybe the District could work towards lowering energy demands and strengthen policy language to that effect.

**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK POLICY REGARDING HIRING OF MINORS FOR TEMPORARY POSITIONS**

Mr. DeGabriele explained that this information item was on the agenda because the District had recently had several open positions, one of which was an entry-level treatment plant assistant. He stated that his son had applied for the job, and while the current policy did not prohibit it, he felt that it was inappropriate for his son to be hired. Mr. DeGabriele noted that he wanted to inform the Board that the current policy prohibits temporary employees who are minors, but commented that the policy needs to be expanded to protect the District from indiscretions in hiring practices. He reported that he would come back to the Board at the next meeting with a draft policy for their review.

Mr. DeGabriele also noted that he had spoken with District legal counsel regarding hiring prohibitions, and stated that he felt that, at a minimum, policy should exclude hiring of immediate family members of both the Board of Directors and of the General Manager. Director Fraites asked why, other than interns, would the District hire minors, and Mr. DeGabriele responded that typically, the District doesn't, but it just makes good sense to revise the policy to be more accurate and that it is prudent to have a policy about hiring relatives.

**POLICY NO. 21, JUDICIAL REVIEW LIMITATIONS**

Mr. DeGabriele commented that this policy will be on the agenda for approval at the next meeting, and that it has also been reviewed by District legal counsel and updated to reflect the current format of District policies. Mr. DeGabriele also stated that if there were no comments from the Board, the item would be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Director Rodoni asked for a brief explanation of the policy, and Mr. DeGabriele responded that it allowed NMWD customers the opportunity to seek judicial relief if they felt they were not being treated fairly. Mr. Bentley noted that the policy has to be adopted by resolution in order to become effective.

**WORKER'S COMPENSATION SELF-INSURANCE – STATUS REPORT**

David Bentley updated the Board on the District's self-insured Workers' Compensation obligation, and noted that in the two years since inception, the District has realized a \$499,996 savings in premium payments. He commented that this savings has been set-aside to fund future

claims, and noted that if the fund should reach the \$750,000 excess insurance policy threshold in the future, the Board may then wish to consider how to allocate any additional savings generated.

Director Fraites commented that the District's decision to self-insure for Workers' Compensation had been a good move.

### **POLYBUTYLENE PIPE FAILURE HISTORY**

Mr. Bentley also updated the Board with additional information on polybutylene service line failures. Currently, the District has about 3,800 polybutylene services lines remaining in its distribution system, with about 75 failures occurring each year (approximately 1.67% of the total).

### **SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS FIVE-YEAR UPDATE**

Robert Clark updated the Board on security improvements made to the District over the past five years since 9/11/2001. He reported that some of the measures included a vulnerability assessment, as required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, updating procedures for both building and field security, reviewing and updating the District's Emergency Operations Plan, as well as increased training on security improvements. He also noted that additional security items have been implemented, which include: fencing, access gates, signage, camera surveillance, intrusion detection, new keys, and occasional security guards at STP.

Director Schoonover asked that, with respect to security access, does the District keep track of what vendors come and go. Mr. Clark replied that the warehouseman keeps a daily delivery log, and noted that vendors either have a pre-arranged gate code or must first stop in the front office to get the code.

Director Baker questioned the vulnerability of the security cameras, whether or not trespassers could destroy them. Mr. Clark replied that the cameras are mounted on 20-foot poles and are encased in a bullet-proof enclosure. He further noted that the cameras are motion-sensitive, operate digitally, and can be moved to different areas of the STP facility. Director Schoonover questioned the cost of labor involved in moving the cameras on a regular basis, and Mr. Clark replied that doing so would become part of surveillance, and would only add approximately 15 minutes to the procedure.

Director Baker asked that, given the numerous District sites, had graffiti become a problem all over, or just with the more popular sites. Mr. Clark responded that between six to ten tank sites are popular, but that other sites are virtually untouched. He noted, though, that the STP spillway is an especially popular site for graffiti artists, or "taggers."

## **MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT FOURTH QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. Clark updated the Board on the Maintenance Department's Fourth Quarter Progress Report, and noted that most of the progress has been as planned and scheduled for routine tasks. He reported that Maintenance had completed 65% of the forecasted projects for the year. Mr. Clark further reported that District facilities' reliability had been impacted by a communications failure at the south end of Novato due to Verizon telephone issues as well as a power interruption at the Davies Pump station due to a PG&E transformer failure. Mr. Clark also commented that the Maintenance work order tracking system was working well: 97 were closed, 132 had been issued and 62 continue to be tracked into the next quarter.

## **LETTER TO SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RE NMWD WATER CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Mr. DeGabriele informed that Board that both he and Director Baker had attended a meeting with two of Sonoma County Water Agency's Board of Directors (Supvs. Tim Smith and Mike Kerns). He noted that the contractors have recently concluded development of water demand projections for the Urban Water Management Plan, and that there is a big emphasis on water conservation. He stated that he had had an opportunity to share with Messrs. Kerns and Smith what the District is doing – that STP is online and producing water, and that the recycled water project is well under way. Mr. DeGabriele commented that he felt that they came away from the meeting with some good information from NMWD showing that the District is doing its part to be self-reliant as much as it can, and to minimize the District's dependence on the Russian River system. He commented that Supv. Smith was especially interested in the District's new housing limits (800 sq. ft. of turf for residential units, none for commercial). He also stated that Supv. Smith commented that perhaps this was something that the Agency should be doing.

Mr. DeGabriele also reported that the Agency had indicated they would need some help in going to Washington, D.C. next spring, and would be requesting NOAA fisheries to issue biological opinions on current Russian River operations.

Mr. DeGabriele then asked if Director Baker had any comments, and Director Baker responded that everything had been pretty well covered and that he had nothing to add.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

The Board received the following miscellaneous items: Response to Request for Additional Bill Adjustment, and Transcript of Voice Mail from Customer.

The Board also received the following news items: Novato Advance Cartoon (8/30), Use More, Pay More (8/29), Taps Turned on at Stafford (8/23), Stafford Lake Treatment Plant Goes Into Operation (8/23), Lifestyle Retail Center (8/22), Marin's Super Solar Project (8/18), NMWD's Draconian Rate Hike (8/16), All Water Rates (8/16), and Turf Really Worth It? (8/16).

**CLOSED SESSION**

President Schoonover adjourned the Board into closed session for Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9 (one case re Stafford Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project).

**OPEN SESSION**

Upon returning to regular session at 9:04 p.m., President Schoonover stated that during the closed session the Board had discussed the issues and no reportable action had been taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Schoonover adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by

Sue Kessler  
Acting Secretary