

**MOSQUITO AND VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
of Santa Barbara County
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF TRUSTEES
November 9th, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County was held at 1:00 PM, on Thursday, November 9th, 2023 via teleconference and in person at the Santa Barbara City College Wake Center Campus, Room 18.

1. ROLL CALL.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

President Robert Williams
Secretary Craig Geyer
Trustee Charlie Blair
Trustee Joe Franken (arrived during Item 4)
Trustee Barbara Silver
Trustee Russell Dahlquist
Trustee Hugh Rafferty

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Vice-President Teri Jory

IN ATTENDANCE:

Brian Cabrera, General Manager
Jessica Sprigg, Administrative Assistant
Carrie Troup, CPA
John Bliss, SCI Consulting (attended remotely)
Ryan Aston, SCI Consulting (attended remotely)
Karen Bell, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (for Closed Session Item)

2. CONSIDERATION OF TELECONFERENCING NOTIFICATIONS OR REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS Per Government Code § 54953(f), less than a quorum of Board members may on a limited basis videoconference to Board meetings for just cause or emergency circumstances

-There were no requests for remote participation.

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

-It was requested that Item 10A be discussed following Item 4 and that the Closed Session (Item 16) be held following Item 10A.

4. A DEMONSTRATION OF THE VARIOUS TRAPS USED BY THE DISTRICT FOR CAPTURING MOSQUITOES; GIVEN IN-PERSON BY VECTOR BIOLOGIST TECHNICIAN KAREN SCHULTZ.

-Technician Schultz explained the ways that various mosquito traps work and how certain traps are better suited for catching certain species of mosquitoes. She also discussed the many considerations that go into mosquito trapping, such as trap placement and weather.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. John Bliss, President of SCI Consulting Group, will discuss the processes and requirements for equalizing the benefit assessment maximum and annual increase for Service Zones 1 and 2. The criteria and limitations by which annual assessments for our District's these two zones may be increased are different. For Service Zone 1 it may be increased by an annual adjustment based on the March CPI, and the maximum annual assessment rate has a limit of \$20.00 per benefit unit (as established by Resolution 96-02 by the Board of Trustees of the Goleta Valley Vector Control District). The assessment for Service Zone 2 is not subject to a CPI limitation and the maximum assessment rate may not exceed \$16.00 per benefit unit (as established by Resolution 96-01 by the Trustees of the Carpinteria Mosquito Abatement District).

-John Bliss discussed the methods by which the maximum benefit assessment rates may be increased. The two methods he discussed are known as "repeal and replace" and an "overlay." He also explained the many steps that need to be taken before either process may take place. It was recommended that an ad-hoc committee examine this issue further.

16. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.

- A. Public comment on closed session agenda items.

-None.

- B. Public Employment (Pursuant to § 54957.6)

Agency representative: Brian Cabrera, General Manager; Karen Bell, Counsel, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo.

-There was no reportable action from Closed Session.

5. Staff announcements regarding District business

- A. Annual meeting of the Mosquito & Vector Management District of California (MVCAC) in Monterey, CA, Sun., January 21 – Wed., January 24, 2024.

For information and registration:

<https://www.mvcac.org/news-and-events/92nd-annual-mvcac-conference/>

-Trustee Blair and Trustee Dahlquist expressed interest in attending.

- B. Reminder that Board term expiration dates are approaching for several trustees.

If you haven't done so already, please be sure to contact your appointing city or county supervisor's office as soon as possible about your intention for continuing for another term.

-Trustees Blair, Geyer, and Rafferty are seeking re-appointment from their respective appointing authorities.

- C. Recognition of District staff and trustees who have served our country in the armed forces, in honor of Veteran's Day on November 11.

-Several trustees discussed the branches of the military in which they served. Staff and the Board expressed appreciation for all those who have served.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. RESULTS OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S REVIEW ON OCT. 24, OF THE DISTRICT'S MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM.

-Reviewer found that the District is in compliance and adhering to almost all vector control requirements of the California Dept. of Public Health. GM Cabrera requested assistance from CDPH to help the District establish contacts with the County of Santa

Barbara Dept. of Public Health as the District isn't receiving notification of human cases of WNV infection from that department.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT-Time reserved for the public to address the Board of Trustees relative to matters of District business not on the agenda. Comment time regarding specific agenda items will be available during consideration of the particular agenda items.
-None.
8. ITEMS OF GENERAL CONSENT. The following items are approved by a single action of the Board. Items requiring additional discussion may be withdrawn from the listing and approved in a separate action.
 - A. Approval of the Minutes of the October 12th, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
 - B. Approval of the October Disease Surveillance Report
 - C. Approval of the October District Operations Report
-It was moved by Trustee Blair and seconded by Trustee Rafferty to approve the Items of General Consent. Motion passed unanimously.
9. OLD BUSINESS. The Board will discuss and may take action on the following items:
 - A. Accept and file the October Financial Statements for County Fund 4160
-Carrie Troup informed the Board that, at this time in the fiscal year, the District is underbudget on expenditures and overbudget on revenue.
 - B. Accept and file the October Disbursement Report
-One item on the Vendor Disbursement Report that was out of the ordinary was the payment to Budget Blinds for the new window coverings at the District office.
 - C. Accounts receivable contracts' status (5909 Misc. Revenue)
-Line Item 5909 is at 45% while only 33% of the year has elapsed.
 - D. Update on the search for a new legal counsel for the District. Discussion and action regarding interview and hiring process for attorney to serve as District general counsel.
-Interviews with two candidates were held on November 8th. There will be a Closed Session at the December Board meeting to further discuss selection of legal counsel.
 - E. Report on the District staff meeting with the representatives from the Santa Barbara Audobon Society and Santa Barbara Airport on 10/10 in regards to the use of the District's Argo amphibious vehicle at the Goleta Slough, located on the Santa Barbara Airport property.
-Staff appreciated having the opportunity to discuss this issue with stakeholders of the Goleta Slough. It is the hope of staff to further collaborate with the Audobon Society and the Santa Barbara Airport to reduce impacts from mosquito abatement in sensitive habitats.
 - F. Update on District building repair and improvement projects:

- a. Shower and pipe replacement – project on hold due to findings of asbestos in the flooring and projected cost exceeds the maximum of \$17,000 set by the Board (costs would include cutting/jackhammering through the floor, replacing the wastewater
- b. pipe, shower and floor, repairing walls and slab, painting, asbestos remediation, portable restroom and office rentals).
- c. New floors- on hold due to asbestos in the flooring
- d. Remodel bathroom-on hold due to finding of asbestos in the flooring and drywall
- e. Landscaping-large ash tree in front was pruned and large palm tree in the back was trimmed; weeding. Quarterly service or as needed?
- f. Repair and add railings to front and back steps
- g. New window blinds—installation scheduled for 11/15
- h. Replace rain gutters-high priority
- i. Replace kitchen sink hardware and install garbage disposal
- j. Resurface disabled persons parking space
-Staff continues to work on the District property and conceive of improvements that could be made in the future.

- G. Discuss and approve salary adjustment for General Manager Brian Cabrera
-It was moved by Secretary Geyer and seconded by Trustee Rafferty to approve a five-percent increase in pay for GM Cabrera, as well as increase his vacation accrual to 7.7 hours per pay period. Motion passed unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS. The Board will discuss and may take action on the following items:

- A. John Bliss, President of SCI Consulting Group, will discuss the processes and requirements for equalizing the benefit assessment maximum and annual increase for Service Zones 1 and 2. The criteria and limitations by which annual assessments for our District's these two zones may be increased are different. For Service Zone 1 it may be increased by an annual adjustment based on the March CPI, and the maximum annual assessment rate has a limit of \$20.00 per benefit unit (as established by Resolution 96-02 by the Board of Trustees of the Goleta Valley Vector Control District). The assessment for Service Zone 2 is not subject to a CPI limitation and the maximum assessment rate may not exceed \$16.00 per benefit unit (as established by Resolution 96-01 by the Trustees of the Carpinteria Mosquito Abatement District).
-Discussed following Item 4.
- B. Discuss implications for Santa Barbara County regarding two human cases of Dengue virus in the cities of Pasadena and Long Beach, Los Angeles County. These are the first cases of locally-acquired Dengue virus in California. Thirty-nine (39) travel-related cases have been reported in California this year – three (3) of these were from Santa Barbara County. In 2022, there were one hundred and twenty-eight (128) travel-related cases in CA, two (2) from Santa Barbara Co.
-Staff continues to monitor for invasive *Aedes* species diligently.
- C. Approve attendance by Trustee Blair at the MVCAC Annual Conference. Registration = \$375; Trustee session = \$75; Hotel = \$579. Estimated total = \$1,029
-Approval for Trustees Blair and Dahlquist to attend will be added to the agenda for December.

11. REVIEW OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE, CHAPTER 1. MOSQUITO ABATEMENT AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICTS, ARTICLE 3, §§ 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024 and 2025

-GM Cabrera briefly discussed what these sections of the Health and Safety Code address.

- 12. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
-Consider and/or approve attendance of Trustees Blair and Dahlquist at the MVCAC Annual Conference.
- 13. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
-No discussion occurred for this item.
- 14. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS
-Trustee Blair attended the last SBCCSDA meeting and it was very informative.
-Trustee Rafferty announced that a replacement has been named for Charlotte Holifield, former Coastal Network Public Affairs Field Coordinator.
- 15. DISCUSS INTEREST IN HAVING AN END-OF-THE-YEAR HOLIDAY SOCIAL
-Staff intends on having a small get together following the December Board meeting.
- 16. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.
 - A. Public comment on closed session agenda items.
-None.
 - B. Public Employment (Pursuant to § 54957.6)
 Agency representative: Brian Cabrera, General Manager; Karen Bell, Counsel, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo.

17. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

I certify that the above minutes substantially reflect the actions of the Board:

BY:

APPROVED:

 Robert Williams
 Board President

 Craig Geyer
 Board Secretary