

# Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

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## AGENDA Board Meeting 34274 State Highway 16 Woodland, CA 95695 Tuesday, May 5, 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 April 7, 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.
- 7:10 4. Board Consideration: Resolution in Support of Water Awareness Month.
- 7:13 5. Board Consideration: Resolution in Support of State Revolving Fund ARRA Application.
- 7:15 6. Board Discussion: Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Budget Assessment.
- 7:30 7. Board Presentation: Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating and Capital Budgets.

- 7:40 8. Board Presentation: 2009 Water Delivery Operations and Ongoing Maintenance Program Update.
- 8:00 9. Board Presentation: Capay Dam Stabilization Project Update.
- 8:20 10. 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.
- 8:25 11. Attorney's Report: The District's attorney will report on the following:  
a) Current legal and legislative activities.
- 8:40 12. 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
- 8:55 13. 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.
- 8:58 14. Board Consideration: The Board will consider the approval and the payments of bills.
- 9:00 15. 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 1, 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, May 5, 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 May 5, 2009, at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Tadlock convened the meeting. In attendance were:

District Board

Ron Tadlock, Chair  
Ann Brice, Vice Chair  
Jim Mayer, Director  
Bruce Rominger, Director  
Erik Vink, Director

District Staff, Consultants, Presenters

Tim O'Halloran, General Manager  
Christy Barton, Assistant General Manager  
Sal Espinoza, Operations Supervisor  
Mike Horgan, District Engineer  
Margaret Kralovec, Writer/Editor  
Stefan Lorenzato, Environmental Resources Associate  
Jen Reed, Project Manager  
Max Stevenson, Water Resources Associate  
Paul Bartkiewicz, Legal Counsel  
Fran Borcalli, floodSAFE Yolo Program Manager  
Donn Zea, Northern California Water Association President

Members of the Public

Dave Pratt  
Don Rominger  
Bob Schneider

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

9.13 M/S/C approved minutes for the April 7, 2009, Regular Board Meeting as submitted.

**2. OPEN FORUM**

None

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

None.

**4. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Resolution in Support of Water Awareness Month**

Assistant General Manager Barton and Chair Tadlock introduced the resolution before the Board in support of public water education and Water Awareness Month.

Director Brice reminded the Board that each year, the District and the Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA) coordinate a county-wide Water Awareness Month Poster Contest during the month of May. May is designated by the State of California as Water Awareness Month. This contest not only helps promote public understanding of water issues, but is a pleasurable, favorite activity for all involved, including the County Board of Supervisors, which honors the participants and awards the prizes.

09.03 M/S/C Resolution No. 09.03 supporting the education of citizens on California's complex water issues for Water Awareness Month and throughout the year. 5 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent.

**5. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Resolution in Support of State Revolving Fund ARRA Application**

Water Resources Associate Stevenson briefly described funding opportunities for the District under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and the compressed application process created by the urgency of distributing stimulus monies. Stevenson informed the Board that the District is requesting Board approval to seek \$9,980,487 in ARRA funding for construction projects of groundwater wells and canal structures, floodplain planning, and water quality protection projects. Requested federal funds are to be channeled through the California State Revolving Fund, and structured as project reimbursement loans that are to be forgiven. Stevenson noted that because proposal submissions are to be only general at this point in order to speed up the review and approval process, the details of the District's proposal have yet to be worked out. The District is proposing that it would be the fiscal agent and lead agency among project partners that include UC Davis, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Hydrofocus Inc., and Bachand and Associates.

The Board briefly discussed project lists, potential for Capay Dam restoration project funding, and other opportunities presented by the ARRA. Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Executive Director Zea explained that ARRA funding does not permit payment for lobbyists, so while NCWA is following rapidly unfolding stimulus money opportunities, it cannot be directly involved. Stevenson and General Manager O'Halloran indicated the District was following the ARRA situation and would be considering all options that might be appropriate for District projects.

**09.04 M/S/C Resolution No. 09.04** authorizing application for state revolving fund dispersal of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds. 5 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Absent.

**6. BOARD DISCUSSION: Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Budget Assessment**

In preparation for a Board vote on continuing NCWA membership with a large increase in annual dues, NCWA President Donn Zea gave a presentation on the NCWA’s work, priorities, and challenges. Zea reported that NCWA has worked to represent upstream water rights holders as key water initiatives and legislation arise, primary of which has been the Delta Vision plan, but also including pressing legislative activity on a variety of water issues. Zea stated that it is NCWA’s intent to represent its members at all meetings, but because of the high level of activity, it has been impossible to provide adequate staff representation at all meetings. NCWA also faces revenue challenges, having lost one of its largest contributing members, and having drawn down reserves to cover expenses rather than by raising dues. Under his new leadership of the organization, Zea hopes to continue NCWA’s work with efficiency and effectiveness, with the financial sustainability provided by membership contribution increases. Zea asked the Board for its support for increased membership costs during the coming year. He was hopeful that all NCWA member agencies would accept the new dues structure, but had no other commitments at the time of his presentation. NCWA is proposing to charge membership dues that reflect \$1.50 per irrigated acre, which for the District, would be \$73,768 from April 1, 2009 (retroactively) to December 31, 2009, an increase of \$14,643.

Directors discussed the urgency of issues and the financial constraints on the District in light of the upcoming limited delivery season. Chair Tadlock noted the unique differences between landowners of Yolo County and other upstream water rights holders because of the lack of direct water connection between Cache Creek and the Sacramento River. Legal Counsel Bartkiewicz noted that he could think of no year when the work of NCWA would make more of a difference. Board members were not enthusiastic about increasing membership expenses, but several expressed a need to support the organization at least for this one year, and make a decision about continued support as part of the budget process. At Chair Tadlock’s request, the Board deferred a decision on continuing NCWA membership until later in the meeting.

**7. BOARD PRESENTATION: Fiscal Year 2009/10 Operating and Capital Budgets**

General Manager O’Halloran reminded the Board that its fiscal year runs from May 1 through April 30 each year. He indicated he will present a detailed budget to the Board in June, but he reviewed the larger financial picture the budget will address. This is summarized in the table below.

Expected Expenses	\$4.6m
<u>Expected Revenues</u>	<u>\$2.0m</u>
Budget Shortfall	\$2.6m
Current Reserves	\$6.3m
<u>Budget Shortfall</u>	<u>\$2.6m</u>
Expected Reserves	\$3.7m

The final budget presentation will address the Capay Dam Stabilization Project, depreciation, Certificates of Participation, future modifications to the rate structure, and tiered priorities.

O'Halloran noted that the District expected to retain and to fully utilize all staff during the coming year, but low revenues again next year would necessitate a restructuring of the agency, including layoffs. O'Halloran reminded the Board that while the upcoming budget will include a large drop in reserves that might take a number of years to recover, the current drought situation and its resulting financial shortfall were precisely the reasons for having a large reserve in the first place. Director Mayer added that the District's reserve amount, which is 1.5 times its operating budget, is in fact a reflection of a strong financial position vis-à-vis reserves held by other public agencies.

#### **8. BOARD PRESENTATION: 2009 Water Delivery Operations and Ongoing Maintenance Program Update**

General Manager O'Halloran announced that stored water releases will begin on or around May 26, but that the District is currently selling less than 10 cfs of creek water, maximizing sales by delivering it at the head of the system in the Winters Canal. O'Halloran will send out a letter to District water users and landowners indicating a start date approximately May 26.

Operations Supervisor Espinoza described activities of his maintenance crews, which include preparing for the upcoming short season by maintaining canals and spraying. He also presented a report on the progress his construction crews are making on small capital improvement projects that address erosion repairs, check structure repairs, headgate replacements, bridge refurbishments, etc.

O'Halloran and Espinoza both expressed to the Board their appreciation for the hard work and excellent progress of Operations staff.

#### **9. BOARD PRESENTATION: Capay Dam Stabilization Project Update**

District Engineer Horgan provided the Board with a brief update on the Capay Dam Stabilization Project. After reviewing the basic project objectives, Horgan indicated that the property line boundary survey was complete, and that Stantec was currently assessing availability of local materials. He expects construction to begin this fall with a construction window of 4-6 weeks. Director Vink inquired whether a start date of October 1 would give enough time to complete the project before the rainy season would begin.

Environmental Resources Associate Lorenzato reported that ESA Associates were developing project permit documents, and expected a final draft later that week. There would be a three-day period for public review and comment. From an environmental standpoint, the CEQA process involved fairly simple mitigations. ESA has completed one species survey and found none with special status at the site, however they must repeat the survey in a different season to be sure that construction will not jeopardize any protected species. Two species of note include the mountain plover (whose habitat protection season will not coincide with construction work) and the tiger salamander, whose known locations are far from the construction site. The District is still considering participating in the Safe Harbor project for Valley Elderberry. For the Giant Garter

Snake, there will be site inspections immediately before construction and probable placement of snake fences during construction. Garter snake hibernation begins around October 1, so the species is not likely to be placed at risk by this project.

## **10. DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

Director Mayer reported on the Yolo Governance Water Committee. He described a proposal being developed by the committee to convert the WRA into a Joint Powers Authority.

Chair Tadlock requested Board consideration of NCWA continued membership including dues increase. He expressed his feeling that it would be in the District's best interest to continue with NCWA at this time. Director Rominger agreed that it would be worthwhile to continue the relationship this year.

### **9.14 M/S/C motion to support NCWA membership and dues increase April 1 to December 31, 2009.**

Director Tadlock complimented Director Brice and Robin Kulakow, who recently published an excellent article on Yolo Bypass.

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Legal Counsel Bartkiewicz reported on the Governance Workshop considering S.B. 12 legislation. Bay Area environmental groups are pushing for fees on water use within the entire watershed. Director Mayer requested that Bartkiewicz distribute the draft of the administrative plan which is due out in the coming days.

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

### **a. General Activities**

O'Halloran thanked the Board for making it possible for him to participate in the Cap-to-Cap trip to Washington, D.C. He used the trip to make connections with other Sacramento participants who may serve as potential partners or resources, particularly on the subject of stimulus funds.

O'Halloran announced that primarily for budget reasons, he has decided to defer the May stewardship award. He is considering options, such as combining the event with the District Fall Harvest Barbecue or turning the award program over to the WRA because of its regional scope.

### **b. Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions**

None beyond topics already discussed and May 5, 2009, Water Conditions Report handout.

## **13. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

None.

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

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

Yolo Flood Control Checks: #42385-42397

**15. 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