

**SELMA-KINGSBURG-FOWLER  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**

**March 8, 2007**

The regular Board Meeting of the Selma-Kingsburg-Fowler County Sanitation District was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the Chairwoman, Judith Case.

**DIRECTORS' ROLL CALL**

Leland Bergstrom (present)  
David Cardenas (present)  
Dennis Lujan (present for Don Tow)  
Bob Waterston (present)  
Judith Case, Chairwoman (present)

**STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

David Michel, General Manager/ Board Sec.  
Ben Muñoz, Assistant Manager  
Richard Hargrove, General Counsel  
Robert Whitley, District Engineer  
Veronica Cazares, Supervising Engineer  
Gary Helm, Maintenance Supervisor  
Bob Currie, Laboratory Director  
David Bacon, Information Systems Analyst  
Steve Samuelian, California Consulting  
Art Tharpe, California Employers Association  
Craig Strong, California Employers Association

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ken Crabtree  
D-B Heusser, City of Selma

**BOARD REORGANIZATION**

At the request of Chairwoman Case, the Board was given the opportunity to reorganize at the pleasure of the Board Members.

A motion to nominate Judith Case for Chairwoman was made by Director Lujan and seconded by Director Bergstrom. There being no further nominations, Judith Case was elected Chairwoman by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Lujan, Bergstrom, Cardenas, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

A motion to nominate Leland Bergstrom for Vice-Chairman was made by Director Cardenas and seconded by Director Lujan. There being no further nominations, Leland Bergstrom was elected Vice-Chairman by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cardenas, Lujan, Bergstrom, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

There being no comments from the public, a motion to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of February 8, 2007, was made by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Lujan, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cardenas, Lujan, Bergstrom, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

General Manager Michel stated that agenda item D-3, Closeout of Disposal Pond No. 4 Project, includes approval of Change Orders Nos. 1 and 2.

#### **Annual Statements of Economic Interest**

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that designated officials must file Form 700 with the SKF Manager by April 2, 2007. The forms for filing the annual Statement of Economic Interest are attached. Form 700 can be printed from the website [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov). If a Board Member would like for the District to mail a complete set of pages, please notify the General Manager and they will be mailed. Designated officials who must file with the SKF Manager by April 2, 2007 are as follows: Board Members; Assistant Manager; General Counsel; District Engineer and Supervising Engineer.

Mandated California Regional Water Quality  
Control Board (RWQCB) Natural Background Quality Report

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that section F.10 of the District’s discharge permit (Order No. 5-01-255 adopted by the RWQCB 10-19-01) required that the District “submit a technical report that characterizes natural background water quality in approved representative monitoring zones for all monitored constituents” by February 6, 2007. The report was coordinated by Assistant Manager Muñoz. It was prepared by hydrogeologist Kenneth D. Schmidt and was reviewed by staff and District Engineer Whitley.

Mr. Whitley has expressed concern that the report was not responsive to the RWQCB requirement in that it characterized groundwater quality for certain monitoring wells but did not address “natural background quality.” Mr. Schmidt has responded saying that the report was based on his understanding of the terms “natural” and “background” from discussions regarding RWQCB requirements at dozens of other sites in the valley. Mr. Whitley has commented that although he still felt the report was non-responsive, he acknowledged that the only opinion that matters is that of the RWQCB, and he said that he would defer to their judgment if Assistant Manager Muñoz wanted to submit the report as written. Assistant Manager Muñoz submitted the report on February 5, 2007.

Closeout of Disposal Pond No. 4 Project

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that this project constructed a permanent levee at full height in Disposal Pond No. 4 and constructed valve/distribution boxes in order to properly operate it. The project is complete and in service. Attached were reports and recommendations from the design engineer Anita Jain and the project engineer Veronica Cazares. Change Order No. 1 is for a \$100 clerical error and \$13,778.60 for rerouting an obstruction caused by a natural gas line which was encountered during excavation. Change Order No. 2 was \$1,316.80 for 700 cubic yards of extra backfill material. The project was on a unit cost basis. The total project cost was within the budget.

Original Contract Amount (with \$100 clerical error)	\$219,211.00
CO No. 1 (reroute natural gas line)	13,778.60
CO No.2 (extra backfill material)	<u>1,316.80</u>
<u>CONTRACTOR SUB-TOTAL</u>	<u>\$234,306.40</u>
Soils Testing and Compaction (Supervising Engineer Cazares’ estimate – one invoice still outstanding)	<u>\$7,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<u><b>\$241,306.40</b></u>
Contract Amount Authorized	\$219,111.00
Manager’s Contingency Authorized	15,459.00
<u>Soils Testing and Compaction Authorized</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATION</b>	<u><b>\$248,570.00</b></u>

Staff recommended that the Board approve Change Orders Nos. 1 and 2, accept the Disposal Pond No. 4 Modifications Project as complete and order the filing of the Notice of Completion.

### Plant Bottlenecks Progress Report

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that there are seven restrictions (bottlenecks) in the plant identified by District Engineer Whitley. Four of them occur at annual average flow rates less than 6.0 million gallons per day (mgd). As directed by the Board, staff and District Engineer are focusing their efforts on correcting the first four bottlenecks so that the plant can handle 6.0 mgd on an annual average basis. The following table is based on engineering assessments of the plant under the conditions at the time of the studies in 2005-06.

<u>Bottleneck Description</u>	<u>Annual Average Flow Rate Occurrence</u>	<u>Correction Status</u>
No. 1 – solids at secondary clarifiers	4.8 mgd	Staff has completed a pilot study to determine if operating techniques can be changed to get more solids settling capability from the clarifiers. The preliminary report from Assistant Manager Muñoz and staff is almost drafted and will be reviewed by General Manager Michel and District Engineer Whitley. It should be ready for the April Board meeting. It may show that some capacity greater than 4.8 mgd can be obtained by operational techniques, but not up to the target 6.0 mgd. Structural modifications or an additional clarifier may be needed.
No. 2 – disposal ponds deepening	5.1 mgd	The solution to the need for additional disposal pond capacity depends to some degree on the solution to bottleneck #4, so staff is monitoring the District Engineer’s progress with that preliminary design work. Although the District may consider a long range recycled water program, more disposal capacity is needed.
No. 3 – dissolved air thickener	5.2 mgd	Awaiting installation of Centrifuge No. 2, which may affect the solution.
No. 4 – effluent outfall pipe	5.3 mgd	District Engineer and Project Engineer have met twice with 7-member staff committee. Ten alternatives have been narrowed to three, which are being evaluated by Project Engineer for cost vs. benefit.

### Request for Proposals for Auditing Services

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that District Policy requires the auditing firm to be changed at least every six years. Attached was a draft Request for Proposal which staff has prepared. Board approval is requested.

Ordinance No. 112 - An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance Number 87 in its Entirety,  
Fixing the Time and Place for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the  
Selma-Kingsburg-Fowler County Sanitation District,  
Providing the Manner in Which Special Meetings of Such Board May Be Called, Designating  
an Official Mailing Address, and Establishing the Order of Business and Rules for its Proceedings

Staff recommended that the Board adopt this ordinance which adds a public comments item near the end of agendas, revises the notation for consent calendars and provides for Board reorganization at the request of the Chair.

Consent Calendar Approval

There being no comments from the public, a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, was made by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Bergstrom, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cardenas, Bergstrom, Lujan, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Plant Fencing and Security

General Manager Michel reported that, at the Board meeting of February 8, 2007, the Board heard from a neighbor regarding the importance of fencing and received a plant intrusion report from staff. Director Cardenas had said that he was willing to revisit fencing. General Counsel Hargrove had stated that the District is liable to a higher degree with barbed wire fence and that chain link fence is the most accepted means of securing a facility with minimal danger to the public.

Staff reviewed the cost of security patrols and found them not to be feasible. Rental fencing around the surplus area or cargo containers to secure attractive objects would not address the general liability of having a treatment plant secured only by barbed wire. Staff recommended that the Board direct staff to solicit sealed bids for the fencing of approximately 2,000 feet on the eastern edge of the

property and to advise staff to include funding for continuation of the fencing program in next year's budget.

Director Cardenas said that he supports a fencing program as long as we do it a little at a time, but we have to do this. Director Bergstrom said that Kingsburg will surround the plant in five years.

There being no comments from the public, a motion to direct staff to solicit sealed bids for the fencing of approximately 2,000 feet on the eastern edge of the property and to advise staff to include funding for continuation of the fencing program in next year's budget, was made by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Bergstrom, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cardenas, Bergstrom, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	Director Lujan

#### Grants and Loans Preliminary Direction

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that attached is a letter dated February 7, 2007 from California Consulting (Steve Samuelian). General Manager Michel, Assistant Manager Muñoz and District Engineer Whitley have prioritized the categories as listed below. Although staff will continue to perform the bulk of the District efforts to assist Mr. Samuelian, some District Engineer time will be utilized over the next few months to provide for preliminary support and trips to Sacramento. When a specific grant or loan application is identified, additional engineering time may be needed based on the complexity of the project. Staff requested that the Board provide specific direction regarding pursuing the grants/loans and authorize the District Engineer to provide support as requested by the General Manager.

1) Energy Projects – California Energy Commission (CEC) provides grants up to \$20,000 for technical assistance such as energy audits and feasibility studies. CEC's energy efficiency financing program provides for low interest loans for the installation of energy savings measures. PG&E has rebate programs to offset part of the cost of the installation of energy saving equipment. Any energy efficiency measure should be considered because of the potential direct effect on operating costs and subsequently on the rates.

Staff recommended that the Board direct staff and consultants to develop a logical sequence for a plan of action and to take the necessary preliminary steps to prepare for applications for grants or loans.

2) Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion – The State Water Resources Control Board offers low-interest loans for construction of publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). At \$10-\$20 million per mgd (million gallons per day) of new capacity, any financial assistance will be worth considering. In addition to Mr. Samuelian, Tom Gaffney of Bartle Wells Associates has previously recommended SRF loans as a means of financing capital projects. The California Infrastructure Bank offers similar loans, but at a higher interest rate.

Staff recommended that the Board direct staff and consultants to take the necessary preliminary steps to prepare for applications for the loans, to the extent that needed and eligible facilities can be specified.

3) Buffer Trees and Trails – This project is to establish a landscaped buffer area around the treatment facilities and incorporate a walking trail into the project. The California Department of Forestry gives grants for trees and planting materials. General Manager Michel has obtained two of these grants for community projects in Kingsburg in the past. An irrigation system would be the biggest expense that is not eligible through this grant. The California Parks and Recreation Department provides grants for recreational trails and trail-related projects through the Recreational Trails Program which may include eligibility for landscaping irrigation. Fencing may be a needed component of this project.

Staff recommended that the Board direct staff and consultants to prepare a conceptual plan identifying a specific buffer strip and to take the necessary preliminary steps to prepare for applications for the grants.

4) Water Recycling - District Engineer Whitley reported that, while the Board has expressed interest in recycling water, this may be more of a long range vision to keep in mind for grants and loans in future years but may not be financially feasible at this time. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) offers a grant of up to \$75,000 to prepare a water recycling feasibility study and a facilities plan. The study and the plan would have to be completed before applying for construction grants or loans through SWRCB. The grant funding level to the District may be only 5%-20% of the construction cost of a water recycling project. Based on the studies and experience of the District Engineer, water recycling at the District could cost \$20-\$30 million because of the possible need for tertiary treatment (filtration), disinfection, pumping and pipeline transmission systems. Extraction wells may be somewhat less expensive, but in any case grants are available only for up to 25% of eligible construction costs or several million dollars per project.

All grants are competitive between the applicants and one of the determining factors for award of a grant is the economic feasibility of the resultant delivered water. SWRCB staff has indicated that one benchmark is that a feasible project is one that the delivered costs are at less than \$1000/acre-foot of water delivered. Experience at other locations in the state indicate that new recycled water projects often exceed the \$1000/ acre-foot threshold. If local water supply costs are \$25 to \$100/acre-foot, the more than ten-fold increase will not appear to be very feasible. In addition, any feasible project will require large “magnet” customers at a relatively short distance to minimize the pipeline costs. Absent any large “magnets,” the pipeline transmission costs will determine overall feasibility.

A Recycled Water Feasibility Study was prepared for the District by Whitley Burchett & Associates in October, 2003 as mandated by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Although the study focused on the use of recycled water for agricultural purposes, many of the costs identified in the study would be applicable to the use of recycled water for other purposes, such as highway landscape irrigation. If a recycled water program is being considered by the District Board as a more economical method of effluent disposal as compared to percolation ponds, then a water recycling program at this time does not appear to be economical. It appears to be more economical to

proceed with the plan to deepen existing percolation ponds and construct additional percolation ponds. That plan was detailed in the July 2006 report from Whitley Burchett & Associates titled “Additional Percolation Pond Capacity Planning Study.”

Staff recommended that, because the economic feasibility of water recycling is questionable, the Board direct staff and consultants to take the necessary preliminary steps to prepare for application for a water recycling planning grant to determine probable project costs feasibility.

Steve Samuelian reviewed the potential grants and loans for which the District appears to be eligible. He said that he was grateful to have the assistance of District Engineer Whitley who is also familiar with the grant and loan process, particularly with regard to treatment plant expansion. He said that many of the issues involved in pursuing such grants are technical in nature and Mr. Whitley’s engineering expertise will be valuable.

Director Case asked if there was any difference in technology since Engineer Whitley’s recycling report of 2003. Mr. Whitley said that the 2003 report was regarding use of recycled water by agriculture. It was not feasible due to lack of marketability of the ag products and the status is still the same. For recycled water use for landscape irrigation of highway median strips, some treatment estimates and pipe costs may be the same, but marketability is different. Public education and outreach may be required.

Director Bergstrom asked if highway landscape irrigation would require tertiary treatment. Mr. Whitley said yes. Director Bergstrom said that CalTrans may need SKF recycled water for Highway 99 irrigation and that the District needs to explore this now. Engineer Whitley said that he will be glad to divert more time to this.

Director Waterston asked about the status of a staff report on cogen and solar power. General Manager Michel said that Assistant Manager Muñoz and Information Systems Analyst Bacon have been working on the report and that a solar company has visited the treatment plant site. Director Waterston said that PG&E refunds are limited by time constraints and so staff needs to fast track this.

There being no comments from the public, a motion to approve staff’s recommendations regarding preliminarily pursuing grants and loans and to authorize the District Engineer to provide support as requested by the General Manager with the understanding that the energy projects are to be on a fast track, was made by Director Lujan, seconded by Director Bergstrom, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Lujan, Bergstrom, Cardenas, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Centrifuge No. 2 Installation Project – Results of Bidding Process

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that, in March, 2006, the Board awarded contracts for purchasing equipment for Centrifuge No. 2. By pre-purchasing the equipment instead of having it part of a construction contract, the District saved money. The equipment is now on site and at the January 2007 Board meeting, the Board authorized staff to solicit sealed bids for installation. The budget was \$600,000 and the engineer's revised cost estimate for installation is \$516,000. Attached was Supervising Engineer Cazares' report. There was only one bid as follows:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT BID</u>
TNT Industrial Contractors (Sacramento)	\$530,200.00

Most usually, when there is only one bidder, the District would re-bid. However, in this case, staff believes the sole bid is competitive and recommends accepting the bid for the following reasons:

It is less than staff's budgetary estimate of \$600,000 and close to the design engineer's revised estimate of \$516,000.

TNT did the installation work for Centrifuge No.1 for about \$1.2 million. A contractor who is so familiar with a project and an agency often is able to hone their bid more than other bidders.

The project was well advertised and there were six contractors at the mandatory pre-bid meeting. The job is relatively small compared to other projects in the area and this may be the reason there was only one bidder. Therefore, a re-bid in 4-6 months likely would not result in a lower bid. TNT's license is active and the reference check was positive.

Staff requested a project budget as follows:

Centrifuge No. 2 Installation	\$530,200.00
Compaction Testing	5,000.00
General Daily Inspection	Staff
<u>Contingency</u>	<u>53,520.00</u>
TOTAL	\$588,720.00

Staff recommended that the Board authorize a project budget of \$588,720 for the Centrifuge No. 2 Installation project to be funded equally from budget items 8028-203-01 and budget item 8081-203-02, and direct staff to issue a Notice of Award to TNT Industrial Contractors of Sacramento in the amount of \$530,200.00 and authorize the General Manager to execute the necessary documents.

There being no comments from the public, a motion to authorize a project budget of \$588,720 for the Centrifuge No. 2 Installation project to be funded equally from budget items 8028-203-01 and budget item 8081-203-02, and to direct staff to issue a Notice of Award to TNT Industrial Contractors of Sacramento in the amount of \$530,200.00 and to authorize the General Manager to execute the necessary documents, was made by Director Bergstrom, seconded by Director Cardenas, and approved by the following vote:

AYE: Directors Bergstrom, Cardenas, Lujan, Waterston and Case  
 NO: None  
 ABSENT: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

Operational Audit – Confirmation of Scope and Cost

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that, at the Board meeting of February 8, 2007, the Board authorized Eisenhardt Group, Inc. (EGI) to perform an operational audit in an amount not to exceed \$24,875, contingent on a discussion with Chairwoman Case. As a result of discussions with Chairwoman Case, three tasks were added contingent on Board confirmation. Attached was a copy of the additional work letter proposal from EGI dated 2-27-07.

- Task 1 – Treatment Capacity
- Task 2 – Effluent Disposal Capacity
- Task 3 – Operations and Maintenance Practices
- Task 4 – Growth Accommodation

SUB-TOTAL      \$24,875

- Task 5 – Provide benchmark comparisons with comparable utilities      8,750
- Task 6 – Review Staffing and Effectiveness      9,350
- Task 7 – Review Rate Structure and Grant Compliance      5,700

SUB-TOTAL      \$23,800

TOTAL      \$48,675

Staff recommended that the Board provide direction to staff regarding confirmation of the revised scope of services and additional cost for the operational audit.

There being no comments from the public, a motion to confirm EGI’s revised scope of services and additional cost of \$23,800 for the operational audit for a total EGI amount not to exceed \$48,675, to be funded from contingency, and to authorize EGI to have full access at District expense to District Engineer Whitley, General Counsel Hargrove, Financial Consultant Gaffney and Independent Auditor Faeth, was made by Director Lujan, seconded by Director Cardenas, and approved by the following vote:

AYE: Directors Lujan, Cardenas, Bergstrom, Waterston and Case  
 NO: None  
 ABSENT: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

**NEW BUSINESS**

### Annual Maintenance Department Report

Gary Helm, the District's Maintenance Supervisor for 31 years, gave a power point presentation regarding his department's activities in maintaining the collection system and treatment plant during 2006.

For the Collection System Maintenance division, he reported that the District maintains over 152 miles of sewers. In 2006, 24,000 feet of new sewer lines were added. The 1,100 work orders completed in 2006 were an increase of 9% from 2005 and an increase of 142% from 1990. The division cleaned 337,000 feet of sewers. They responded to 194 calls, 31 of which were main line stoppages and 163 of which were house laterals, pump stations or false alarms. He showed photos of various activities and problems encountered in collection system maintenance. The collection system Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system had one full year of operation and was 99% reliable. The software has no update fees, no software fees and is user friendly for the maintenance staff. SCADA allows collection system personnel to determine the status of pump stations from a laptop computer at home or at work. It saves over \$19,000 per year in man hours, fuel, false alarms and vehicle mileage.

For the Treatment Plant Maintenance division, which maintains 7,000 horsepower of equipment, he reported that the 1,500 work orders completed in 2006 were an increase of 16% from 2005 and an increase of 100% from 1990.

As had been noted in the previous year's presentation, all these increases in workload since 1990 have been done with a staffing level of nine employees, the same as in 1990 and the department needs a staffing increase.

The Board thanked Mr. Helm for his fine work, especially for the cost savings measures that he has implemented. Director Lujan asked if there was some recognition that could be given to Mr. Helm and Chairwoman Case said that the District had an employee recognition program.

### Annual Laboratory Department Report

Robert Currie, SKF Laboratory Director, presented a report summarizing the activities of the Laboratory Department for the year 2006. For the laboratory division, he reported that 15,000 analyses were performed on 4,000 samples of water, wastewater and sludge. He said that 25% of the laboratory resources are devoted to quality assurance, maintaining the state certification necessary to perform the laboratory analyses. The SKF lab has an accuracy rate of 96% on "proficiency testing" samples which are unknown samples that the lab must analyze correctly to maintain state certification. Some of the best commercial labs in the area obtain about 90-95% accuracy on PT samples.

Regarding the Industrial Source Control division, he said that the 10 significant industrial users and 17 other industrial users all were permitted, sampled and inspected on schedule with no violations. All reports to the US EPA and California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) were

submitted on time. The Source Control program successfully passed its bi-annual RWQCB audit without one single recommended action.

### Former Juarez Property Plan of Action

Assistant Manager Muñoz reported that in February, 2000 Mr. Fernando Juarez sold 20 acres with trees and vines to the District. The property is located on the southeast corner of Conejo Avenue and Del Rey Avenue at 11067 East Conejo (APN 393-211-07). As part of the sales agreement, he leased the property from the District for seven years at \$1 per year and was allowed to keep his mobile home on the property. He agreed to remove the mobile home within 30 days of termination of the lease agreement, which expired February 7, 2007.

Mr. Juarez and his family are in the process of building a new home which is expected to be completed in March or April, 2007. Assistant Manager Muñoz inspected the fruit trees and vines on the property and found them to be severely deteriorated. Mr. Juarez would like to continue to lease the property so as to rent out his mobile home and so as to not incur the cost of moving it. Staff did not inspect the condition of the mobile home because it is not District property.

Staff recommended that the Board grant to Mr. Juarez an extension of the Ground Lease Agreement until April 30, 2007, require Mr. Juarez to remove the mobile home by May 30, 2007 and direct staff to not lease out the property.

Director Lujan suggested a 90-day extension to be sure to give Mr. Juarez plenty of time to move into his new home. Chairwoman Case said that staff should make sure that Mr. Juarez takes proper care of the property so as to not create a nuisance for his neighbors and that he leaves the property clean, removing all debris and equipment and that he fill in the septic tank. General Manager Michel said that staff would ensure that the property did not create a nuisance and was left clean, and staff would review the lease agreement regarding the septic tank.

There being no comments from the public, a motion to grant to Mr. Juarez an extension of the Ground Lease Agreement until May 31, 2007, require Mr. Juarez to remove the mobile home by June 30, 2007 and direct staff to not lease out the property, with the understanding that Mr. Juarez is to take proper care of the property so as not to create a nuisance, he is to leave the property in a clean condition, and he is to fill in the septic tank if required by the lease agreement, was made by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Lujan, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cardenas, Lujan, Bergstrom, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

### COMMUNICATIONS

In a Board newsletter, General Manager Michel reported the following

District Technical Advisory Committee (DTAC) in Formation - Letters were sent to the Fresno County CAO and to each of the three City Managers asking each governing body to appoint a technically-knowledgeable person to serve on a standing District Technical Advisory Committee (DTAC) at no cost to the District. District staff is awaiting responses.

Sludge Drying Beds Center Drains Maintenance - Staff is in the process of replacing the sand and filter cloth for the center drains of the paved sludge drying beds on the east side of the plant. These drying beds are crucial to the plant's operation because they dewater liquid sludge that has built up and they do it using the sun and gravity. The beds are effective only in the hot months. The center drains have sand, a filter cloth and gravel to keep the sludge out of the buried perforated drainage pipe but to allow water to drain out of the sludge. The filter cloth deteriorates over time and the sand clogs up with fine clay particles. Staff is in the process of replacing the filter cloth with stock on hand. However, new sand which may cost as much as \$55,000 will need to be purchased. Staff is using the Metcalf & Eddy engineering specifications for sand for the drying beds and also will perform bench tests to compare it with other less expensive sand. Deputy District Counsel Costanzo has advised that staff does not need to treat the sand purchase as a public works construction project because the sand is material required to complete work already being performed by District forces. Staff will follow District policies for procurement of the sand.

Chairwoman Barbecue April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. - As requested by Chairwoman Case, a barbecue with staff is set for Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. at the District O&M building. All Board members, press and consultants are invited.

## **ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS**

There being no comments from the public, a motion to accept the warrant list report showing checks issued in the amount of \$399,018.36, was made by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Bergstrom, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cardenas, Bergstrom, Lujan, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Chairwoman Case called for a closed session at 5:47 p.m. to confer with legal counsel and staff regarding Fowler Tract 5212, DR Horton and to give instructions to General Manager, Assistant

Manager and Labor Relations Consultant regarding wages, hours and working conditions of union and non-represented employees. The Board returned to open session at 5:57 p.m. There was no report in open session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairwoman Case declared the meeting adjourned on a motion duly made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote at 5:58 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

David Michel, General Manager/  
Secretary of the Board

Judith G. Case  
Chairwoman of the Board