

BIG BEAR AREA REGIONAL WASTEWATER AGENCY
Special Meeting
January 30, 2008

1. Call to Order

A special meeting of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency was held on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at 121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City, California.

Governing Board Members present: John Day, Dr. Don Eads, Liz Harris, Rick Herrick, and Rick Ollila

Governing Board Members absent: None

Other present: Tom Harder, Geoscience Support Services, Inc.; Bob Colven, Big Bear City Community Services District; Brian Charles, The Grizzly, and Chris Hildebrandt, TV6

Staff present: Nancy Laughlin, Finance Manager; Joe Hanford, Plant Superintendent, and Steven C. Schindler, General Manager

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Chair Harris lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Discussion of Investigation Regarding the Feasibility and Resources Necessary to Line and Cover all Process, Storage and Holding Tanks/Ponds

Prior to the discussion of the agenda item, Mr. Schindler reassured the Governing Board and public that the Governing Board and the Agency is not exploring recharge. Mr. Schindler indicated that in February 2006 the Governing Board suspended the investigation of the recharge project with a unanimous vote. This comment is made due to a publication in the Grizzly dated Wednesday, January 30, 2008 pertaining to the Agency and recharge. Chair Harris suggested that the Agency publish a guest editorial stating that the Agency is not investigating a recharge project.

Chair Harris began the meeting with the purpose of this discussion is based on a request of Director Ollila during the November 2007 meeting.

Mr. Schindler indicated that Mr. Harder of Geoscience Support Services, Inc. is available to answer any question regarding the findings and comments pertaining to the City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power review of the USGS report and the Glenn A. Browns and Associates, Consulting Firm 1975 report.

Mr. Schindler provided the Governing Board a time-line of the treatment and disposal generated within the east end of the valley. The Big Bear City Community Services District provided treatment for 45 years and the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency has provided treatment for 30 years or 42% of the period of 1974 – to current.

Director Ollila indicated his main concern is the subsurface soil in the vicinity of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency treatment plant on Baldwin Lake and the probable permeability of the treated sewage from the horseshoe pond into the aquifer.

Director Ollila provided the possibility of percolation based on test results proved in the 1975 report from Glenn A. Brown and Associates. Mr. Harder calculated the permeability based on the 1975 report with a final calculation of 0.0108 feet per day, which is rated poor for percolation of recharge for a typical aquifer.

Director Ollila indicated that over a period of time this could reach the aquifer.

Mr. Harder indicated that the results of the bore holes in question showed that the sediments are predominantly low permeability due to the organic clay and peat from the ground surface from the horseshoe pond and the 1975 report was approved for the Agency's current NPDES permit through the RWQCB. Mr. Harder also indicated the current BBCCSD well No. 8 testing has not resulted in any water contaminants that could be a result of the percolation of the water at the Agency's treatment plant.

Director Herrick remarked that due to the clay soil the permeability is relatively low and no actual recharge occurs. The general feeling of the risk being low and the dollar amount spent to line and cover the Agency's facilities requires the Risk vs. Dollars be evaluated.

Director Ollila felt that due to emerging water quality issues, the Agency could be faced in the future with state mandates and being pro-active in the lining of the horseshoe pond could avoid potential risks.

Secretary Day suggested that bore holes be drilled in the vicinity of the 1975 testing for validation of the of the current soil components and compare the findings with the 1975 results.

After much discussion of the reports from Glenn A. Brown and Associates regarding the bore hole samples report that was performed in 1975 for the soil components, the Governing Board directed staff to provide the following for discussion and possible action during the February 27, 2008 meeting:

- Proposal from Geoscience, Support Service, Inc., for drilling of three bore holes and testing of the subsurface soil in the vicinity of the Agency's treatment plant on Baldwin Lake.
- Geoscience, Support Service, Inc. to provide a report, which includes the composition of the soil, infiltration rate and coefficient of permeability rate including a comparison of current findings with the 1975 findings.
- Report will dictate if further analysis is required.

4. Public Forum – None

5. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Governing Board, Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Elizabeth Harris, Chair of the Governing Board
of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency