



**San Mateo County
Mosquito and Vector Control District
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SEPT 10, 2008**

President Nickolas called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Robert Blake	Sam Lerner
Robert Bury	Robert Maynard
John Curtis	Leon Nickolas
Joseph Fil	Lawrence Peterson
Tim Frahm	Dennis Preger
Christine Fuller	James Ridgeway
Cal Hinton	Robert Riechel
Ray Honan	Betsey Schneider
	Richard Tagg

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Ronald Anderson
Valentina Cogoni
Donna Rutherford

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Gay, District Manager
Karen Williams, Clerk of the Board
James Counts, Field Operations Supervisor
Chindi Peavey, Vector Ecologist

GUESTS/SPEAKERS PRESENT:

None

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Input on Non Agendized Items

No one from the public was present to speak.

Consent Calendar

MOTION: Approve the consent calendar, which consisted of the list of expenditures for July and August, revenue received for July and August, Minutes of the July board meeting and four (4) Fixed Asset Retirements. Curtis/Fuller, carried unanimously.

Barron Corporation Yard Building Project

Manager Gay reported on the status of the building project at 890 Barron Ave, Redwood City. The building permit was received in late August and the demolition has been completed. The concrete slab had been poured last week. It consisted of 104 cubic yards of cement. The steel structure for the building will arrive September 15, 2008 to begin framing. The framing process will take approximately 4 – 5 days and then drywall will be installed. This will take another 4-5 days to complete. A meeting with the Strategic Planning Committee will be held at the construction site at 2:30pm on Thursday, September 18, 2008 to review the progress.

District Programs/Staff Reports

Vector Ecologist Peavey reported on activities of the Lab Staff. Topics included:

- A graph of mosquito population through the County was handed out. *Culex pipiens* population is up this year in areas such as Redwood Shores, Foster City, and San Mateo. Traps are being set and control is being addressed.
- A GPS computer chip is being used in correlation with helicopter applications, which, when installed in the helicopter, can map out the locations of treatments as the helicopter flies. This information can be uploaded into the ArcView Software program and provide printouts of treatment areas in map form.
- West Nile Virus update: To date, 2 birds testing positive for the disease have been found in South San Francisco and Atherton. 3 human deaths have been reported in California but that activity has been centered in Southern California. No human cases have been found in San Mateo County.
- Assistant Vector Ecologist Angie Nakano has been working on building a new mosquito colony of local species at the District. The previous colony was fed by using the quail housed in the Lab. Angie is working on a different method to feed a blood meal to the mosquitoes and phasing out the quail all together.
- Two new Assistant Vector Ecologists have been hired. Tina Sebay, formerly a Mosquito and Vector Control Technician from our District, transferred to the Lab Department. The second new employee is Theresa Shelton, who just completed her Masters Degree in Entomology from San Francisco State. The two new employees will be a great addition to the staff and the Lab program.
- A review of the number of rodent calls was reported and how much time that is involved in this program. The number of calls for rodent problems is low but the monitoring of the program is time consuming.
- A resident of Foster City contacted the District regarding a number of ground squirrel burrows under his foundation. They believe this may be occurring due to the baiting of squirrels along the dikes in Foster City. It is possible that squirrels are migrating away from the dikes to inner city areas.

Field Operations Supervisor Counts reported on the activities of the Operations Department. Topics included:

- Field Supervisor Counts has been working with the manufacturers of BVA oil to change the viscosity of the product. It is a better product than GB1111 but does not work well in colder weather. Once the viscosity correction can be made, the District will use this material as its main treatment for water sources. It has no smell, which is important for the techs who apply it and to the residents who need it for their backyard ponds. Though this material is slightly more expensive, it will work better in the long run.
- The District has purchased a new ARGO for operations work. This new ARGO replaces one that was becoming out dated and hard to repair. The older ARGO was exchanged for a \$7,000 trade-in.
- The Operations department continues to work with Dewey Pest Control on rodent bait station inspections. The process has been time consuming.

- The invasive cord grass program has been in progress since July. The Coastal Conservancy is extremely happy with the work that has done to date. The areas that have been treated include the northern bay areas and areas of Bair Island in Redwood City.
- Helicopter treatment for Mills Field, Sharp Park, Jasper Ridge and 3000 Portola Rd has continued in July and August.
- The subterranean vault treatment program will be starting up again in September. Approximately 2000 vaults are treated in a two-weekend period twice each year. Subterranean sources are the number one source for mosquito breeding in San Mateo County so much of the District's control program is geared toward vault and catch basin treatment for preventing breeding.
- Two new Mosquito and Vector Control Technicians have been hired. Casey Stevenson, a current seasonal Mosquito Control Technician, was hired as a full-time technician to replace Tina Sebay, who moved upstairs to the Lab. Danielle Horn, who was a candidate for the Assistant Vector Ecologist position, was hired as a new Mosquito and Vector Control Technician. She comes from the biotech field and was a graduate of San Jose State. These two employees will be a great addition to the District and the Operations department.

Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC)

Manager Gay reported on the activities for MVCAC. A newsletter is now being produced from MVCAC which provides information to its members.

Closed Session – Conference with Counsel, potential litigation

MOTION: To adjourn into closed session. Curtis/Lerner, carried unanimously.

MOTION: To come out of closed session. Riechel/Fil, carried unanimously.

Action Taken during closed session:

MOTION: Settlements must be approved by Board Action. Hinton/Riechel, carried unanimously.

District Manager's Activity Report

Manager Gay reported on the following activities:

Legislative Update:

MVCAC continues to monitor numerous bills that impact on mosquito and vector control issues.

Fiona Ma has sponsored a bill eliminating State and Federal use of pesticides. The responsibility would be given to the cities to handle. This bill is being aggressively opposed because it could create new laws on how pesticides are regulated.

SB1137 (Perata) is a bill dealing with foreclosed homes and the problems they create with abandoned swimming pools. The bill would make Banks or deed holders responsible for maintenance. The bill was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on July 8, 2008. The District strongly supports this bill.

State Officials have called off the aerial spraying for the light brown apple moth, awaiting a pending environmental impact report.

AB 2763 (Laird) has been placed on Committee on Appropriation suspense file. If it continues to move forward, members may have to oppose unless it exempts MVCAC members for our communitywide ground application of pesticides. Author says it does not apply to us.

AB 2765 (Huffman) has been referred to Committee on Appropriation. If it continues to move forward, members may have to oppose unless it exempts MVCAC members for our communitywide aerial application of pesticides. Author says it does not apply to us.

ACR 117 (Laird) has been placed in the Committee on Appropriation suspense file. If it continues to move forward, members may have to oppose unless it exempts MVCAC members for our communitywide ground application of pesticides. Author says it does not apply to us.

SCR 87 (Migden) failed passage in committee on August 6, 2008.

AB 2760 (Leno) is now in the Committee on Appropriation. It is set for a first hearing held under submission. If it continues to move forward, members may have to oppose unless it exempts MVCAC members for our communitywide aerial application of pesticides. Author says it does not apply to us.

Vector Control Joint Powers Agency

Members of the Management staff attended an ERMA workshop on September 4, 2008. The topic was maximizing the workplace in a diverse culture.

Public Education Outreach

The District will man a booth at the South San Francisco Day in the Park at Orange Park on Saturday, September 20, 2008.

Financial Commentary

The District's annual audit is still in process.

California Special District Association (CSDA)

There is no word as to the selection of the representative for Region 3 for the CSDA Board of Directors. Trustee Ray Honan (South San Francisco) was nominated from our District.

Four Trustees are scheduled to attend the upcoming meeting in Irvine, CA on September 22 – 25th 2008. They are Peterson (Hillsborough), Lerner (Atherton), Ridgeway (San Mateo) and Riechel (San Bruno).

General Comments

A report from the San Mateo County Controller's Office on San Mateo County Property Tax Highlights was provided to all members. The report is a clear and concise report on how the property tax dollars are collected and distributed.

Board, Committee and Staff AnnouncementsDistrict Policy Committee

Chairman Riechel reported on the updated policies that were included in the prepacket for this board meeting. The updates included minor wording changes, logo updates, formatting changes and punctuation. The policies that were updated were:

2030	Vehicle Cost Reimbursement
2040	Cell Phone Usage
2060	Guidelines for accepting and providing gifts
2080	Health Examinations

The packet also included any applicable appendices referenced in the above policies.

MOTION: To approved selected policies. Hinton/Fuller, carried unanimously.

General

President Nickolas indicated that he would not be attending the October 8, 2008 Board meeting due to a previous engagement. Vice President Robert Riechel will chair that meeting.

Trustee Schneider requested to have the topic of switching our in house payroll to an outside agency agendized for discussion at the October board meeting.

Committee Meetings

Policy Committee: The next scheduled meeting will be Sept 17, 2008 at 12:00pm to discuss further updates to the District Policy manual.

Environmental Committee: The next scheduled meeting is October 8, 2008 immediately preceding the Board meeting at 6:00pm.

Strategic Planning: The next meeting is planned for September 18, 2008 at 2:30pm at the 890 Barron Ave construction site.

Reminder of Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2008 at 7:00pm.

MOTION: Approve next meeting for October 8, 2008. Hinton/Fuller, carried unanimously.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Peterson/Honan, carried unanimously. 9:06pm

Approved:


District Manager


Vice - President

October 8, 2008
Date