

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC AWARENESS/PERSONNEL/POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M.
AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 201 VALLECITOS DE ORO,
SAN MARCOS, CALIFORNIA

Director Martin called the meeting to order at the hour of 4:00 p.m.

Present: Director Martin
Director Hernandez
General Manager Pruim
Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins
Administrative Secretary Johnson

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

AGRICULTURAL WATER ELIGIBILITY

Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins provided background information on this item which included a presentation as follows:

- County Water Authority's (CWA's) Agricultural Water Program
- CWA Transitional Special Agricultural Water Rate (TSAWR) Conditions
- CWA & VWD TSAWR Conditions
- Vallecitos' Agricultural Water Certified Non-Participating Agricultural Water Rate (CNPAWR)
- Agricultural Water "Grandfathered"
- Robert Case Request
- Hokto Kinoko Request
- Christopher Peters Request
- Liz Bolton Stables Request
- Discovery Island Palms Request
- Michael Rote Greenhouse Request
- Additional Requests
- Ordinance 207 & Best, Best & Krieger
- Fiscal Impact
- Committee Direction
- Alternative (Irrigation Rate)

General discussion took place during the presentation. The minimum one-acre requirement in both CWA's and VWD's eligibility conditions was clarified to mean one-acre of densely planted material for commercial purposes. Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins noted that the District's CNPAWR is more expensive than CWA's TSAWR; however, unlike the TSAWR, it is not subject to

targeted water use reductions in times of drought or supply cutbacks. Cutbacks would be the same as for any other customer. Eligibility requirements for the CNPAWR were addressed in Ordinance No. 171; however, current Ordinance No. 207 does not address the ability of new customers to participate in the program.

Further general discussion took place regarding tier 1, 2, and 3 rates as well as commercial rates. General Manager Pruim stated that VWD's rates are based on meter size, not customer type. He suggested that during the District's next Cost of Service Study (COSS), an agriculture/irrigation rate be incorporated into the overall COSS and rate setting rather than having a special program. VWD does not have an irrigation rate, unlike most other agencies.

Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins stated based on the Committee's direction, staff recommends the CNPAWR be renamed to Water for Agriculture and Irrigation – Vallecitos Rate (WAIVR) and has created language for a revised ordinance to either allow or deny new and existing customers into the WAIVR program. Staff also created a draft enrollment form to be used for a possible pilot program.

Mike Hunsaker, member of the public, asked if there is a mandatory cutback, how does that affect the agricultural customer whose first 26 units are residential? General Manager Pruim responded that when the State issues cutbacks they do not dictate how the District is to achieve the cutbacks in regard to their customers. The District has typically addressed cutbacks through outreach activities and water audits.

The consensus of the Committee was to recommend the Board wait until the COSS is completed before making any decisions pertaining to the agricultural rate or developing a pilot program. The upcoming COSS can address agricultural interests of both new and existing customers. This item will be placed on the agenda for the May 15 Board meeting.

The Committee viewed a video showing operations at the Hokto Kinoko mushroom business.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:03 p.m.