

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021, AT 5:00 PM, VIA TELECONFERENCE

President Sannella called the Regular meeting to order at the hour of 5:00 p.m.

Present: Director Boyd-Hodgson
Director Elitharp
Director Hernandez
Director Pennock
Director Sannella

Staff Present: General Manager Pruim
Assistant General Manager Gumpel
Legal Counsel Gilpin
Administrative Services Manager Emmanuel
Finance Manager Owen
Operations & Maintenance Manager Pedrazzi
Capital Facilities Senior Engineer Morgan
Development Services Senior Engineer Lopez
Asset Management Supervisor Bowman
Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins
Information Technology Technician Todd
Administrative Secretary Johnson

Director Elitharp led the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2021

21-10-03 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Pennock, and carried unanimously, to adopt the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of October 6, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gayle Martin, member of the public, asked several questions regarding capacity fees in reference to the Engineering/Equipment Committee meeting minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins announced the top three winners of the 2021 WaterSmart Landscape Contest: Third place – Ellen Kaplan, San Marcos; Second place – Bruce Ferguson, San Marcos; and First place – Doug and Pam Hausmann, Escondido.

President Sannella acknowledged the District's receipt of the 2020 Public Communications Achievement Award bestowed to the District by the American Water Works Association.

CONSENT CALENDAR

21-10-04 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Boyd-Hodgson, seconded by President Sannella, and carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

1.1 Approval of Minutes

- A. Public Awareness/Personnel/Policy Committee Meeting – September 13, 2021
- B. Engineering/Equipment Committee Meeting – September 13, 2021
- C. Closed Session Board Meeting – September 15, 2021
- D. Regular Board Meeting – September 15, 2021

1.2 Warrant List through October 6, 2021 - \$4,472,279.47

1.3 Change Orders for the Meadowlark Reclamation Facility – Light Emitting Diode Lighting Upgrade Project

1.4 Approval of Construction Agreement for Wulff Waterline Improvements (TTLC Calwest, LLC.)

1.5 District Wide Solar Project Acceptance

1.6 Approval of Additional As-Needed Engineering Professional Services Agreement

ACTION ITEM(S)

ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Asset Management Supervisor Bowman presented an overview of asset management as follows:

- Definition
- Standards
- Strategic Alignment
- Principals and Objectives
 - Asset Inventory and Location
 - Condition Assessment and Remaining Useful Life Determination
 - Business Risk Exposure
 - Level of Service
 - Maintenance Program
 - Capital Investment Schedule
- Components
- Asset Management Plan Objectives and Deliverables

- Asset Management Plan Next Steps
- Asset Management Activities Progression

Assistant General Manager Gumpel provided further detail regarding the Capital Investment Schedule which included current asset valuation.

General discussion took place regarding the possibility of the District going through the process for ISO55000 certification.

This item was presented for information only.

ASTERRA UTILIS SATELLITE LEAK DETECTION COLLABORATION PROJECT WITH SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Asset Management Supervisor Bowman stated that five months ago the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) initiated a regional asset management effort, "Innovating Asset Management – A Regional Collaboration in San Diego." The intent of the collaboration is to bring together all of their member agencies to use economies of scale to explore different technologies so that they may move forward with various asset management components. The SDCWA arranged for a presentation from Asterra Utilis (Utilis) on emerging technology utilizing satellites to pinpoint possible potable water leaks in systems. The cost for the District to utilize Utilis' satellite leak detection services is \$63,224 which reflects a 30% group discount through the collaboration as well as a 10% member discount from SDCWA.

Staff recommended the Board approve an expenditure of \$63,224 for satellite leak detection services to be provided by Utilis and authorize the General Manager to proceed with establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the SDCWA to contract with Utilis for said services.

General discussion took place regarding details and frequency of the leak detection scans, the cost of the service, and other agencies that are or will be using the technology. If staff finds value in the data collected, the use of this technology could result in tremendous savings for the condition assessment component of the District's Asset Management Plan.

21-10-05 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Boyd-Hodgson, seconded by Director Elitharp, and carried unanimously, to approve staff's recommendations.

DESIGN ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AWARD FOR THE MEADOWLARK RECLAMATION FACILITY CONVERSION TO SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE

Capital Facilities Senior Engineer Morgan stated the Meadowlark Reclamation Facility (MRF) currently uses 100% chlorine gas as a disinfectant to meet State regulations for treatment to reclaimed water standards. Use of chlorine gas is an acute hazard that presents a danger to District staff and residents in the immediate area, and requires the District to maintain several State and Federal safety programs, equipment, and a hazardous materials response team,

requiring a considerable amount of staff time and District resources. The conversion from chlorine gas to bulk storage of sodium hypochlorite removes the acute hazard and replaces it with storage and injection of 12.5% bleach solution, and removes the District's requirement to maintain several safety programs and permits at MRF. The use of the bleach disinfectant does not create an acute hazard in the event of a spill.

Capital Facilities Senior Engineer Morgan further stated the District submitted a request for proposals to five local engineering firms on July 1, 2021. MurraySmith was determined to be the most responsive and qualified consultant with a total fee of \$421,921 for design and bid phase professional engineering and environmental services. Staff presented this item to the Engineering/Equipment Committee on September 13.

Staff recommended the Board authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with MurraySmith in the amount of \$421,921 for project design and bid phase engineering and environmental services for the MRF Conversion to Sodium Hypochlorite Project.

General discussion took place.

21-10-06 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Elitharp, seconded by Director Hernandez, and carried unanimously, to authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with MurraySmith in the amount of \$421,921 for project design and bid phase engineering and environmental services.

NOTICE OF DRAFT INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE EMERGENCY BYPASS PIPELINE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Capital Facilities Senior Engineer Morgan stated the Board authorized a professional services agreement for engineering design and environmental services on March 17, 2021, to rehabilitate the District's existing Emergency Bypass sewer pipeline and the parallel Failsafe Outfall in an environmentally sensitive corridor between Rancho Santa Fe Road and Melrose Drive. The project is approaching the final design phase. An evaluation of potential environmental impacts must be performed for the project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On March 17, 2021, staff authorized a professional services agreement which included services for Recon Environmental, Inc. to prepare an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project corridor between Melrose Drive and Carrillo Way in the City of Carlsbad. Based on reports contained in the Initial Study, staff determined the proposed project may impact the environment. The proposed project scope has been revised to add specific trenchless technology measures to fully avoid or mitigate the potential environmental impacts. Staff recommends that a MND be prepared per CEQA Section 15070.

Capital Facilities Senior Engineer Morgan further stated that as part of the CEQA effort, staff created a map and contact list for all properties within 500 feet of the project alignment and will submit a copy of the Notice of Preparation for a MND to all property owners. Interested parties

may contact the District for additional information. The draft MND will be posted on the District's website. CEQA Section 15070 requires the Notice of Preparation, Initial Study and draft MND be sent to agencies and interested parties concerned with the project allowing them 30 calendar days to respond with comments. Following the public review period, the draft MND along with comments received, will be submitted to the Board for approval.

Staff recommended the Board authorize circulation of the Emergency Bypass Pipeline Rehabilitation Project Notice of Preparation, Initial Study, and draft MND for 30-day public review.

21-10-07 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Pennock, seconded by Director Elitharp, and carried unanimously, to authorize circulation of the Emergency Bypass Pipeline Rehabilitation Project Notice of Preparation, Initial Study, and draft MND for 30-day public review.

REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager Pruim reported the following:

- Mira Costa College is holding an open house at their Community Learning Center on October 25, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This event has not been preapproved for Director per diems and expenses.
- The SDCWA recently received \$36 million from Metropolitan as part of the judgement of the water rate challenge initiated by SDCWA. The District's share of that amount is estimated to be \$1.3 million. The primary challenge was that Metropolitan was including water stewardship charges on the Colorado River water supplies that SDCWA transports through Metropolitan's system. The courts found the practice to be illegal and ordered the return on the charges plus interest. There is still a matter of attorney's fees related to the lawsuit to be decided. Total savings to SDCWA rate payers resulting from the lawsuits between SDCWA and Metropolitan including avoided rate increases will be nearly \$140 million.
- The District has been selected to receive backup battery installations from Tesla at no cost to the District other than staff's time in reviewing the plans and inspecting the work. Six District sites will benefit from the battery installations: District administration building, pump stations at Double Peak, Palos Vista and San Elijo, and facilities at Twin Oaks and MRF. Construction will begin at the administration building on October 11, and will take approximately three months to complete. Other sites will follow after that. The battery installations will help each facility operate during power outages and operate more efficiently to avoid peaking time-of-use charges.
- Former District Engineer James Gumpel has been named the new Assistant General Manager.

- The strategic planning Board workshop is scheduled for October 7, at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at San Marcos City Hall in the Valley of Discovery Room.

DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL

Legal Counsel Gilpin provided an update on Assembly Bill (AB) 361 which amends the government code regarding teleconferencing during a proclaimed pandemic. If the District wishes to continue conducting teleconferenced public meetings, the Board will need to take action within the next 30 days provided the State of Emergency is still in place and that it impacts the public's ability to participate in person safely or that State or local officials continue to impose measures to promote social distancing.

Legal Counsel Gilpin also provided an update on Senate Bill (SB) 155, effective October 1, regarding the moratorium on water shut offs. The moratorium has been expanded to include all classes of customers, not just residential, and is in effect until at least December 31, 2021. Under the law, water service cannot be shut off for non-payment.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Director Elitharp provided a summary of actions taken at the September 23, SDCWA Board meeting including adoption of SDCWA's 2021 Long Range Financing Plan.

ENCINA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Boyd-Hodgson stated the Public Awareness/Personnel/Policy Committee met on October 4. The Committee is moving forward with the establishment of the internship program with Palomar College, and is working with District staff and representatives of the San Elijo Hills HOA to consolidate their many accounts into one bill.

Director Hernandez stated the Legal/Legislative Committee met on October 5. The Committee discussed a timeline for the performance review process for the District's legal counsel and possible additional one-year extension of their contract in March 2022, as well as the General Manager's performance review.

DIRECTORS REPORTS ON TRAVEL/CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED

Director Elitharp reported on an Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) sponsored webinar he viewed on September 21, and his attendance to the ACWA Energy Committee meeting on September 28.

Director Boyd-Hodgson reported on her attendance to the Special District Leadership Academy September 26-29.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Sannella requested an item regarding the return to in-person public meetings be placed on the next Board agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, President Sannella adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at the hour of 6:45 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Vallecitos Board of Directors has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Michael A. Sannella, President
Board of Directors
Vallecitos Water District

ATTEST:

Glenn Pruij, Secretary
Board of Directors
Vallecitos Water District