MINUTES

TEHACHAPI-CUMMINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 15, 2020 3:00 P.M. 22901 Banducci Road, Tehachapi, CA 93561

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call Directors Present: Cassil, Hall, Pack, Zanutto. Director Schultz arrived at 3:04 p.m. Legal Counsel: Bernard Barmann Staff in Attendance: Catherine Adams, Jon Curry, LaMinda Madenwald and Tom Neisler

Item 2. Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Hall.

Item 3. Approval of Agenda

Director Hall moved to approve the Agenda. Director Cassil seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote: Ayes: Cassil, Hall, Pack, Zanutto; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Schultz.

Item 4. Comments by any Party on Items of Interest and Within the Subject Matter Jurisdiction of the Legislative Body

Mr. Neisler commented that using the microphones at the last Board meeting was a success and the volumes have been turned up on the speakers since then. The audio system is recording the meetings and staff learned that if a microphone is not live, that person's comments are not being captured in the recording. He reminded everyone to make sure their microphone has the red ring around the microphone lit up before speaking to ensure their comments are recorded.

- Item 5. Consent Calendar Consent items are considered routine and are intended to be acted upon as a single item, without discussion. During this portion of the meeting, the Consent Calendar will be read aloud. Prior to approval, the President will give the Board the opportunity to remove any item from the Consent Calendar to be discussed and voted on individually. The President will also give staff and the public the opportunity to request any item be discussed individually, in which case the President will determine whether the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar. The remaining calendar will be acted upon. Any removed items will then be heard and acted upon individually.
 - a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 18, 2019
 - b. Approve Financial Report and Payment of Bills

President Pack asked if there were any items the Board, staff or public would like to remove for discussion. Director Schultz requested removal of Item b.

Director Hall moved to approve Item a. of the Consent Calendar. Director Cassil seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote: Ayes: Cassil, Hall, Pack, Schultz, Zanutto; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None.

Item b.- Director Schultz asked questions regarding the following checks:

-Check #5556- What year is the vehicle and how much longer is its useful life? Mr. Neisler responded the vehicle is a 2014, it is in excellent condition and should have around 5 more years of useful life. He and the Operations Manager discussed this invoice and services they may want to perform on this vehicle in the future.

-Check #5570- Please describe the rebuild and test chambers. Mr. Neisler stated the pre-chambers are an ongoing maintenance responsibility and explained how they work. They are constantly being

> rebuilt as new ones are not available. Replacing those engines in the future will eliminate having prechambers.

> -Check #5592- How many years does this software support payment cover? Mr. Neisler stated it is for one year, the dates listed encompass one calendar year.

Director Schultz moved to approve Item b. of the Consent Calendar. Director Hall seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote: Ayes: Cassil, Hall, Pack, Schultz, Zanutto; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None.

Item 6. General Manager's Report

Mr. Neisler reported on the following matters:

-There have been two significant storms this year, the second of which the office received 26 inches of snow as seen in the picture. Unfortunately, neither amounted to much in terms of water supply. -Things are moving along with off season tasks.

-The District may not be in a position to start pumping in February as usual, however, this should not have an impact on importation for the year. He will continue to monitor the situation and keep the Board informed.

-DWR has only issued one SWP allocation forecast of 10% so far this year. The Water Operations Committee meets on January 26th and more data and forecasting will be presented.

-Spot gas prices are low for this time of year.

-The Governor released his Water Resilience Portfolio on January 3rd. There was not a lot of in-depth information provided.

-DWR released their sixth offer on the Delta Conveyance facility. State Water Contractors' request has been that DWR provide details of the offer and those have remained confidential. Mr. Neisler will continue to attend these meetings and update the Board.

-Today, DWR published their notice of preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report for the project. Currently, the project is not defined and State Water Contractors have not committed to the project.

-At the monthly Member Unit Managers meeting, the milestone dates on the Delta Conveyance project schedule continue to be pushed out to further dates and at the last meeting, many of the milestones now contain question marks rather than dates.

-DWR indicates that they will require a financial commitment from the public water agencies to finance the next step of engineering development for the project, no later than April 1, 2020. The cost of that next step is \$350 million. Discussions will continue in Closed Session.

-At last month's meeting, Mr. Neisler reported the State via Governor Newsom, had made plans to sue the Federal Government over the Federal Biological Opinions (BiOps) for the joint operation of the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. Now, the Governor indicates he is willing to negotiate with the Federal Government on those BiOps. There has been no response from the Federal Government.

-The Water Agency reported that DWR is not projecting any spill of the San Luis Reservoir this year. It will be close to capacity. The District carried over 800 AF of water in the San Luis Reservoir from last year and it should be safe.

-All recharge operations were shutdown on January 3, 2020 and the lake is where it should be, around 4,344 ft elevation.

-A draft MOU was received from the City of Tehachapi and Mr. Neisler and Counsel have been reviewing and commenting on it. The next step is for TCCWD counsel to meet with the City's counsel to work out the legal verbiage issues. There will be some substantive issues staff and the City will have to discuss and then take to the Board. The City is interested in moving forward as rapidly as possible.

-There is no update on the Brite Lake Land Use Agreement. Currently TVRPD has not settled on a new General Manager yet. It is hard for them to move forward until they have that position filled on a regular basis.

-JPIA came to the District to do Defensive Driver Training. The trainer commented on the attentiveness and willingness to participate by the new staff members. Tailgating, cellphone use, and other topics were good reminders to staff. The value of that is demonstrated through recent reductions in insurance rates and certificates of excellence.

-He reviewed the charts attached to the Staff Report.

Item 7. Operation Manager's Report

Mr. Curry reported on the following matters:

-The Annual Report to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) regarding off-road diesel equipment was submitted through the DOORS reporting system.

-The Annual Report to California Department of Fish and Wildlife was submitted for the Streambed Alteration Permit for areas such as Chanac Creek and Tejon Creek.

-The Pipeline Department completed the isolation activities at the Cogen Facility.

-Staff did a great job of getting the snow and downed tree limbs cleared from the parking lot after the snow event on December 27th.

-Pumping Systems Department completed an LED lighting project replacing old florescent fixtures at Pump Plants 1 and 4. There had been frequent issues as the florescent bulbs do not handle the high temperatures in those buildings well.

-On January 9th, the Brite Lake elevation was 4,343.9', volume 572 AF, and level was 17.8'.

-The control room project is around 95% complete and is a big improvement.

-Superior Tank is finishing up the maintenance/rehab work at Pump Plant 2, which consists of a flushout installation, interior sandblast and coating application. The Oak Creek Tank drain-down and washout was completed, and they will be moving on to Pump Plant 4.

-Pump assembly 3-4 is currently under rebuild at Evan's Hydro as well as pump assembly 2-2 and staff is waiting for the inspection report. Preliminary reports for 2-2 show there was wear caused by entrapment of solids in the bearing tolerance areas. This led to expansion of the wear ring and bearings causing excessive heat and friction which damaged the pump.

-He and the Pumping Systems Supervisor are creating a work schedule to address bolt replacement and proper torqueing procedures prior to pumping season beginning.

-There are two gear heads at De'Ran for repair/rehab work of 4-2 and 3-1 and those are due back next Monday.

-The Pipeline Department changed out the mainline master meter with the spare and cleaned out the line. This is done annually so the meter assembly can be sent to McCrometer for calibration and recertification.

-Once the maintenance work is done at Pump Plant 4, Superior Tank will perform a drain-down and washout of the North Tank at the Brite Lake Campground. Then staff will chlorinate, test and put the tank back into service as it is for a domestic water system.

-The District received an approved FCC license for the new control system radio frequency. That installation will begin January 21st. Currently there is a communications bottleneck at the Cogen site and this installation will increase the bandwidth, so the bottleneck goes away.

Mr. Neisler encouraged the board and audience to take a look at the control room when they get a chance and referenced the pictures Jon included in his Staff Report. The renovation started on November 26th with demolition, equipment was moved in that appeared as if it would never fit, reconfiguration was

> done to non-documented aged components, and the system was back up and running before the end of the year. Staff did exemplary work; great planning and execution. He also commended Mr. Curry on how well he handled the snow event with staff and operations during Mr. Neisler's absence.

Item 8. Provide Direction on Disposition of "Cash Back" Rebate for Umpqua Visa Credit Card Account Mr. Neisler reviewed the previous Board meeting discussions that lead to this item being placed on the Agenda for action at this Board meeting. The Umpqua Visa credit card provides a 1% cashback rebate to the District and there are a few options to utilize that rebate. The options are to credit the amount back to the General Ledger accounts the charges came from, to consider it "Other Revenue" to the General Fund, or to dedicate those funds to employee recognition. It is entirely the Board's discretion to direct staff as to how they would like those funds disposed of.

> Director Schultz stated he asked for this topic to be brought before the Board for consideration in December and he still supports the allocation of the 1% cashback to be used towards employee appreciation. There was previous discussion of the Safety Bonus and he feels the Safety Bonus is not the same as an ongoing employee appreciation program. The Safety Bonus is an all or none, annual bonus based on avoiding accidents, where as an appreciation program can be used to bring all employees together for a luncheon or used to offer incentives or rewards to smaller groups. For example, say an issue arises either in the office or the field, and three employees work overtime or especially hard to resolve an issue quickly. This is outside their normal course of work and employees may have had to make personal sacrifices to work those hours and dedication like this deserves a reward. He fully supports using the 1% cashback to reward employees without directly spending tax dollars or revenue from water sales. Employees are the heart of the organization and the District should have funds and programs available to reward and appreciate employees to give thanks for dedication to this organization. Director Cassil supported Director Schultz's comments.

> Director Hall stated that there seems to be a conflict on what to do with the cashback and at the same time, he agrees there is a goal to ensure employees are taken care of and incentivized properly. He feels that the two issues should be addressed separately. Mr. Neisler commented that if the Board chooses to separate this, he suggests the appropriate time to discuss employee recognition would be next month at the mid-year budget review as there is a specific general ledger account for Awards and Recognition.

> Director Hall moved that the 1% cashback be deposited into the General Fund. President Pack seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote: Ayes: Cassil, Hall, Pack, Zanutto; Noes: Schultz; Abstain: None; Absent: None.

Item 9. Discussion of AB 203 – Occupational Safety and Health: Valley Fever

Mr. Curry stated AB 203 requires employers to provide awareness training on Valley Fever under certain conditions under which this District falls. This training must be conducted by May 1, 2020 and annually thereafter as well as when new employees are hired. He reviewed the summary of requirements listed in the Staff Report. The training will be added to the District's Injury Illness Prevention Program and the training will be done in house. The material has to come from a Federal, State or local agency that provides training. He described the topics that will be covered in the training.

Director Cassil thanked staff for responding to her request and stated they have done a really thorough job and it looks like the employees will have the care they need to stay has healthy as possible.

President Pack stated Mr. Curry did a wonderful job with the report and when he first moved to Kern County, he lived with someone who had Valley Fever and he appreciates staff taking care of this.

Item 10. Discussion of Agreement for Water Transfers with Kern County Water Agency

Mr. Neisler stated he felt it was prudent to bring this item to the Board because every year the District signs this agreement with KCWA for transfers and exchanges, and this year KCWA proposed significant cost increases. At the Member Unit Manager's meeting, the agency staff presented a fee schedule that was much higher than that adopted by the KCWA Board. He reviewed Attachment C with the changes that are proposed. He stated several Member Unit Managers spoke out against these proposed increases, especially for small transfers such as this District would accomplish. The agency said they analyzed the actual cost of transfers and developed this fee schedule at the high end of their previous expenses. Their reasoning was this would prevent having to go back and ask for additional funds if a particular agreement consumed more time or resources. At the December 12th meeting, the agency staff suggested they go towards the middle of the average cost of the agreements with the provision that if the agreement costs more than what they have collected in a deposit, the participant would be billed. If it costs less than the deposit, the participant would get a refund. The agency Board approved this approach at the December 18, 2019 meeting.

The Board gave the General Manager permission to sign these letters in 2017 as a matter of course. The letter he signed last year and the letter for this year are attachments to the Staff Report. He reviewed the adopted change in fees from the letter. Attachment C shows two examples of how this would affect the District. The ID4 transfer cost \$1550.00 in 2019 and with the new fees it would cost \$2,200.00. The District has an ongoing agreement with Granite Construction for their Solari Project down in Arvin. Under that agreement, the District provides water to Granite through Wheeler Ridge Water Storage District to operate their facility. They used that agreement for the first time in 2019 to take 8.61 acre feet of water. It's water that counts against the District's Table A allocation, but it is sold at a negotiated rate for not having to pump it up the mountain. The impact of the new fee schedule would increase this transfer from a cost of \$501.29 in 2019 to \$2,200.00 in 2020. Mr. Neisler stated it is his intention to sign the agreement unless the Board directs him otherwise.

Director Hall asked if the 8.61 acre feet Granite used will be a typical amount and Mr. Neisler verified with Ms. Madenwald that the agreement calls for 181 acre feet. The amount for 2019 was just a preliminary amount as they are still doing investigatory work on the project and once it is up and running, they should use the contracted amount.

President Pack asked if there is anything the District can do to get rid of these fee increases. Mr. Neisler stated the only options are to not perform transfer requests or build those costs into the negotiations for those transfer requests. From a staff perspective, it is just a factor that is going to have to be considered now when making transfer requests. In the past, the fees were insignificant compared to the value of the water.

Director Cassil asked how frequently the District has these small transfers. Mr. Neisler stated the 8 acre feet is the smallest they've ever done and that was based on an agreement. Typically, transfers are a few thousand acre feet. President Pack appreciated Mr. Neisler keeping the Board informed and stated he is not happy with these implications.

Director Zanutto stated the agency attributed the increase to the cost of doing business and asked if this was an increase in compensation for ID4 employees. Mr. Neisler clarified that ID4 is an agency of KCWA, however, the other agency staff, outside of ID4, processes these requests. He is unsure exactly how much

> work it takes for them to process a transfer, but they claim it is a lot and will provide an accounting report of the work that they do. He hopes that in the case of an 8.61 acre feet request, it will not take as much work and perhaps the District will get money back.

Item 11. Appoint Directors to Serve on 2020 Ad-Hoc Committees and Schedule Budget Committee Meeting Mr. Neisler reviewed the background of why there are Ad-hoc Committees and that to maintain Brown Act compliance, only two Board members can serve on each committee. Committees allow Directors to get a higher level of understanding and report back to the Board with a recommendation.

President Pack asked Directors for requests and preferences on which committees they would like to be a part of and made the following appointments:

Audit Committee: Director Cassil, Director Zanutto Budget Committee: President Pack, Director Zanutto Water Priority Committee: Director Cassil, Director Schultz Water Rate Committee: Director Schultz, Director Hall Alternate: Director Cassil Delta Conveyance Facility Committee: Director Hall, Director Cassil Alternate: Director Zanutto Cummings Basin Adjudication Committee: Director Schultz, Director Schultz, Director Hall

South Valley Water Resources Authority Board of Directors:

Member: Tom Neisler Alternate: Director Hall

Joint Agencies Agreement Technical Advisory Committee:

Member: Tom Neisler (previously Troy DePriest as well) President Pack requested staff replace Troy DePriest with Jon Curry.

Staff requested a Budget Committee meeting prior to the next Board meeting, and the Board scheduled it for February 3rd at 9:00 a.m. (the following week it was rescheduled to February 6th at 6:00 p.m.)

There is also a Cummings Basin Adjudication Committee meeting scheduled for January 23rd and that Director Zanutto is unable to attend and requested an alternate. The assigned alternate, Director Hall, was available to attend in Director Zanutto's place.

Item 12. Update on Cummings Valley Amended and Restated Judgment

Mr. Neisler stated they plan to send another letter to the pumpers with the latest version of the Amended and Restated Judgement. After that, they will continue the outreach effort to contact more pumpers. Negotiations continued with SunSelect, however, SunSelect has now sold their property and greenhouse effective December 31st. The Ad-Hoc Committee meeting scheduled for next Thursday is to meet with the new entity who has purchased the property and advise them of where things are in this process. Director Schultz provided insightful comments to Counsel on the last version of the SunSelect agreement and Counsel has summarized those and presented the latest offer to SunSelect. This is all that can be reported in Open Session and discussions will continue in Closed Session.

Item 13. Update on Cummings Valley Westerly Recharge Project

Mr. Neisler has received the preliminary title report and it is being reviewed. The escrow instructions have been received and will need to be supplemented. Mr. Neisler is soliciting proposals for the engineering for the project in accordance with the District Purchasing Policy. There has been no update on the Grant approval.

Item 14. Board of Directors Comments

Director Schultz asked for clarification on the Ad-hoc Committees. His understanding was that the committee members do not have to be reassigned annually for committees that are developed to serve a particular issue. Members would stay in place until that committee is done. Mr. Neisler stated that the President can appoint or remove any Ad-hoc Committee members at his discretion and in the past, the Board has indicated a preference to review those and reappoint members on an annual basis. Staff is just following that direction so the Board can change that preference at any time.

Mr. George Cappello commented on Ad-hoc Committees versus Standing Committees. Mr. Neisler clarified that the public is welcome to most of the District's Ad-hoc Committee meetings. Mr. Cappello expressed interest in being able to attend those and Mr. Neisler stated staff can notify him individually as well as post notice on the website.

Ms. Tina Cunningham informed the Board that due to some circumstances with staff at the Loop, they are currently experiencing long production times and some of her reports on the District's meetings are delayed. Hearing the Board's concern for the safety of employees, she shared some encouraging safety data from Rio Tinto Boron that was presented at the East Kern Economic Alliance meeting in Ridgecrest. She also attended a meeting Zack Scrivner requested regarding Sacramento's demand to phase out all oil production in Kern County. There is a target date of 2045. The comment she felt would interest the Board was that Supervisor Couch asked if the Administration considers natural gas clean energy and after a silence, Mr. Williams responded they would have to get back to him on that.

Mr. Neisler thanked her for the comments and added that going after natural gas will eliminate agriculture in addition to eliminating the oil industry. It is infeasible to think that oil production can be cut off and the use of natural gas outlawed. It is definitely a topic staff is keeping a close watch on.

Director Hall asked the Directors to reference the copy of Resolution 10-15 at their desk. He explained the background of this Resolution and why he felt it was important. He feels that the District should push for range voting and urged that the Board adopt this resolution again at next month's meeting. JPIA has not acknowledge the Resolution to date. President Pack thanked him for his comment.

President Pack verified that the flags in the Board room are now in the correct place. Director Schultz commented that they had been misplaced while moving things for the audio system installation.

Director Cassil encouraged Board members and the public to consider reading California's new budget with emphasis on matters that pertain to water and fire. What is happening in Australia has struck the Governor's attention. If this proceeds as planned, there will be a lot of money for grants and the time to start planning for those is sooner rather than later so it might be worth reading.

Director Zanutto asked if the District has a copy of the agreement between BVCSD and Valley Sod. Mr. Neisler stated they do not however he can request a copy if so desired. Director Zanutto indicated he would appreciate that and thanked him.

Item 15. Adjourn to Closed Session

President to reference Closed Session items as presented on Agenda, then Board to adjourn to Closed Session

a. In Accordance with Exhibit A Attached Hereto, Kern County Superior Court Case 97209, Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District, a Body Corporate and Politic vs. Frank Armstrong, et al.

- b. In Accordance with Exhibit B Attached Hereto, DWR v. All Persons Interested in Authorization of WaterFix Revenue Bonds et al.
- c. In Accordance with Exhibit C Attached Hereto, Conference with Real Property Negotiator (SSCSD)
- d. In Accordance with Exhibit D Attached Hereto, Performance Evaluation, General Manager

The Board went into Closed Session at 4:46 p.m.

Item 16. Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:56 p.m.

Report Action Taken in Closed Session:

- a. No reportable action.
- b. No reportable action.
- c. No reportable action.
- d. No reportable action.

Item 17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. on a motion made by Director Cassil, seconded by Director Hall and carried on the following vote: Ayes: Cassil, Hall, Pack, Schultz, Zanutto; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None.

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James Pack, Board President

Catherine Adams, Board Secretary



(Gov. Code § 54954.5)

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54956.8.)

	r	Description of Proper	
	Proposed District Negotiator:		atistan
	5	Subject of Conference	
В.	CONFEI	RENCE WITH LEGAL C	OUNSEL (Gov. Code § 54956.9.)
	1.		Case No. 97209
			Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District
			nd politic, vs. Frank Armstrong et. al.
	2.	Anticipated Litigatio	
		Gov. Code § 54956.	9 (b): 9 (c):
C.		EMPLOYEES (Gov. Co Appointment:	
		Title:	
	2.	Employment:	
	3.	Performance Evaluat	tion:
		٦	Title:
	4.		Release:
D.	CONFER	RENCE WITH LABOR N	IEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54957.6.)

Agency Negotiator:		
Employee Organization:	Not Applicable	
Unrepresented Employee:		



(Gov. Code § 54954.5)

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54956.8.)

Β.

C.

Description of Property: Proposed District Negotiator: Negotiating Parties: Subject of Conference:			
CONFER	RENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL (Gov. Code § 54956.9.)		
1.	Existing Litigation:Name of Case:DWR v. All Persons Interested in Authorization ofWaterFix Revenue Bonds et al.		
2.	Anticipated Litigation: Gov. Code § 54956.9 (b): Gov. Code § 54956.9 (c):		
PUBLIC	EMPLOYEES (Gov. Code § 54957.)		
1.	Appointment:		
2.	Employment:		
3.	Performance Evaluation:		

4. Discipline/Dismissal/Release:

D. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54957.6.)

Agency Negotiator:		
Employee Organization:	Not Applicable	
Unrepresented Employee:		



(Gov. Code § 54954.5)

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54956.8.)

Description of Property:	APNs 448-051-33-4, 448-051-34-2, 448-052-33-2
Proposed District Negotiator:	Tom Neisler, General Manager
Negotiating Parties:	Stallion Springs Community Services District
Subject of Conference:	Terms, Price and Conditions of Sale or Lease

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL (Gov. Code § 54956.9.)

	1.	Existing Litigation:
	2.	Anticipated Litigation: Gov. Code § 54956.9 (b): Gov. Code § 54956.9 (c):
C.	PUBLIC	EMPLOYEES (Gov. Code § 54957.)
	1.	Appointment:
	2.	Employment:
	3.	Performance Evaluation:
	4.	Discipline/Dismissal/Release:
D.	CONFER	ENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54957.6.)
	Em	ency Negotiator: ployee Organization: Not Applicable represented Employee:



(Gov. Code § 54954.5)

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54956.8.)

	Description of Property: Proposed District Negotiator Negotiating Parties: Subject of Conference:	
Β.	CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSE	L (Gov. Code § 54956.9.)
	Nama of Casa:	
	2. Anticipated Litigation: Gov. Code § 54956.9 (b): Gov. Code § 54956.9 (c):	
C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (Gov. Code § 54957.)		957.)
	1. Appointment: Title:	
	2. Employment: Title:	
	3. Performance Evaluation:	General Manager
	4. Discipline/Dismissal/Releas	2:
D. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code § 54957.6.)		ATOR (Gov. Code § 54957.6.)
	Agency Negotiator: Employee Organization: No Unrepresented Employee:	t Applicable