



**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE SANTA FE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

January 21, 2021
Santa Fe Irrigation District
5920 Linea del Cielo
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and pursuant waivers to certain Brown Act provisions under the Governor's Executive Orders, meetings of the Board and Board Committees will be conducted via Zoom Meeting (webinar/teleconference) and there will be no physical location from which members of the public may participate. Instead, the public may listen and/or view the meeting proceedings and provide public comment and comments on specific agenda items by following the posted instructions, including how to submit written comments for inclusion, instructions for viewing or listening to the meeting, and how to participate via Zoom. Additionally, these public comment procedures supersede the District's standard public comment policies and procedures to the contrary.

ROLL CALL - CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Hogan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Michael Hogan, Vice President Frank Creede, and Directors Dana Friehauf, and Andy Menshek were present.

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: General Manager Albert Lau, Executive Assistant Kim Johnson, Administrative Services Manager Seth Gates, Engineering Services Manager Rania Amen, Distribution System Manager Chris Bozir, Water Treatment Plant Manager Tim Bailey, Chief Treatment Operator Elijah Standing Warrior, Public Communications Officer Teresa Penunuri, General Counsel Paula de Sousa, Best Best & Krieger, and members of the public were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Hogan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA – None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

1. Employee Recognition - Introduction of Employee of the Year – Guillermo Preciado, Purchasing and Maintenance Coordinator

GM Lau introduced Mr. Preciado and offered brief comments on the selection of the Employee of the Year process and a history of Mr. Preciado’s 30 years of service to the District.

The Board congratulated Mr. Preciado on this recognition and thanked him for his dedication to the District for 30 years.

Mr. Preciado thanked his co-workers for their support and was honored by his selection as the Employee of the Year.

ACTION AGENDA

CONSENT ITEMS

2. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
3. Receive and File Monthly Finance Reports
 - a. Budget Performance
 - b. Disbursements
 - c. Monthly Investment Transaction Report
4. Quarterly Treasurer’s Report
5. Quarterly Board Expenses Report
6. Waive Full Reading and Adopt Resolution No. 21-01, Expressing Appreciation to Marlene E. King for her Public Service on the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Irrigation District for six years from December 5, 2014 – December 11, 2020
7. Waive Full Reading and Adopt Resolution No. 21-02 Adopting Amendments to the District Administrative Code for Articles 2, 3, 6, and 7
8. Waive Full Reading and Adopt Resolution No. 21-03 Adopting Amendments to the District Administrative Code for Article 31 and Increasing the Amount of the General Manager’s Delegated Authority to Settle Claims
9. Annual District Investment Policy Review and Update

Upon a motion by Director Menshek and second by Vice President Creede, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent Calendar. Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Creede, Frieauf, Menshek, and Hogan
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Consider Appeal of Water Bill by John and Christine Willems

GC de Sousa shared the District's Leak Credit Policy. ASM Gates presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

The Board discussed the significance of the online Customer AMI portal, the portal enrollment process, and suggested community outreach be increased to inform customers of this valuable tool.

After discussion, a motion was made by Director Menshek and seconded by Vice President Creede to deny the Willems' appeal. Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Creede, Friehauf, Menshek, and Hogan
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

11. Consider Appeal of Water Bill by Julie and Brendan Blockowicz

ASM Gates presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

Julie Blockowicz requested the Board to consider providing some relief from their "financially devastating" \$4,000 water bill and noted that their attempts to enroll in the online AMI customer portal were unsuccessful in August, 2020 when they determined had a minor leak. She continued that District staff did notify them in December with their spike in water use where they then found a major break in their landscaping main line.

ASM Gates reported that the District offers interest free payments for up to 12 months where a leak results in a large water bill upon customer request.

The Board expressed sympathy for the appellants; however, the Board created the Leak Credit Policy to provide the requirements and guidelines for the credit and if the Board desires to revisit and revise the existing policy, it should be returned to the Board for consideration. They also noted that while ongoing outreach regarding the portal is necessary, the customer is ultimately responsible for enrolling.

ASM Gates reported that the Leak Credit Policy is due to be reviewed by the Administrative and Finance Committee in February, one year after it was adopted.

Upon a motion by a Director Menshek and second by Director Friehauf, the Board unanimously denied the Blockowicz's appeal. Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Creede, Frieauf, Menshek, and Hogan
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

12. 2021 Board of Directors' Appointments

President Hogan presented the item, noting that he tried to honor the Directors' requests for Committee appointments.

He added that he will serve on the Administrative and Finance Committee until a Director for Division 3 is sworn in.

There was no action requested or required of the Board.

13. Water Supply Update

PCO Penunuri utilized a PowerPoint presentation to report the State water supply conditions, snow pack, and temperature and precipitation outlook. She responded to questions from the Board.

This report was for the Board's information only. No action was requested or required of the Board.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

11. Directors' Comments

Director Menshek commented on proposed stimulus programs for rent and mortgage difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic and asked if legislation had passed to prohibit water shut-offs for non payment. He asked that this issue be brought to a future Water Resources Committee meeting for discussion.

Vice President Creede expressed concern with the amount of benefits paid after retirement to District employees. He also shared his excitement for two qualified candidates to be considered to fill the Division 3 vacancy at a special Board meeting on January 25th.

Director Frieauf requested a presentation on State Legislation by the San Diego County Water Authority at a future Board meeting if it was supported by the Board.

President Hogan agreed with Director Frieauf's request for a legislative update and requested an update on the District retiree health program be given once a Division 3 director is seated to determine if the Board can take action to reduce the District's legal obligations to retirees.

12. Directors' Reports on Conferences, Activities, and Events – No report

REPORTS

13. Operations Reports
 - a. R.E. Badger Filtration Plant Report
 - b. Water Resources Report

These reports were provided for the Board's information only. No action was requested or required of the Board.

14. San Diego County Water Authority Board Meeting Report –President Hogan

President Hogan reported on the recent Superior Court appeal decision on the litigation with Metropolitan Water District, awarding the SDCWA legal fees and interest, which will be determined by the Court. The SDCWA was awarded \$45M in 2019 in the first of the two law suits with MWD.

15. Committee Reports

The Committee reports were included with the agenda materials.

16. General Manager's Report - GM Lau shared his personal experiences as a minority and being sensitive to inclusivity and bias in organizations. He added that the District follows hiring practices that abide to legal standards without prejudice to race or gender. GM Lau continued that the management team has a diverse background and ESM Amen is very active in organizations that develop women and women of color. She has participated on the panel of the "Women in Water" annual conference and the District is a sponsor of this event this year. GM Lau finished by saying he appreciates his staff and he feels very lucky the Board is confident in his leadership abilities.
17. General Counsel's Comments - General Counsel de Sousa provided an update on SB 223 (Dodd) related to discontinuance of water service due to nonpayment and waivers of discontinuation fees stating legal counsel will continue to follow this bill.

INFORMATION ITEMS

18. SFID Annual Meeting Calendar
19. ACWA/JPIA Splash Alert – H. R. LaBounty Safety Award Winners, Fall 2020
20. Email Correspondence received from Kristi Becker, dated December 5, 2020

These items were for the Board's information only.

CLOSED SESSION

21. Conference with Legal Counsel- Existing Litigation

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)
Rancho Santa Fe Association v Santa Fe Irrigation District
Case No. 37-2018-00064214-CU-MC-NC

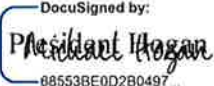
22. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)
Rancho Del Lago Homeowners' Association v Santa Fe Irrigation District, San Dieguito
Water District, County of San Diego, San Diego County Flood Control District
Case No. 37-2019-00047074-CU-OR-NC

President Hogan called for a recess at 10:25 a.m.

President Hogan adjourned into Closed Session at 10:30 a.m.

President Hogan reconvened into Open Session at 10:58 a.m. and reported no reportable actions were taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

DocuSigned by:
 President Hogan adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.
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Michael T. Hogan
Board President



Albert C. Lau
Board Secretary/Treasurer