

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SAN GABRIEL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
HELD ON NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

- CALL TO ORDER** A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Gabriel County Water District was called to order on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 8366 Grand Avenue, Rosemead, California at the hour of 4:00 p.m.
- ROLL CALL** Present at the meeting were General Manager Jim Prior, Finance and Administration Manager Carmen Corona, Assistant General Manager Casey Feilen, Directors Cammarano, Taylor, DeLaTorre, Saucedo and Mamdapurkar and District Counsel Koczanowicz.
- AGENDA** Upon motion by Director Taylor and seconded by Director Saucedo, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Carina Rivera and Piper Fogle, both candidates for the vacant seat on the Board, were present but did not speak at this time.
- MINUTES** Upon motion by Director Mamdapurkar, seconded by Director Taylor, the Board voted to approve the minutes for the meeting of the Board of Directors held on November 12, 2024. Motion passed 5-0.
- DEMANDS** Director DeLaTorre motioned to authorize an electronic funds transfer from the general account to the revolving account in the amount of \$172,265.10. The motion was seconded by Director Taylor. No questions were asked by the Board. Motion passed unanimously.
- DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT** District Counsel informed the Board about the meeting with City of Rosemead regarding the permit fees and related issues. Mr. Prior, Mr. Feilen and Mr. Agopian attended with District Council and the City Manager, Public Works Director, City Attorney and Finance director or Manager were there for the City of Rosemead. Unfortunately, the issue is still not resolved, and staff will continue to provide information to the City in support of District's position, that only reasonable costs of inspections and related expenses are subject to payment by the District. City also sent a list of alleged District projects that resulted in street surface subsidence. None of the 19 locations were within the District service area, or ever worked on by District staff or contractors. The dialogue on these issues is continuing and staff will report on any progress.
- District Counsel also briefed the Board on an appellate decision in a case of Gonzalez v. Interstate Cleaning Corp. and Ontario Mills Lmt. Partnership. The higher Court upheld the trial Court's decision to grant a Summary Judgment Motion to the Defendants, finding that there were no triable issues of fact due to the robust inspection program maintained by the shopping center and the janitorial service. Plaintiff alleged injuries as she slipped and

fell on some oranges that were spilled inside the mall public walking area. In order to hold a private business Defendants liable Plaintiff must show actual, or constructive notice of the spilled oranges, along with a failure to remedy the dangerous condition. Defendants were able to show that their inspection and clean-up routine and the number of employees performing that task resulted in every public walking area being inspected every eight minutes. Such program, along with a detailed training of the employees precluded a finding of “constructive notice” as a matter of law.

A brief discussion followed regarding the importance of maintaining good clean up and inspection protocols even for a public entity.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discussion and possible appointment to fill vacant Board Member position.

Ms. Rivera and Ms. Fogle, the two candidates, voluntarily agreed to be interviewed by the Board individually and to not be present during any deliberations. Director Taylor’s motion to initiate the discussion, seconded by Director Saucedo, passed unanimously. Ms. Rivera was asked back, provided a brief statement of qualifications and responded to questions from the Directors. Same process was followed when Ms. Fogle was asked to come in and be interviewed. The Board following a short discussion asked if the decision can be postponed to another meeting. District Counsel was concerned about the timing and advised the Board to try to take action at this meeting. Absent that, he advised that at the latest the decision needs to be made by December 5th. Director Taylor moved to have this item return to the Board in a special meeting on December 3, 2024 at 4:00 pm and to continue the advertising of the vacancy till 11:59 pm on Sunday the 1st of December. Director Saucedo seconded and motion passed unanimously.

- b. Discussion and direction from the Board to initiate the water rate adjustment process.

General Manager advised the Board that the consultant and staff have reached a recommendation for the Board to consider. Director DeLaTorre moved, with a second by Director Taylor, to initiate the discussion of the item. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Prior explain various possible options for a rate adjustment, which based on the calculations from the consultant, was necessary at this time to provide revenue for the upcoming projects and to anticipate continued reduction in water sales. Staff responded to questions from the Board regarding tier rate systems and details of various options presented. Staff responded to all questions and recommended “scenario 2 uniform rates” which would raise the variable rate to \$2.58 per unit, or \$54.18, based on 21 units of consumption. Fixed charges would be also adjusted based on the size of the meter. This option would be least impactful on the residential customers of the District. Following some additional discussion Director Saucedo moved to initiate the “scenario 2 uniform rates” adjustment process based on staff’s

recommendation. Director Taylor seconded and motion passed unanimously. Staff will initiate the Proposition 218 process for customer notification of the proposed adjustments.

**MISC
INFORMATION**

Receive and File:

- a. October 2024 Banking and Investment Report
- b. October 2024 Revenue and Expenditure Report

Board received the items without any questions to staff. Director Cammarano was pleased with the LAIF interest rate.

**GENERAL
MANAGER
COMMENTS**

The General Manager briefly spoke about the meeting with Rosemead, mentioned by District Counsel and also confirmed with the Board that the December 24, 2024 Board meeting will be cancelled due to Christmas holidays.

**FUTURE
AGENDA
ITEMS**

December 10th meeting will have budget and salary resolutions for Board's approval, as well as the new contract for the General Manager.

**DIRECTOR
COMMENTS**

Director Cammarano, in anticipation of her retirement, stated that she was proud to be on the Board for the last 16 years and thanked Mr. Prior, staff and the Board for doing such great job in running the District. She wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

CLOSED SESSION

Board adjourned to closed session at 5:16 p.m. for one item: Public Employee Performance Evaluation GC Sec. 54957: General Manager.

RECONVENE

Board reconvened into open session at 5:26 p.m. with no reportable action being taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Director Taylor, seconded by Director Saucedo the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m.



President



Secretary

[SEAL]