



Setting Standards of Excellence in Public Service

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 – 3 p.m.
7811 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942-0427
Virtual Meeting**

OPEN MEETING

1. President Scalzitti called the regular board meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. The meeting was turned over to Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen to verify all board members, staff and members of the public could hear one another and that everyone could identify the board members by voice recognition or video image.

The roll call showed a quorum of the board present via electronic conferencing software. Directors Scalzitti, Hedberg, McMillan, Gracyk and Verbeke were present.

Staff present: Lugo, Tomasulo, Olney, Bryant, Miller, Ross, Janzen, Schipper, Pope, Malkin, Lyford, Herrera, Roff, Solano, Andrews, Aytes, Lunde, Pearce, Garuba, Curtis and Uhrhammer. General Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull was also present.

Others present: Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck Policy Assistant Victoria Barba and an unidentified customer were present.

2. Director Gracyk led the Pledge of Allegiance. No invocation was provided.
3. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo reported there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. There were no public comments. The motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Verbeke
Second: Hedberg

PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. President Scalzitti provided opportunity for members of the public to address the board on any item under the subject matter jurisdiction of the district. There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. The motion to approve the consent agenda carried unanimously by roll call vote. There were no public comments.

Motion: Hedberg

Second: Verbeke

- a) Memorandum dated March 17, 2021, from the Secretary of the Board Sandra L. Janzen submitting expense and per diem claims was approved.
- b) The board approved the following sets of minutes:
 - i. March 3, 2021, special board meeting
 - ii. March 10, 2021, special Parks, Land, Lakes & Garden Committee meeting
- c) The operating account checks submitted for ratification were approved:
 - i. Checks dated March 5, 2021
 - ii. Checks dated March 12, 2021

ACTION ITEMS

6. The board adopted the fiscal year 2021-22 operating budget in the amount of \$88,561,500 and the PayGo capital budget in the amount of \$11,670,000. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Hedberg

Second: Verbeke

Finance Manager Amy L. Pope provided a PowerPoint presentation. The board expressed appreciation for receiving a hard copy of the budget for review prior to the meeting and commended all district staff for their part in keeping expenses down. In addition, Vice President Hedberg clarified the correlation between the 90 to 120 day reserve target and the five-year projects. Vice President Hedberg confirmed that the actual expenditures will be updated at fiscal yearend. Director Gracyk suggested slide 7 of the budget PowerPoint presentation be shared during the April 8, 2021, community

meeting at 6 p.m. Discussion ensued regarding the rate stabilization fund and Helix Helps customer assistance program.

7. The board authorized General Manager Carlos V. Lugo to execute a four-year contract for as-needed trucking and hauling services with McLeod Trucking LLC in the amount of \$326,016. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Verbeke

Second: Gracyk

Field Operations Manager Oliver K. Malkin answered all questions regarding prevailing wage and detailed the estimate and payments of as-needed contracts.

8. The board authorized General Manager Carlos V. Lugo to execute a contract with Stafford SDCH LLC DBA San Diego Crane and Hoist in the amount of \$120,000 for the completion of repairs to the treatment plant east sedimentation basin traveling bridge. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan

Second: Verbeke

Plant Operations Supervisor Thomas J. Pearce provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered all questions regarding the estimated start date for repairs and verified there will be no impacts on the new treatment plant safety handrails.

9. The board appropriated funds in the amount of \$120,000 from fiscal year 2020-21 capital budget and authorized the sole source purchase of a 20-inch butterfly valve with actuator and a 54-inch butterfly valve with actuator in the amount of \$116,635.34 for the large valve replacement project, CIP19019. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan

Second: Hedberg

Director of Engineering James A. Tomasulo provided a PowerPoint presentation and detailed the valves used by the district for different flows. Director Gracyk confirmed the timeline for the purchase.

10. The board adopted Resolution 21-18 awarding construction of pipeline project CIP19002, to the lowest responsible bidder submitting a responsive bid, Burtech Pipeline Inc., in the amount of \$3,196,970, and appropriated funds in the amount of \$3,945,000 from the capital budget. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll

call vote.

Motion: Gracyk
Second: Verbeke

Director of Engineering James A. Tomasulo provided a PowerPoint presentation. Discussion ensued regarding traffic control, the timing of the cast-iron project on Mount Helix Drive and the 10 percent bid contingency.

11. The board adopted Resolution 21-16 declaring construction complete and authorized filing a notice of completion for the treatment plant safety improvements project CIP20015. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan
Second: Hedberg

Assistant Director of Engineering Timothy J. Ross provided a PowerPoint presentation. Discussion ensued regarding the impacts of the pandemic on the project and the regional installation of safety handrails.

DISCUSSION

12. President Scalzitti reported that the Parks, Land, Lakes and Garden Committee will be conducting a special meeting on March 18, 2021, at 9 a.m. to review the Lake Jennings campground draft programming study. President Scalzitti also reported the San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors will meet on March 25, 2021.

The board received a written report that a customer called the district to compliment the outstanding service provided by Utility Crew Member Peter J. Spangler.

13. Vice President Hedberg, Director McMillan, Director Gracyk and Director Verbeke provided written reports. Vice President Hedberg reported that details regarding the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's leak detector rebate will be coming and that it is *Fix a Leak* week. Vice President Hedberg also reported a productive meeting with Consultant Tara Bravo on March 16, 2021, in preparation for the Proposition 218 public hearing. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo reported that protest letters will be sent to the board weekly and that the district has seen some information shared on Nextdoor. Vice President Hedberg confirmed that all protesters will receive a letter of confirmation that their protest has been received and will be invited to meet with the general manager and attend the community meeting on April 8, 2021 at 6 p.m. Director McMillan also reported meeting with Consultant Tara Bravo and watching her previous community meetings. Director McMillan suggested we keep the district's

meeting presentation shorter to remain better engaged with the customers. Director McMillan also shared that Olivenhain Municipal Water District General Manager Kimberly Thorner was inspired by the district's Helix Helps program and plans to use the board's model when OMWD sells some land. Director Gracyk reported attending the La Mesa Environmental Sustainability Commission meeting on April 15, 2021 and reported April 24 is Earth Day with an event at Harry Griffen Park and a ribbon cutting on May 1, 2021 for La Mesa's new community garden. Director Gracyk also reported that the City of La Mesa adopted the emergency climate resolution. Director Verbeke provided an Association of California Water Agencies Region 10 update and mentioned attending the Association of California Water Agencies DC conference session. There were no public comments.

14. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo detailed the upcoming agenda items for the board meetings scheduled on March 24, April 7 and 21, 2021. Mr. Lugo also mentioned the March 18, 2021 special Parks, Land, Lakes and Garden Committee meeting and reported that the April 8, 2021 community meeting, will be recorded and available on the district's website for those that cannot attend. Mr. Lugo provided a COVID update and President Scalzitti and Director McMillan requested a discussion item be placed on the next regular board meeting agenda to discuss Zoom meetings moving forward, in-person meetings or a hybrid approach. In addition, Mr. Lugo reported the presentations from the March 16, 2021 San Diego County Water Authority Member Agency Managers meeting had been provided to the board. There were no public comments.
15. General Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull had nothing additional to report as she announced the items to be discussed in closed session. There were no public comments.

RECESS

16. President Scalzitti recessed the meeting to closed session at 4:46 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)

Number of Cases: 2

Name of Case: Bonnie Kessner and Andrea McCartney-Page, et al. vs. City of Santa Clara et al., Santa Clara Co. Sup. Ct. Case Number 20CV364054

Case Name: United States, et al. v. J-M Manufacturing Company, Inc., USDC Central Dist. Case Number 5:06-cv-00055-GW-PJW

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)

Number of Potential Cases: 2

- C. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**
Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section
54956.9(d)(2)
Number of Potential Cases: 1

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

17. President Scalzitti adjourned closed session and reconvened open session at 5:26 p.m.
There was no reportable action taken during closed session.

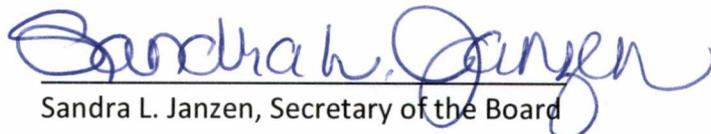
ADJOURNMENT

18. President Scalzitti adjourned the special board meeting at 5:27 p.m.



Joel A. Scalzitti, President

ATTEST:



Sandra L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board