

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting
MARCH 11, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Banales on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room, located at 2500 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway, Antioch. Present were Chair Juan Banales, and Directors Federal Glover and Sean Wright. Also present were Mary Ann Mason, District Counsel; Vince De Lange, General Manager; Cecelia Nichols-Fritzler, Office Manager/Secretary to the Board; Dean Eckerson, Resource Recovery Services Director; Brian Thomas, Engineering Services Director/District Engineer; Cheryl Rhodes Alexander; Joaquin Gonzalez, Operations Manager; Jayne Strommer, Government Affairs Manager; Amanda Roa, Environmental Programs Manager/Management Association Bargaining Unit Representative; Dustin Bloomfield, Acting Maintenance Manager; Steve Rodriguez, Operations Supervisor; Nick Steiner, Recycled Water Coordinator/P&T Bargaining Unit Representative; and Francis Rubio, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator II.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

RECOGNITION

Introduction of Francis Rubio, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator II

Mr. Gonzalez introduced Mr. Rubio, who began his employment on February 11, 2020. He has three years of experience in the wastewater industry and holds a Grade V Wastewater Certificate from the State Water Resources Control Board, as well as a Civil Engineering degree from the Technological Institute of the Philippines. Mr. Gonzalez stated Mr. Rubio possesses a variety of operational and technical skills that will directly support organizational improvement and the District's core mission of protecting public health and the environment.

Chair Banales welcomed Mr. Rubio to the District. Mr. Rubio thanked the Board for welcoming him, as well as Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Rodriguez for the opportunity and stated he is proud to be a District employee.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Wright moved approval, seconded by Director Glover and by unanimous voice vote (*Ayes: Banales, Glover, and Wright; Noes: None; Absent: None*), the following consent items were approved according to staff recommendations: Approve Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting, March 11, 2020; Receive District Monthly Check Register, January 2020; Adopt Resolution Updating the District's Records Retention Schedule; Deny Claim filed by Gregory David; and Deny Claim filed by RaShone Bible.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

None.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Receive Report on Biosolids Management Program

Mr. Eckerson provided an overview of resource recovery outcomes at the District (i.e., treated effluent, recycled water, renewable energy, and biosolids reuse) and associated challenges. He

highlighted increasing costs, potential loss of existing practices, and emerging contaminants as key biosolids management challenges. Mr. Eckerson highlighted biosolids benefits, production, end use, costs, specific challenges to existing practices in the Bay Area and state level, current contracted services, and collaboration with other agencies in the region. Mr. Eckerson shared that the District's current biosolids management contract will expire on June 30, 2020 and staff is preparing a request for proposals with the intent to submit a new contract for consideration at the June 10, 2020 Board meeting. He noted that a significant increase in annual biosolids management costs is expected going forward.

Director Wright asked for clarification regarding the balance of flows between influent flow and the sum of treated effluent and recycled water flows. Mr. Eckerson noted that treated effluent also includes blowdown flow following use of recycled water at the two power plants.

Director Glover asked if the District is able sell the biosolids. Mr. Eckerson responded that the District's goal is demonstrate to the public that the material has value. Mr. De Lange stated that the District's "Class B" biosolids material would need to be processed to produce a higher-value product (e.g., composting, pelletization), which would require significant capital investment and new facilities. This is a key focus area for the Bay Area Biosolids Coalition (BABC), which the District is actively supporting.

Director Wright asked if the Resource Recovery Facility Master Plan (RRFMP) will include an assessment of infrastructure needs to manage biosolids in the future. Mr. De Lange stated that this is included, as well as a targeted Biosolids Management Master Plan in FY23/24. He noted that BABC is working to understand how various processing technologies handle emerging contaminants, as well as the risks associated with investing significant capital in infrastructure that is not supported by general public acceptance. Last, Mr. De Lange stated that the District's size is challenging relative to constructing its own new infrastructure, which would likely require reliance on material from other Bay Area agencies and a public-private partnership to support economic viability.

Chair Banales thanked Mr. Eckerson for the report.

Receive Report on Major Capital Projects that Impact Development of New Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Mr. Thomas noted that staff is currently developing a new 5-year CIP for consideration by the Board in May and June. He stated that the goal of the presentation is to highlight updated costs and timing for major capital project drivers. Mr. Thomas stated \$9 million would be included in the CIP for the Antioch Pump Station and Conveyance System Improvements Project to ensure continued reliability of the District's wastewater conveyance system following failure of Antioch Force Main 102 and the associated sanitary sewer flow on December 3, 2019. He stated that the CIP would no longer include previously planned expenditures for the East County Bioenergy Project (ECBP), which is not likely to be implemented in the near term; instead, staff will now proceed with associated digester, biogas handling, and cogeneration system infrastructure capital improvements (total = \$6.5 million) that were placed on hold pending outcome of the ECBP.

Mr. Thomas provided an overview of key findings from the RRFMP relative to available secondary treatment capacity, which may be exceeded in 10 to 15 years, and the need to begin planning for capacity expansion and integration with nutrient management capital improvements. He highlighted that the planning environment for nutrient management has shifted significantly in recent years with both an extension of the originally anticipated implementation timeline through regional collaboration with Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, regulators, and the scientific community, and a reduction in the estimated initial capital investment cost based on preliminary RRFMP findings. Mr. Thomas reviewed historical Board actions related to formation of the Advanced Treatment (AT) Fund (for nutrient management) in 2011 and subsequent actions to adapt to new information. He noted that staff will be recommending a significant reduction or elimination of the AT Fund component in Sewer Service Charges for FY20/21. Last, Mr. Thomas highlighted estimated costs and timing for the Switchgear Replacement Project and the Office Building Rehabilitation Project.

Director Glover inquired as to the scope of the Office Building Rehabilitation Project. Mr. Thomas responded that it includes improvements to portions of the building exterior, windows, and doors, as well as code compliance improvements.

Director Wright commented that planning for nutrient management and capacity expansion will need to consider growth in Antioch. He inquired regarding remaining useful life of the tower trickling filters. Mr. Thomas responded condition assessment work under the RRFMP would guide future capital investment. Director Wright asked how unexpected imposition of regulations would affect use of the AT Fund. Mr. Thomas responded that changes in regulations would accelerate implementation of the large-scale nutrient management improvements. Director Wright asked if the Switchgear Replacement Project included capacity for the nutrient management and secondary capacity expansion. Mr. Thomas responded that the project will only meet current infrastructure needs and that future power distribution system improvements associated with secondary capacity expansion and nutrient management would be implemented in the future. Director Wright asked if the \$6.5 million previously identified as WWTP infrastructure improvements in the ECBP were transferred directly from the prior CIP, which Mr. Thomas confirmed.

Chair Banales thanked Mr. Thomas for the presentation.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. De Lange thanked the Board for supporting the level of detail in the two presentations, which were designed to highlight key operating budget and capital planning challenges and the District's emphasis on effective prioritization of limited resources. In addition, he noted that staff is continuing to monitor emerging information regarding the coronavirus situation and that he intends to provide thoughtful communications to staff in the days ahead.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Receive Monthly Lobbyist Report dated February 2020, Key Advocates, Inc., Western Recycled Water Coalition, Project No. 90024

The Board received and filed the report.

Receive Letter Dated February 12, 2020, California Sanitation Risk Management Authority, Pooled Liability Program 28th Dividend Declaration

The Board received and filed the letter.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Banales adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be April 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.



Sean Wright
Board Secretary

(Recording Secretary:
Cecelia Nichols-Fritzler)