MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE RINCON DEL DIABLO MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
September 22, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District was held telephonically on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Directors Present: Drake, Lump, Murtland, and Towne.

Directors Absent: Quist.

District Staff Present: Clint Baze, General Manager; Julia Escamilla, Public Information Officer; Jeffrey Umbrasas, Director of Administration and Finance; Karen Falk, Senior Engineer; and Wanda Cassidy, Clerk of the Board.

Legal Counsel: Gerry Shoaf, Legal Counsel, Redwine and Sherrill.

Guests: Rick Vogt, Fire Chief, Escondido Fire Department; Risa Baron, Public Affairs Representative, San Diego County Water Authority.

President Murtland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Director Lump then led the Board of Directors and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

There were no communications to the Board.

SECTION 1 - CONSENT ITEMS

In a motion by Director Towne and seconded by Director Drake, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the following consent items:
1-C. Investment Portfolio Report, August 2020.
1-D. Financial Statements, August 2020.
1-E. Board of Directors’ Per Diem Fees and/or Expense Reports, August 2020.
1-F. Capital Facility Fee Report.

by the following roll call vote:

Drake Aye
Lump Aye
Murtland Aye
Quist Absent
Towne Aye

Director Towne pulled Item 1-B, General Fund Disbursements, August 2020. Director Towne requested clarifications on disbursements and staff responded to the requests. After a brief discussion, President Murtland asked for a motion:

In a motion by Director Drake and seconded by Director Lump, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the following consent item:

1-B. General Fund Disbursements, August 2020.

by the following roll call vote:

Drake Aye
Lump Aye
Murtland Aye
Quist Absent
Towne Aye

SECTION 2 – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & FIRE SERVICES


Chief Vogt reported on the following:

• SANDAG Report – Chief Vogt reported 2020 has been an unprecedented year for many reasons, one being the exorbitant number of wildland fires and the number of acres of vegetation burned. The chief then provided information on from the SANDAG report he was preparing as it relates to
the California fires this year. Since the beginning of the year, nearly 8,000 wildfires have burned 3.6 million acres in the State. Since August 15th, there have been 26 civilian fatalities, nearly 6,500 structures destroyed, and a US Forest Services Hot Shot crew boss perished in the El Dorado Fire. As of September 22nd, there were 19,000 fire fighters on the front lines of 27 major wildfires, one of which was the Valley Fire in east San Diego County. Beginning August 1st, local government, consisting of San Diego County and cities located within the County, sent five to six strike teams consisting of engines and leaders, and 60-70 overhead or management personnel totaling approximately 230 personnel to assist with battling the fires. The Escondido Fire Department has approximately 11 firefighters, or ten percent of its personnel deployed. This includes an OES brush engine including staff which had been out for three two-week rotations. Crew members rotate every two weeks. Six additional personnel are assisting with the fires in a management capacity. Travel departments and CalFire have sent five strike teams and 60 personnel for a total of approximately 400 local personnel fighting fires throughout California.

- Statewide the temperature is warming up. October and November are historically the worse months for wildfires in Southern California. Typically, in the summer there are at least some monsoonal rains, however, this year that was not the case. Meteorologists are calling for a La Niña this year, so low moisture and little rain are expected to continue into the fall and winter months. Between dry vegetation and the upcoming Santa Ana winds between October and December, the potential for wildfires could be heightened. Should there be red flag warnings during the Santa Ana winds, area fire departments will be staffing-up and strike teams and task forces will be repositioned in relationship to the upcoming danger. The fire department does have partnerships with tribal, city, county, state, and federal fire departments, along with public safety agencies and is in constant communication with them in their efforts to keep Escondido residents safe.

- Fire Expo – The Fire Chief and General Manager Baze agreed with the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be best to cancel the 2020 Fire Expo and prepare for the regularly scheduled 2021 Fire Expo that will take place in June of 2021.

After the report Chief Vogt then answered the Directors’ questions related to fire flows and fire hydrant maintenance followed.

SECTION 3 – PUBLIC INFORMATION & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Nothing to report.
SECTION 4 – FINANCE, INSURANCE & PERSONNEL


Received and filed the Finance, Insurance & Personnel (FIP) Committee Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2020.

SECTION 5 – OPERATIONS; ENGINEERING & LONG-RANGE PLANNING


Received and filed the Operations; Engineering & Long-Range Planning (ELRP) Committee Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2020.

5-B. Capital Improvement Update.

Senior Engineer Karen Falk presented a CIP Update. Current CIP Projects underway include:

• I-15 Crossings – This project includes the design of the new freeway crossing at County Club Lane and El Norte Parkway. This project and the scope to replace pipeline in El Norte Parkway through Center City Parkway have been consolidated due to the proximity of the work being done. The project is currently in the field investigations phase, working towards a submittal for Caltrans review at the end of September.

• Citracado Bridge, Pipeline Extension – This project is a City led project constructing a new bridge/road alignment and includes new 24” potable water and 12” recycled water pipelines for the District. The constructability review has been completed and archaeological work is nearly completed. Bidding is expected to take place in the next three to six months with construction beginning in Spring of 2021.

• Andreasen Pipeline Fire Flow Upgrades – This project includes the design of 330 feet of 24-inch waterline what will connect a backbone distribution main and improve fire flow. A contract was signed this month and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for September 17th.

• Pipeline Replacement Program – This project includes an alignment study for the replacement of 2,500 LF of 18” CMLC pipeline currently in easement between Enterprise and Auto Parkway. A contract with IEC was signed this month and the kickoff meeting is scheduled for September 17th.

• Air Vac Improvements – This project includes replacing two aging air vacs located in underground vaults near Morning View Drive. The new air vacs will be above ground.
Water Master Plan – This project includes an analysis of both existing and projected water systems, identifying and prioritizing projects, and a capacity and annexation fee analysis. A consultant for the project has been selected and staff and the consultant are currently in the data gathering phase. The team kickoff meeting will be held on September 17th.

Urban Water Management Plan - The Urban Water Management Plan is required to be updated by the State every five years. The plan includes long-range water supply planning, a Drought Risk Assessment, and Water Shortage Contingency Plans. The update is written in conjunction with SDCWA. DWR will be hosting workshops to discuss changes needed to the UWMP Guidebook. The Urban Water Management Plan is due to DWR by July 1, 2021.

Ms. Falk then gave brief updates on Oak Creek and The Villages developer projects. After the presentation was completed, Ms. Falk answered questions from Directors.

SECTION 6 – SEWER


Received and filed the Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2020.

Directors then discussed the need for a campaign regarding the importance of flushing only toilet paper and human waste, noting that wipes, rags, paper towels, and other materials can cause serious issues to the sewer system.

SECTION 7 – SDCWA DIRECTOR’S REPORT & DIRECTORS/STAFF ACTIVITIES REPORT

7-A. This portion of the agenda may be used by the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) representative to make informal reports on activities.

President Murtland reported that the Thursday, September 24th SDCWA meeting agenda will include:
• The election of new officers. Nominees include Chair - Gary Croucher; Vice Chair - Christy Guerin; and Secretary - Jerry Butkiewicz and Chris Cate.
• Updates on litigation and anticipated litigation in the FPUD and RMWD detachments.
• An update on the Regional Conveyance Project.
7-B. This portion of the agenda may be used by the Board of Directors or management to make informal oral reports on their activities.

- Director Lump reported on her attendance on the Virtual CASA Conference and the COWU virtual meeting with Brenda Burman of the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Director Drake reported on the Virtual CASA Conference.
- Director Quist was absent.
- Director Towne reported on the Virtual CASA Conference.
- President Murtland had nothing additional to say.

7-C. This portion of the agenda may be used by the Board of Directors to request items for future agendas.

The Directors and General Manager Baze requested that a reoccurring agenda item entitled “Update on the Proposed Rainbow Municipal Water District and Fallbrook Public Utility District Reorganizations to Detach from the San Diego County Water Authority and Annex to Eastern Municipal Water District” be added to Section 3: Public Information and Intergovernmental Affairs.

7-D. Request Approval for a Board Member(s) to Attend Upcoming Meetings; Conferences; or Seminars for Those Not Authorized in the District’s Administrative Code, Section 502 “Authorized District Memberships.”

There were no requests.


During the DAR, Directors requested an updated calendar, a follow-up on the staffing analysis, and commented on legislation.

7-F. Urban Water Institute Virtual Meeting Sponsorship.

General Manager Baze brought Urban Water Institute Virtual Meeting Sponsorship forward. During previous Urban Water Institute (UWI) conferences, the District supported sponsorships at the $1,000 level. Sponsorships for the Virtual Meeting with Jeff Kightlinger range from $150 to $1,000. UWI has requested Rincon support the event with a sponsorship.

After a brief discussion, President Murtland asked for a motion:

In a motion made by Director Towne, and seconded by Director Drake, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a $250 Sponsorship for the Urban Water Institute Virtual Meeting with Jeff Kightlinger by the following roll call vote:
SECTION 8 – GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

8-A. District Status as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

General Manager Baze reported the District continues to observe the County of San Diego’s orders related to COVID-19. The District staff has not had any positive results of COVID-19.

8-B. General Manager’s Oral Report.

General Manager Baze reported on the following:

- Legal Counsel Request for Proposals (RFP) – The Legal Counsel RFP was sent out to ten legal firms. Proposals are due on October 1st. General Manager Baze is now awaiting responses.
- Rainbow and Fallbrook Detachment from SDCWA – General Manager Baze shared a letter that was submitted to LAFCO regarding the detachment.
- District Staff Reorganization – General Manager Baze is currently working with Director of Administration and Finance Umbrasas on the reorganizational structure. Recommendations will be taken to the Finance, Insurance, and Personnel (FIP) Committee for discussion and be brought to the October Board of Directors meeting.

SECTION 9 – LEGAL MATTERS


There was nothing to report.

9-B. Closed Session

Directors, General Manager Baze, and Legal Counsel went into Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. on item 9-B.b. Closed session was not required for Item 9-B.a.

a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – LITIGATION, Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4): San Diego County Office of Education, et al. v. The County of San Diego, et al. (This is a long-
term item related to dissolution of redevelopment agencies and successor agencies and will remain on the agenda if Rincon Water is involved. No action is required on our part at this time.)

b. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4) to discuss potential litigation (one case).

Legal Counsel Shoaf, the Board, and General Manager Baze came out of Closed Session at 8:08 p.m. and stated there was nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned by President Murtland at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED: ____________
James B. Murtland, President

ATTEST: ____________
Wanda Cassidy, Clerk of the Board