

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA (559) 591-0800  
**Thursday, September 14, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AT 9:30 A.M.**

1.1. Roll Call – The Regular Board Meeting for Alta Irrigation District was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Norman Waldner. Members present were Daniel Astiasuain, Jack Brandt, Jerry Halford, John Kalendar, Tom Marshall, and Larry Tout. Others present were General Manager Chad B. Wegley, Controller Irma P. Faria, Engineer Jim Wegley and Attorneys Doug Jensen and Lauren Layne.

1.2. Potential Conflict(s) of Interest – None.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**3. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA** – Director **Halford** moved that the Board of Directors add to its Agenda the matter of “Item 9.3 Valley Air District Notice of Violation and Proposed Settlement” and that pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2) that (i) there is a need to take immediate action on this new matter and (ii) the need for action came to the attention of the District subsequent to posting of the Agenda for September 14 meeting. Director **Astiasuain** seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – ACTION**

4.1. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation, Government Code 54956.9(d)(1) – Board of Directors will confer with counsel for possible action regarding *Kings River Water Association, et al. v. James Verboon, et al.*

4.2. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Anticipated Litigation, Government Code 54956.9(d)(2) – Board of Directors will confer with counsel for possible action on potential litigation arising out of claims by third parties to water rights on the Kings River. (1 case)

4.3. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Anticipated Litigation, Government Code 54956.9(d)(2) – Board of Directors will confer with counsel for possible action on potential litigation arising out of claim(s) by landowner(s) from seepage from District canals. (1 case)

**5. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – ACTION**

5.1. Announcement(s) from Closed Session. The Board of Directors reconvened into open session with no reportable action taken in closed session.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 6.1. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Workshop hosted by the Department of Water Resources – Department of Water Resources will be hosting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan workshop on September 20, 2017, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Clovis Veterans Memorial Building.

## 7. BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

- 7.1. Kings River Water Association (KRWA) Executive Committee – None.
- 7.2. Other Organizations and Items of Interest – None.

## 8. WATER MANAGEMENT – REVIEW AND CONSIDER FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- 8.1. Pine Flat Storage Report - District's current storage is about 59, 000 acre-feet with approximately 582,000 acre-feet behind Pine Flat Dam. In order to avoid a flood release during the month of November, the storage in Pine Flat needs to be about 525,000 acre-feet. The US Army Corp of Engineers will allow additional water in Pine Flat if vacant space in available in upstream reservoirs, Wishon and Courtright. **(INSERT 68A)**
- 8.2. Precipitation Summary – There was no precipitation for the month of August.
- 8.3. Monthly Headgate Diversions – Volume of water delivered into Alta, though the Frankwood Avenue headgate, for August was about 44,000 acre-feet.
- 8.4. Monthly Water Banking Report – Water Banking Report was reviewed and included as an addendum to the minutes. Seepage sites (2) have recaptured, from high water table areas, about 600 acre-feet since January 2017.
- 8.5. Water Run Update – General Manager mentioned that water run may be able to continue until the next Board meeting, October 12<sup>th</sup>, but that greater than anticipate use of surface water and low inflow into Pine Flat may require an earlier end to water run. Based on the current surface water usage rate, the District is projected to end the 2017 water year will about 22,000 acre-feet in storage. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Astiasuain/Marshall** to approve water run through the October 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and that the General Manager would have the discretion to end water run sooner if supply is not adequate to support demand and other environmental water obligations.

## 9. ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL – ACTION

- 9.1. Board Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2017. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Brandt/Astiasuain** to approve the minutes as written.
- 9.2. Claims. No update
- 9.3. Budget.
  - 9.3.1. 2018 Water Charges and Assessment. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Marshall/Brandt** to approve and adopt resolution not to increase the surface water

surcharge beyond is current rate of \$4.75 per acre-foot of measured water and to not change assessment rates for the five (5) entitlement categories. All rates include a flat Groundwater Charge of \$8.45 per acre; approved assessment rates for the 2018 Water Year are:

100% Land	\$19.95 per acre	
75% Land	\$17.08 per acre	
50% Land	\$14.20 per acre	
25% Land	\$11.33 per acre	
Groundwater Only	\$8.45 per acre	<b>(INSERT 69A)</b>

9.3.2. Non-Union Employee Pay Rate. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Marshall/Brandt** to approve a pay rate increase of 1.5% for non-union employees, which is similar to the rate negotiated with union employees, effective October 1, 2017.

9.3.3. Operating Budget and Capital Purchases. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Brandt/Tout** to approve the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as written. **(INSERT 69B)**

9.4. Warrants. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Marshall/Brandt** to approve payments of the August 2017 warrants. **(INSERT 69C)**

9.5. Collector's Report. Review and sign report summarizing business transacted since previous month. No action taken. **(INSERT 69D)**

9.6. Treasurer's Report. As of 8/31/2017 the Treasurer's General Fund Balance was \$763,570 plus \$241,874 in A/R, inventory and deposits, less allocated and restricted reserves of \$891,000 leaving a project balance in operational reserves of \$114,444 for the fiscal year ending 8/31/2017. As of 8/31/2017 the LAIF account balance was \$556,247 earning interest at a rate of 1.08%. **(INSERT 69E)**

9.7. Personnel. District Vacation Policy limits vacation accruals taken into the next fiscal year to one year of accruals. Since water run extended into the 2018 Fiscal Year, employees were not able to use their vacation time prior to this deadline. So, staff recommended employees be granted a 30-day grace period on vacation utilization. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Brandt/Astiasuain** to extend the vacation grace period for 30 days. **(INSERT 69F)**

9.8. Valley Air District Notice of Violation and Proposed Settlement. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) issued a burn violation to the District for debris burning at Harder Pond. The large debris pile consisted of grape stakes, landscape cuttings, and other materials that were not placed by or set on fire by the District. According to the Air District, a underlying landowner is responsible for material burning on their property irrespective of who physically dumped the materials. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Brandt/Astiasuain** to pay the fine, \$1,500, in accordance with CH&SC § 42400.7, paying of

a civil penalty precludes further prosecution for this violation. District staff will follow-up the adjacent landowner on this issue.

## 10. CURRENT PROJECTS – REVIEW AND CONSIDER FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- 10.1. Avenue 416 Widening (City of Dinuba, Rd 56 to Rd 80; 9914 & 9889a). No update.
- 10.2. Avenue 416 Widening (Tulare Co – Caesar/AB Clark 9922 & 9923). No update.
- 10.3. Reedley Pond (Floral and Reed; 9917). No update.
- 10.4. Mt. Campbell Pipeline (Caltrans; 7025). General Manager and the District Engineer met with Caltrans and reviewed a District comment letter and identified other requirements need before the District signs any plans. General Manager explained that Caltrans's system is not setup to handle escrow accounts and as such requests that the Board approve a variance from District policy whereby construction funds are deposited with the District directly. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Marshall/Brandt** to require Caltrans to pay 100 percent of the construction cost upfront to the District in case contractor fails to complete the work.
- 10.5. Road D39 Bridge (Traver, 9926). General Manager mentioned that staff and the District Engineer are working with the County to resolve issues raised in the District's comment letter.
- 10.6. Parlier Avenue Bridge (Traver; 9928). No update.
- 10.7. Lincoln Avenue Bridge (Traver; 9929). No update.
- 10.8. Englehart Avenue Bridge (Reedley Main; 9930). No update.
- 10.9. Randle Avenue Widening (Nuss, 9937). No update.
- 10.10. Nebraska Bridge (Traver, 9936). No update.
- 10.11. Frankwood Avenue Bridge (Alta Main; 9931). General Manager explained that the District will be issuing a comment letter to the Fresno County on this project; proposed bridge location is too close to the headgate structure and would hinder future rehabilitation. There was no Board action on this item.
- 10.12. DUSD Alta-Kamm High School (Dinuba Town, Burum; 9932). Review and discuss for possible action approval of comments from DUSD on an engineering services agreement to determine the minimum required pipeline diameters for Dinuba Town and Burum as part of the mitigation requirements for the new school.
- 10.13. Manning Bridge (Traver; 9933). No update.
- 10.14. Cutler-Orosi Joint USD Sports Complex (Orosi School House). No update.
- 10.15. Jack Ditch Encroachment (Peters; 7036). No update.

10.16. Cutler-Orosi Surface Water Treatment Plant (8875). No update.

10.17. Kings River East GSA. No update.

## 11. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – TAKE ACTION

- 11.1. Bridge Policy. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Halford/Astiasuain** to approve a two-tiered fee scheduled for capturing additional costs associated the District staff's involvement in public and private canal crossings. Public crossings will include an initial deposit of \$5,000 of which up to \$3,500 could be refunded if the plans are well prepared and District involvement is limited. The fee for private crossings remains unchanged at \$1,500 per crossing.

(INSERT 71A)

## 12. INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S) – CONSIDER FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

12.1. Nitrate Study. Kings River Water Quality Coalition has additional money set aside for a second round of testing on wells that participated in the isotope study. District staff developed a revised water quality testing consent form and will issue a new letter to those that participated in the first study to participate in the second study as well.

12.2. Legislative.

12.2.1. ACWA Legislative Committee – Senate Bill (SB) 623 is a two-year bill. SB 252 was edited down to only require noticing of drilling with the understanding the GSAs will be addressing groundwater pumping as a part of SGMA compliance.

12.2.2. Valley Ag Water Coalition

12.2.3. Kings River Water Association Legislative Committee – see item 12.2.1

12.3. Federal Legislation Regarding Waters of the United States (WOTUS) – no update

12.4. Manager's Report – no update

## 13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

Sincerely,

Alta Irrigation District

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Chad B. Wegley,  
Secretary  
CBW:mz