

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

289 North L Street, Dinuba, CA (559) 591-0800

MINUTES

Per Executive Order N-29-20, which allows local and state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically, this Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Alta Irrigation District

*was held via telephone conference call on
Thursday, August 13, 2020*

and was accessed as follows:

Teleconference Number (559) 823-8500

The public participated in the meeting as otherwise permitted under the Brown Act by calling into this telephone number.

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Roll Call – The Regular Board meeting for Alta Irrigation District was called to order at 9:47 a.m. by President Jack Brandt. Members present were Daniel Astiasuain, Jerry Halford, John Kalendar, Tom Marshall, Marco Rinaldi, and Larry Tout. Others present were General Manager Chad Wegley, Operations Manager Marc Limas, Engineer Jim Wegley, and Attorneys Doug B. Jensen and Lauren D. Layne. Attorney Joe Hughes joined closed session for item 9.3. There were two members of the public present.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Jason Vivian from County of Tulare mentioned he is waiting for a concurrence letter from the District regarding the Avenue 424 bridge project at Traver Canal. This concurrence letter is the final piece to move this project forward. The District will review and transmit a letter by next week.

3. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDA – Item 6.2 is deleted from agenda.

4. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR – It was M/S by Kalendar/Rinaldi that consent calendar items be approved as presented. Vote was taken by roll call and results were as follows: Director Kalendar aye, Director Rinaldi aye, President Brandt aye, Vice President Marshall aye, Director Astiasuain aye, Director Halford aye, Director Tout aye. The motion passed unanimously.

5.1. Board Meeting Minutes for Regular Board Meeting of July 9, 2020.

- 5.2. Approve Payment of the July 2020 Warrants. (Insert 5.2)
- 5.3. Collector's Report for July 2020. (Insert 5.3)
- 5.4. Conflict of Interest Code. Approve revised Conflict of Interest Code and authorize its submittal to the FPPC. (Insert 5.4)
- 5.5. James & Betty Jean Spitze Encroachment 10402002 (Mt. Campbell Ditch). Approve one (1) District standard encroachment agreement on Mt. Campbell Ditch.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL

- 6.1. Treasurer's Report. It was M/S by Astiasuain/Tout to accept report summarizing balances in or projected for the General Fund, A/R, restricted reserves, and operational reserves for the months of March, April, May, June, & July 2020. Vote was taken by roll call and results were as follows: Director Astiasuain aye, Director Tout aye, President Brandt aye, Vice President Marshall aye, Director Halford aye, Director Kalendar aye, Director Rinaldi aye. The motion passed unanimously. (Insert 6.1)
- 6.2. Investment Policy. Review and consider approving revised Investment Policy. Deleted from agenda and will be added to next month's agenda.

7. WATER MANAGEMENT – Review and take action as appropriate.

- 7.1. Water Run Update – General Manager Wegley reported that the District's Kings River diversions varied from about 710 cfs to 735 cfs during past couple of months. Next week, the District will ramp down deliveries to landowners in the upper portion of the District while those landowners further south will remain online to account for impacts caused by a delayed startup of East Branch. This year's brief water run served as a reminder about the importance of modified water system operations implemented during 2017 and 2019 water runs that resulted in diversion of an additional 100,000 acre-feet of water; total headgate diversion for the 2019 water run was the fifth largest (about 251,400 acre-feet) since completion of Pine Flat Dam. This dry water year will also provide the District with an opportunity to observe the functionality of Cobbles Weir and its impact on diversions into 76 Channel during low flow conditions in the Kings River.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- 8.1. Manager's Report. General Manager Wegley reported on ongoing maintenance activities occurring throughout the District. Key activities this past month included 1) mechanical weed removal and plowing portions of Kirk, Reo, and Parks Ditches, 2) repair of two (2) sections of 24-inch diameter pipe along with an air vent on Reo Pipeline, and 3) replacing another damaged section of PIP 80 plastic pipe on the West Gould Drain with a thicker class (SDR-26) plastic pipe. Other issues highlighted by the General Manager included: increased investment (\$50,000 in chemicals) in the spray program, upcoming field inspections of a crack in a piped section of Tout Ditch that caused a wash in at the headage and a damaged air vent on Dinuba Town near Ruiz Foods, retirement of Stan Sasaki, current superintendent, at the end of this month, and development of a signage policy.

9. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – President Brandt adjourned to closed session at 10:30 a.m. to confer with counsel and items listed below. Attorney Joe Hughes joined closed session for discussion on item 9.3. Attorneys Doug B. Jensen and Lauren D. Layne joined closed session for discussion on items 9.1 and 9.2 and items 9.4-9.8.

- 9.1. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing 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.*
- 9.2. 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)
- 9.3. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation, Government Code §54956.9(d)(1). Board of Directors will meet in closed session to confer with counsel regarding *Kings River Water Association v. R.D. #761, et al.*
- 9.4. 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 unauthorized encroachment(s) into District canal. (1 case)
- 9.5. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation, Government Code §54956.9(d)(1). Board of Directors will confer with counsel for possible action regarding *Jesse Alvarado v. Alta Irrigation District Case # ADJ9776072*.
- 9.6. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation, Government Code §54956.9(d)(1). Board of Directors will confer with counsel for possible action regarding *James Irrigation District v. Kings River Water Association (Fresno Co. Case #19CECG00769)*.
- 9.7. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Threatened Litigation, Government Code §54956.9(d)(2). Board of Directors will confer with counsel for possible action on potential litigation. (1 case)
- 9.8. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation, Government Code §54956.9(d)(1). Board of Directors will meet in closed session to confer with counsel regarding *County of Fresno v. Alta Irrigation District, et al.*

10. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – The Board reconvened into open session at 11:08 a.m. with no reportable action taken in closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m. until the next schedule meeting on September 10, 2020.

Sincerely,

Chad B. Wegley, Secretary

CBW:ml