

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, September 10, 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 9:32 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. There were two members of the public present.

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

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Wyatt Fulbright provided reasons why the District should consider annexing his property, located on Highway 180 east of the Alta Main Canal, into the District for the purpose of receiving surface water on his parcel.

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

5.1. Board Meeting Minutes for Regular Board Meeting and Board of Equalization Meeting of August 13, 2020.

- 5.2. Approve Payment of the August 2020 Warrants. (Insert 5.2)
- 5.3. Collector's Report for August 2020. (Insert 5.3)
- 5.4. West Star Construction Encroachment 10251901 (Buttonwillow Ditch). Approve five (5) District standard encroachment agreements on Buttonwillow Ditch.
- 5.5. City of Reedley Encroachment 10251901 (Buttonwillow Pipeline). Approve one (1) District standard encroachment agreement on Buttonwillow Pipeline.
- 5.6. Cutler Public Utility District Discharge of Potable Water into Orosi School House Ditch. Approve discharge of potable water by Cutler Public Utility District into Orosi School House Ditch.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL

- 6.1. Treasurer's Report. As of August 31, 2020, the cash balance is \$2,360,444.76 and of that \$107,238 is deposited in LAIF, earning an interest rate of 0.8%. Accounts Receivable and Inventory total approximately \$272,033. Current year revenue and expenses are approximately \$3,655,788 and \$2,986,497 respectively, resulting in a net cash flow of about \$671,541. (Insert 6.1) It was M/S by Marshall/Kalendar to accept the August 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report. Vote was taken by roll call and results were as follows: Vice President Marshall aye, Director Kalendar aye, President Brandt aye, Director Astiasuain aye, Director Halford aye, Director Rinaldi aye, Director Tout aye. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6.2. Drug and Alcohol Policy for Safety Sensitive Employees. Review and consider approving Drug and Alcohol Policy for Safety Sensitive Employees. 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 water run officially ends today. Water will be cut at Pine Flat Dam at 12:00 p.m., Cobbles headgate will close at 2:00 p.m., and the Frankwood headgate will close at 4:00 p.m. Unique challenges this year required the District to implement a never-tested operational scheme that resulted in water level fluctuations varying from normal conditions to a dry channel. Water level fluctuation may have been attributed to one or more of the following items: 1) leaky canal gates (Traver Canal headgate leakage was about 20% or more of the Kings River diversion rate), 2) water theft, 3) mismanaged water, 4) poor data, and 5) greater than anticipated canal seepage.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- 8.1. Manager's Report. General Manager Wegley reported on ongoing maintenance activities occurring throughout the District. The D5 bulldozer was out of commission for 1½ months,

which delayed the start of plowing small ditches. The first ditches plowed after water run were East and West Sections 20; weeds in these ditches were so dense water could not flow past them. Maintenance crews have also cleaned around date palms along the east bank of Dinuba Town. The upcoming maintenance season will focus on repairs/replacement of pipelines, miscellaneous concrete repair work on check structure to prevent premature failure, and installing concrete curbs on select reaches of concrete lining.

9. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – President Brandt adjourned to closed session at 10:09 a.m. to confer with counsel and items listed below. There will be no discussion on item 9.3.

- 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 10:36 a.m. with no reportable action taken in closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. until the next scheduled meeting on October 8, 2020.

Sincerely,

Chad B. Wegley, Secretary

CBW:ml