REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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

Thursday, January 09, 2025

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Roll Call – The Regular Board Meeting of Alta Irrigation District was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by President Jack Brandt. Members present were Domenic Fino, Jerry Halford, John Kalender, Elliott Rossotti, and Larry Tout. Member Christopher "C.J." Myers was absent. Others present were General Manager Chad Wegley, Operations Manager Marc Limas, Engineer Jim Wegley, and Attorney Lauren D. Layne.

1.2. Potential Conflict(s) of Interest – Director Fino declared a financial conflict of interest on items 12.1 and 12.5 and will leave the room for those items. Director Kalender declared a conflict of interest on item 12.3 as it involves his employer and will leave the room for that item.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Attorney Layne introduced Brianna Bosch, an intern with her office. Tracy with Booth Ranches introduced herself.

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

3.1. Water Conditions Update. General Manager Wegley explained that Alta ID has not received any precipitation since November 2024. On January 5th there was about 457,000 acre-feet (AF) in storage behind Pine Flat Dam and approximately 28,300 AF or 6% belonged to Alta ID. Inflow into Pine Flat was about 460 cubic feet per second (cfs), an increase of nearly 35 cfs from the previous month. Outflow from Pine Flat was nearly 150 cfs and will likely fluctuate between 140 to 160 cfs for the remainder of January 2025 and into February, absent significant rainfall on the valley floor. The water conditions updated was added as an addendum to the minutes. (Insert 3.1)

4. MAINTENANCE – Review and take action as appropriate.

4.1. Maintenance Activity Update. General Manager Wegley provided an update on ongoing and upcoming maintenance activities. District staff continues to work on new gate installations, with a goal of installing over 30 gates this maintenance season. After removing trees from canal banks of the Reedley Main, the dual side blade bulldozer was used to restore the canal prism south of American Avenue to a shape not seen in over 50 years. Staff continue to utilize both the mini excavator and backhoe to re-establish the canal prism for that portion of the Sontag Ditch upstream of Check 5, as the ditch is still full of water. General Manager Wegley built a tire drag from used off-road tires and cleaned nearly 6 miles of O&M roads. Tire drag was tested at 7 different locations, each with varying levels of weed overgrowth. The cumulative cleaning time was equivalent to about three 8-hr workdays – previously, a similar

effort would have taken at least 2 years. Staff also completed the rehabilitation of a half check structure on Banks Ditch west of Elkhorn Dairy. Two additional half check structures on Banks Ditch will be rehabilitated this maintenance season. Pre-emergent is being applied to O&M roads as part of the District's proactive weed abatement program. The Maintenance Activity Update was added as an addendum to the minutes. (Insert 4.1)

5. **ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDA** – It was M/S/C unanimously (Myers absent) on a motion by Director Kalender, seconded by Director Tout, to add item 10.4 to the agenda, based on the District becoming aware of the variance request within in the last twenty-four hours and immediate action needs to be taken to prevent the project from stalling.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR** – It was M/S/C unanimously (Myers absent) on a motion by Vice President Halford, seconded by Director Rossotti, that consent calendar items be approved as presented.

   7.1. Board Meeting Minutes for Regular Board Meeting of December 12, 2024.

   7.2. Assessment & Water Surcharge Collections Report for December 2024. (Insert 7.2)

   7.3. Approve Payment of the December 2024 Warrants. (Insert 7.3)

   7.4. Encroachment Agreement (SCE 11042401 Banks). Review and consider approving one (1) District Standard Encroachment Agreement.

8. **ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL**

   8.1. Treasurer's Report. As of December 31, 2024, the cash balance is $6,956,055.28. Accounts Receivable and Inventory total approximately $3,749,199. The current year's revenue and expenses are approximately $5,230,010 and $725,175, respectively, resulting in a net cash flow of approximately $4,659,364. (Insert 8.1) It was M/S/C unanimously (Myers absent) on a motion by Vice President Halford, seconded by Director Kalender, to accept the December 2024 Treasurer's Report.

   8.2. Monthly Report of Reserve Accounts, Unrestricted Funds, and Status of Investments. It was M/S/C unanimously (Myers absent) on a motion by Director Rossotti, seconded by Director Kalender to accept the Monthly Report of Reserve Accounts, Unrestricted Funds, and Status of Investments for the month of December 2024. (Insert 8.2)

9. **CURRENT PROJECTS – Information Items Only; No Action Will be Taken**

   9.1. Pipeline Development Agreement (San Joaquin Valley Homes – Horseman 10022401). Developer's engineer is updating plans for off-site irrigation facilities based on comments provided by the District during its last plan review.

   9.2. Encroachment (City of Dinuba – Dinuba Town 10092201). No update.

   9.3. Encroachment (City of Dinuba – Dinuba Town & Burum 10092302). No update.

9.4. Encroachment (City of Dinuba – Smith Mountain 10092402). No update.

9.5. Encroachment (City of Dinuba – Haymaker 10092403). No update.

9.6. Avenue 376 Bridge (Tulare County – Traver 10131901). No update.

9.7. Avenue 430 Bridge (Tulare County - Buttonwillow 10132201). No update.

9.8. Pipeline Development & Encroachments (Century Homes - Buttonwillow 10251901). General Manager Wegley explained that a letter was issued November 2024, stating that the pipe submittal was inadequate and that the submittal must include information about pressure classification. The letter also included other comments, noting that the District had not received submittals for the manhole/air vent, "T"-vent, and prefabricated elbow. Additionally, a supplemental letter was issued on January 8th, which contained further comments on improvement plans and included a standard detail for handrailing.

9.9. Encroachment (PG&E – Wilson, Dinuba Town, & Van Noy 10322102). General Manager Wegley explained PG&E requested a meeting with the District to discuss right-of-way issues.

9.10. Encroachment (PG&E – Traver Canal 10322103). No update.

9.11. Encroachment (PG&E – East Branch 10322304). No update.

9.12. Encroachment (PG&E – Dinuba Town 10322401). No update.

9.13. Encroachment (PG&E – Clements 10322402). No update.

9.14. Encroachment (PG&E – Carey Hunter 10322403). No update.

9.15. Encroachment (PG&E – Wilson 10322404). No update.

9.16. Alternate Turnout (David TeVelde – Barlow 10362401). No update.

9.17. Bridge Crossing (James & Betty Spitze – Mt. Campbell 10402002). No update.

9.18. Encroachment (Frontier Communications – Curtis Cutoff 10462401). No update.

9.19. Bridge Crossing (Smith Mountain Estates, LLC – Smith Mountain 10502001). No update.

9.20. Parlier Avenue Bridge (Fresno County – Traver 10532101). No update.

9.21. Englehart Bridge (Fresno County – Reedley Main 10532102). No update.

9.22. Alta Avenue Bridge (Fresno County – Traver 10532103). No update.

9.23. Manning Avenue Bridge (Fresno County – Traver 10532104). No update.

9.24. Lincoln Avenue Bridge (Fresno County – Traver 10532105). No update.

9.25. Encroachment (Megalodon Properties LLC – Buttonwillow Pipeline 10642101). No update.

9.26. Encroachment (MBN Homes LLC – Horseman Ditch 10652101). No update.

9.27. Pipeline Development & Encroachments (Dinuba Unified School District – Dinuba Town & Burum 10682201). General Manager Wegley explained that the District issued another comment letter, stating that the flow meter vault submittal was once again incomplete because it lack documentation from the engineer-of-record. This is not the first time a submittal was rejected due to the absence of proof that the engineer-of-record reviewed the

submittal.

9.28. Encroachment (AT&T – Smith Mountain Pipeline 10692201). No update.

9.29. Pipeline Development (Castle Rock Development – Nuss Ditch 10702201). No update.

9.30. Encroachment (Steven Boos – Buttonwillow 10872302). No update.

9.31. Encroachment (Cutler-Orosi Unified School District – Orosi School House 10882301). No update.

9.32. Alternate Turnout (Gerben Leyendekker – Carey Hunter 10902401). No update.

9.33. Alternate Turnout (Gerben Leyendekker – Banks 10902402). No update.

9.34. Alternate Turnout (Smittcamp Ag Enterprises – Carey Hunter 10912401). No update.

9.35. Encroachment (Otani Properties – West Reedley 10932401). No update.

9.36. Pipeline Development (Family Healthcare Network – Orosi School House 10962401). No update.

9.37. Pipeline Development (BN Dinuba, LP – Horseman 10992401). General Manager Wegley explained that the District will send letters to landowners who are served by the private irrigation line affected by the proposed development. The letter will clarify that the District is not responsible for private irrigation lines and that landowners must work directly with the developer to address impacts.

9.38. Encroachment (DR Horton – Buttonwillow 11002401). No update.

9.39. Encroachment (SCE – Banks 11042401). No update.

9.40. Alternate Turnout (HJ Ventures – Wilson 11052401). No update.

10. NEW BUSINESS – Review and take action as appropriate.

10.1. Real Property Purchase APN 043-020-025. It was M/S/C unanimously (Myers absent) on a motion by Director Fino, seconded by Director Kalender, to adopt Resolution R2025-0101 approving the purchase of APN 043-020-025 and authorizing the President and Secretary to sign necessary documents and close escrow on property. (Insert 10.1)

10.2. 2025 Ford F-150 Purchase. It was M/S/C unanimously (Myers absent) on a motion by Vice President Halford, seconded by Director Rossotti, to approve purchasing four (4) 2025 Ford F-150 trucks through National Auto Fleet Group under Sourcewell Contract 091521-NAF. (Insert 10.2)

10.3. IBank Loan Documents. It was M/S/C unanimously (Myers absent) on a motion by Director Rossotti, seconded by Director Kalender, to approve IBank Loan Documents for Traver North Recharge Project, subject to legal review, and authorize the President and Secretary to sign loan documents. (Insert 10.3)

10.4. City of Dinuba Request for Separation Variance. The city of Dinuba submitted a variance request to the District for casings that will contain sewer trunk lines crossing

beneath the piped segment of Horseman Ditch in Sierra Way, west of Englehart Avenue. The primary reason for this variance request is to allow open channel flow conditions in the main sewer trunk lines, thus eliminating the need for a multi-pump lift station large enough to handle all the city's wastewater flows. It was M/S/C unanimously (Myers absent) on a motion by Vice President Halford, seconded by Director Tout to grant the City of Dinuba a separation variance of 6 inches between the largest protrusion on the casings and the pipeline for Horesman Ditch. (Insert 10.4)

11. OLD BUSINESS

11.1. Manager's Report. General Manager Wegley provided a summary of Kings River East GSA's activities, highlighting the success of Alta Irrigation District's Functional Aquifer Recharge Management (FARM) program. KREGSA issued a request for proposals for professional services to help develop an assessment/rate structure(s) to fund the agency and other groundwater sustainable management activities. Proposals are due mid-January 2025. Launched in 2017, the FARM program benefit is equivalent to building 500 acres of recharge basins, resulting in tens of millions of dollars in cost savings to landowners. District staff commented on both the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the Periodic Evaluation. Additionally, a general overview was provided about the potential options for a water allocation framework for the Kings Subbasin. The Manager's Report was added as an addendum to the minutes. (Insert 11.1)

11.2. Surface Water Utilization Projects. Review and take action as appropriate.

11.2.1. Traver North Recharge Basin – No update.

11.3. Attorney's Report. Attorney Layne discussed Public Agency updates for 2025 and trainings that Baker Manock and Jensen has scheduled for Public Agency Board members.

11.4. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports. Review and take action as appropriate.

11.4.1. Maintenance Ad-Hoc Committee – no update.

11.4.2. Public Relations Ad-Hoc Committee – no update.

President Brandt called a recess at 11:15 a.m. President Brandt reconvened the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

12. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – President Brandt adjourned to closed session at 11:23 a.m. to confer with counsel. There will be no discussion on item 12.1. Director Fino declared a financial conflict of interest on items 12.1 and 12.5 and left the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Director Kalender declared a conflict of interest on item 12.3 and left the room from 11:32 a.m. to 11:38 a.m. President Brandt called a recess at 11:51 a.m. and reconvened closed session at 12:05 p.m.

12.1. 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*.

12.2. Conference with Real Property Negotiators.
Property: 043-020-025

Agency Negotiator: Chad Wegley
Negotiating Parties: Mark & Janet Laemmlen
Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment

12.3. 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 from seepage along District canal. (2 cases)

12.4. 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. (2 cases)

12.5. 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. (3 cases)

13. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – The Board reconvened into open session at 12:41 with no reportable action taken during closed session.

14. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, President Brandt adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m. until the next scheduled meeting on February 13, 2025.

Sincerely,

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Chad B. Wegley, Secretary

CBW:ml