



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PICO WATER DISTRICT**

4843 S. Church Street
Pico Rivera, California, 90660

6:00 PM Wednesday, March 17, 2021

AGENDA

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-25-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 12, 2020, any Board member and any member of the public who desires to participate in the open session items of this meeting may do so by accessing the Zoom link below to join by webcam or teleconference without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconference requirements.

Any member of the public wishing to make any comments to the Board may do so through that Zoom link. The meeting Chair will acknowledge such individual(s) at the appropriate time in the meeting prior to making his or her comment. Members of the public wishing to make a comment are asked to state their name for the record and will be provided three (3) minutes to comment, the Board secretary will alert those commenting when they only have 30 seconds remaining. All members of the public will be disconnected from the Zoom link immediately before the Board of Directors adjourns into Closed Session.

<https://zoom.us/j/9521779948?pwd=dGNxcXh3YitEc2NlVVdrUzVvNm4rZz09>

Join by Telephone: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 952 177 9948

Passcode: 421745

1. **ROLL CALL.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE.**

3. **INVOCATION.**

4. **TIME RESERVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

*Members of the public shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board on any matter on the agenda and/or within the jurisdiction of the District, which is not on the Agenda. All comments should be addressed to the presiding officer of the meeting. Additional public comments shall be allowed when a listed agenda item is being considered, but such comments made at that time must be confined to the subject that is being discussed at the time such comments are made. Members of the public are asked to state their name for the record. Due to all Board Meetings being run as Zoom Meetings all participants will be placed on mute at the start of the meeting and when the meeting is open for public comment the participant will be asked to raise their hand through the button on the video conference screen if participating by video conference or by pressing *9 on their phone if participating by teleconference.*

5. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA.**

6. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR.**

(All matters on the Consent Calendar are to be approved on one motion, unless a Board Member requests a separate action on a specific item).

- A. Consider February 3, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. Consider the February Financial Statement.

7. **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

- A. Consider Work at Well 11 to Set and Install an Automatic Transfer Switch to Switch from Edison Supplied Power to Emergency Backup Generator Power During a Power Outage. *Recommended Action – that the Board approve the proposal by Hunter Electric.*

8. **REPORTS.**

- A. General Manager.
- B. Legal Counsel.

9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- A. Production & Water Level Report.

- B. Monthly Activity Report.
 - C. Reservoir Conditions – February 9, 2021 and March 11, 2021.
 - D. Lagerlof, LLP Support letters for AB 703 and SB 323.
10. **DIRECTOR'S REQUEST OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**
11. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS.**
- A. Report on Meetings Attended/Comments.
12. **ADJOURNMENT.**

AGENDA POSTED ON: March 12, 2021

Next regularly scheduled meeting: April 7, 2021

NOTE: To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in any Board meeting, please contact the District office at (562) 692-3756 at least 48 hours prior to a Board meeting to inform the District of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public review at the District office, located at 4843 S. Church Street, Pico Rivera, California.

CONSENT ITEMS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PICO WATER DISTRICT
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AGENDA

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- A. Consider February 3, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. Consider the February Financial Statement.

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE PICO WATER DISTRICT

A Regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pico Water District was held in the District's Boardroom located at 4843 South Church Street, Pico Rivera, California, on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 6:01 p.m.

The District's Secretary/General Manager, Mr. Mark J. Grajeda proceeded with the roll call of the attending Board members. Present from the beginning of the meeting were President David R. Gonzales, while Director Pete Ramirez, Director Robert Martinez, and Vice President Victor Caballero participated telephonically, in adherence to social distancing. Director Raymond Rodriguez and Mr. Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel for the District participated electronically.

President Gonzales presided over the meeting and Director Ramirez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Rodriguez gave the invocation.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Public Comments. There were none.

President Gonzales proceeded to the adoption of the Agenda. Director Rodriguez made the motion to adopt the Agenda and Director Ramirez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Gonzales proceeded to the approval of the Consent Calendar. Director Caballero made the motion to approve and Director Ramirez seconded the motion. Legal Counsel stated a revision needs to be made to the 2/17/2021 minutes to reflect that the deadline for new bills in the Legislature is February 19, 2021 not February 26, 2021. The General Manager announced the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, discuss upcoming 95th Anniversary of Pico Water District. President Gonzales stated that whenever he is out and about the city, current and former residents always comment on the former water tower on Church Street. He was thinking of possibly a water tower paperweight to commemorate the 95th Anniversary. The General Manager stated that he believes that some sort of commemoration might be in order. After a brief discussion, the General Manager stated that he will work to find companies that the District can have design such an item.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, General Manager's report. Beverly Blvd. project – mainline, services and hydrants are active and Rosemead Blvd. is active as well. There is a hydrant on the northeast corner of Beverly Road at Rosemead that was discovered to be off the 6" main in Beverly and it will be tied in to the 12" main; Layman project – mainline is completely installed, pressurizing and testing should take place the week of March 8th and should be totally active a week after that; Stephens Street – still waiting on a proposal from Riverside Construction. They currently have the District's bid schedule and should have it back

int time for the next Board Meeting; the President has furnished committee assignments to all Directors and plans are to hold both Engineering and Administrative Committee meetings in the next couple of weeks; the District's Technical Report for the treatment of PFAS/PFOA was submitted to the Division of Drinking Water and they have returned it with their input and there will be some additional work that is required for Wells 5 and 8. The RFP for the treatment vessels and medias should be completed in the next couple of weeks as some fine tuning is required before it is released. The Division of Drinking Water is requiring a side-stream pilot testing device in order to monitor how long it takes for the removal of PFAS.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Legal Counsel report. Legal Counsel reported that February 19, 2021 was the deadline for bills to be introduced to the Legislature and a total of 2,369 bills were introduced this year. AB 339 – Brown Act bill requiring certain translation services at Board meetings and in printed materials; AB 361 – Brown Act bill that permanent video and tele-conferencing during proclaimed emergencies and certain other circumstances; another Brown Act bill authored by Assembly Member Blanco Rubio of San Gabriel Valley and sponsored by Three Valleys Water District would make video conferencing for meetings across the Board at any time; AB 995 – increasing the number of paid sick leave days required to be paid to employees; AB 1195 – introduced by Christina Garcia and would create a new water agency known as the Southern Los Angeles Regional Water Agency to act as a coordinating agency for water in the Central and West Basins. None of the water producers in the area were aware of it and Counsel has been involved in negotiations and redrafting items in the bill; AB 1435 – by Assembly Member Freedman reduces gallons per day per person standards; AB 1500 – a bond bill by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia is 6.7 billion bond dealing with climate and water issues; SB 45 – by Assembly Member Portantino 5.51 billion bond dealing with climate, wildfire and water issues; SB 222 – establishes low income rate assistance program statewide; SB 223 – a follow on to SB 998 would make further changes to discontinuation of water service for nonpayment; SB 274 – is another Brown Act bill that would allow agendas to be emailed. Legal Counsel then answered questions by the Directors.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Director's request for future agenda items. There were none.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Director report on meetings attended. There were none.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Director comments.

The Board retreated to closed session at 6:50 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Legal Counsel announced that the Board was briefed pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95, considered the Liability Claim presented on behalf of Tony Velasquez against the Pico Water District the Board voted unanimously to reject the claim and directed Legal Counsel a responding letter to Mr. Velasquez's attorney notifying him of the rejection of the claim and setting forth an offer for the District to limit its cost in work to only the related water installation work that was discussed with Mr. Velasquez and allow Mr. Velasquez to proceed on his own with respect to any repaving of the street that the City of Pico Rivera may require.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Board meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

David R. Gonzales, President

Attest:

Mark J. Grajeda, Secretary

(Seal)

**STAFF STRIVES TO PROVIDE
THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION
REGARDING THE DISTRICT'S
FINANCIAL POSITION
IN A TIMELY MANNER.
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, WE ARE UNABLE
TO CLOSE OUR BOOKS PRIOR TO THE
TENTH OF THE MONTH.**

**FEBRUARY 2021
FINANCIALS STATEMENTS
WILL BE DELIVERED
ON OR BEFORE
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021**

**ACTION/DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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4843 S. Church Street
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6:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 17, 2021

AGENDA

7. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- A. Consider Work at Well 11 to Set and Install an Automatic Transfer Switch to switch from Edison Supplied Power to Emergency Backup Generator Power During a Power Outage. *Recommended Action – that the Board approve the proposal by Hunter Electric.*

STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Board of Directors

From: Mark Grajeda, General Manager

Meeting Date: March 17, 2021

Subject: Action/Discussion Item 7B – Consider Work at Well 11 to Set and Install an Automatic Transfer Switch to Switch from Edison Supplied Power to Emergency Backup Generator Power During a Power Outage

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the proposal by Hunter Electric to supply all materials and labor to install a new automatic power transfer switch at Well 11 for a cost of \$23,722.84 and have the District purchase the automatic transfer switch panel for a cost of \$10,184.00 which does not include sales tax, and instruct the General Manager to sign the proposal. The total cost being proposed is \$33,906.84 and does not include the sales tax for the transfer switch.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this expense were not budgeted in this year's capital improvement project budget and will therefore come out of reserve funds that are currently at \$2.1 million.

BACKGROUND

This work being requested is the last stage needed in a long series of steps taken by the District to drill and equip a new well for the District – Well 11. On February 2, 2017 the Board approved a contract with Southwest Pump and Drilling, Inc. for the work to drill a new well, which was completed in the second quarter of 2018. On May 1, 2019 the District approved a contract with R.C. Foster to install all facilities needed to operate the new well; discharge piping, onsite landscaping and concrete work, build a new split face block well building, install all needed conduit, provide emergency generator concrete pad and install a new wrought iron fence on the west side of the property only.

This new well site is equipped to provide the District with a maximum of 2800 gallons per minute, which is capable of meeting the majority of the District's water demand needs 60 to 70 percent of the time. As Well 11 was placed fully into service last year one of the remaining issues was to install a backup emergency generator. The District has three generator it uses in the field for the wells, however one of the generators a C-15 Model 400KW weighs over 15 tons and cannot be transported by any of the vehicles owned and operated by the District. When this generator was purchased it was purchased as a mobile generator, installed on a trailer and

permitted with a requirement that the generator be moved around every six months. Whenever it was time for the generator to be moved the District would call Quinn Power Systems to come out and move the generator for the District. Based on the fact that the District developed Well 11 to be the District's primary well, staff further planned to have this large generator permitted as a permanent generator instead of a mobile generator. It has taken a great deal of time to receive the new permit and address all conditions as cited by the Air Quality Control Board which was completed late last year. The one remaining issue is to hook up the generator to the well's electrical panel so that when the utility side power goes off the generator would be turned on and power the well. The cost difference to setup the well with a manual switch over an automatic switch over is about \$15,000, and staff believes it is in the best interest of the District to have this well switch over automatically when there is a power outage instead of waiting for an event to occur and then have standby called to go to the site and switch power over.

The proposal provided by Hunter Electric is broken into three segments – cost of labor to install, cost for just the automatic transfer switch (ATS) panel and the cost of all other material incidentals needed to connect the ATS to both the generator and the main electrical panel. The District will be purchasing the ATS and Hunter Electric will be supplying both the labor and other materials. The ATS being purchased is by Eaton and comes with a NEMA 3R enclosure with a 2-door cabinet for security at a cost of \$10,184.00, we also received a proposal for an ABB Unit without a security door for \$12,677.00 and an ASCO Unit for \$16,644.00 with a security door. If approved the switch would take about 4 to 6 weeks to arrive.

Hunter Electric Service
Since 1989

27472 Portola Parkway #205
PMB 157
Foothill Ranch, Ca. 92610

Sam@hunterelectricservice.com
Ryan@hunterelectricservice.com

March 08, 2021

To Henry Barrientos
Reference: New Automatic Transfer Switch for well #11

Henry,

We would like to thank you for allowing us this opportunity to submit this proposal to you. Listed below is our scope and pricing.

1. Supply and install a new Eaton automatic transfer switch rated at 800amp. Switch will be equipped with the neutral position transition feature.
2. Supply and install conduit and wire from the Main Breaker section over to the transfer switch location.
3. Complete conduit installation from the transfer switch to the generator location.
4. Supply and install a termination panel located at the generator.
5. Supply the wire from the transfer switch to the generator termination panel.
6. Supply and install new cam lock male and females for the conductors leaving the termination panel and landing on the generator power terminals.
7. Supply material's to complete the conduit runs for the battery charger and block heater circuits
8. Supply wire for the battery charger and block heater circuits.
9. All labor to terminate and test.
10. Total cost of Labor \$ 8,536.32
11. Total Cost of Eaton Transfer Switch option \$ 10,184.00 (sales tax not included).
12. Total cost of all other work described above. \$ 15,186.52

We thank you again and if you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Sam Hunter



INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PICO WATER DISTRICT
4843 S. Church Street
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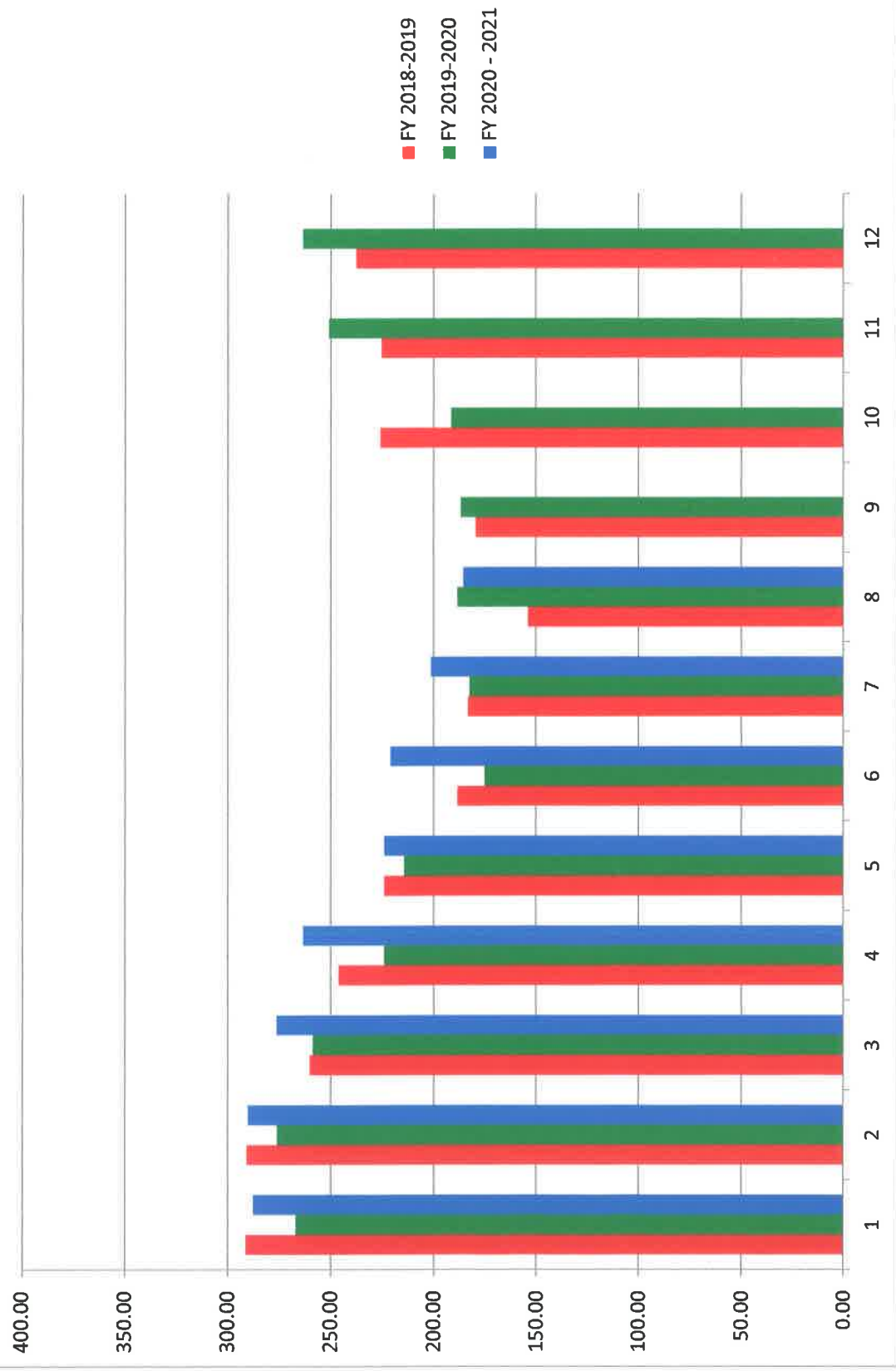
AGENDA

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- A. Production & Water Level Report.
- B. Monthly Activity Report.
- C. Reservoir Conditions – February 9, 2021 and March 11, 2021.
- D. Lagerlof, LLP Support letters for AB 703 and SB 323.

PWD Water Production per Fiscal Water Year

Acre Feet



WATER LEVELS REPORT

Water Levels for February 2021

Listed below are the water levels for the two key monitoring wells used by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD), and the District's active wells.

WRD is charged with monitoring the water levels in both the Central Basin and West Coast Basin, and with making sure both basins are replenished annually. As a means of monitoring the levels in both basins WRD measures the depth of water in two specific wells, 1601T located in between the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo spreading grounds, and the second Carson #1 located in the City of Carson. WRD compares the levels of these two wells month to month, and year to year as a means of gaging the reliability of both basins (levels listed are in feet below surface). As this report is specific to the Central Basin, we are only showing the Central Basin Monitoring Well results below.

	February 2021	February 2020
Central Basin 1601T	88.4	91.3

Listed below are the static and pumping levels (in feet below surface) for the District's five active wells, and pump settings (depth).

	February 2021		February 2020		
	<u>Static</u>	<u>Pumping</u>	<u>Static</u>	<u>Pumping</u>	<u>Pump depth</u>
Well #4	74	138	76	136	150
Well #5	102	109	121	127	242
Well #8	112	114	116	137	243
Well #10	60	76	66	90	182
Well #11	97	109	NA	NA	312

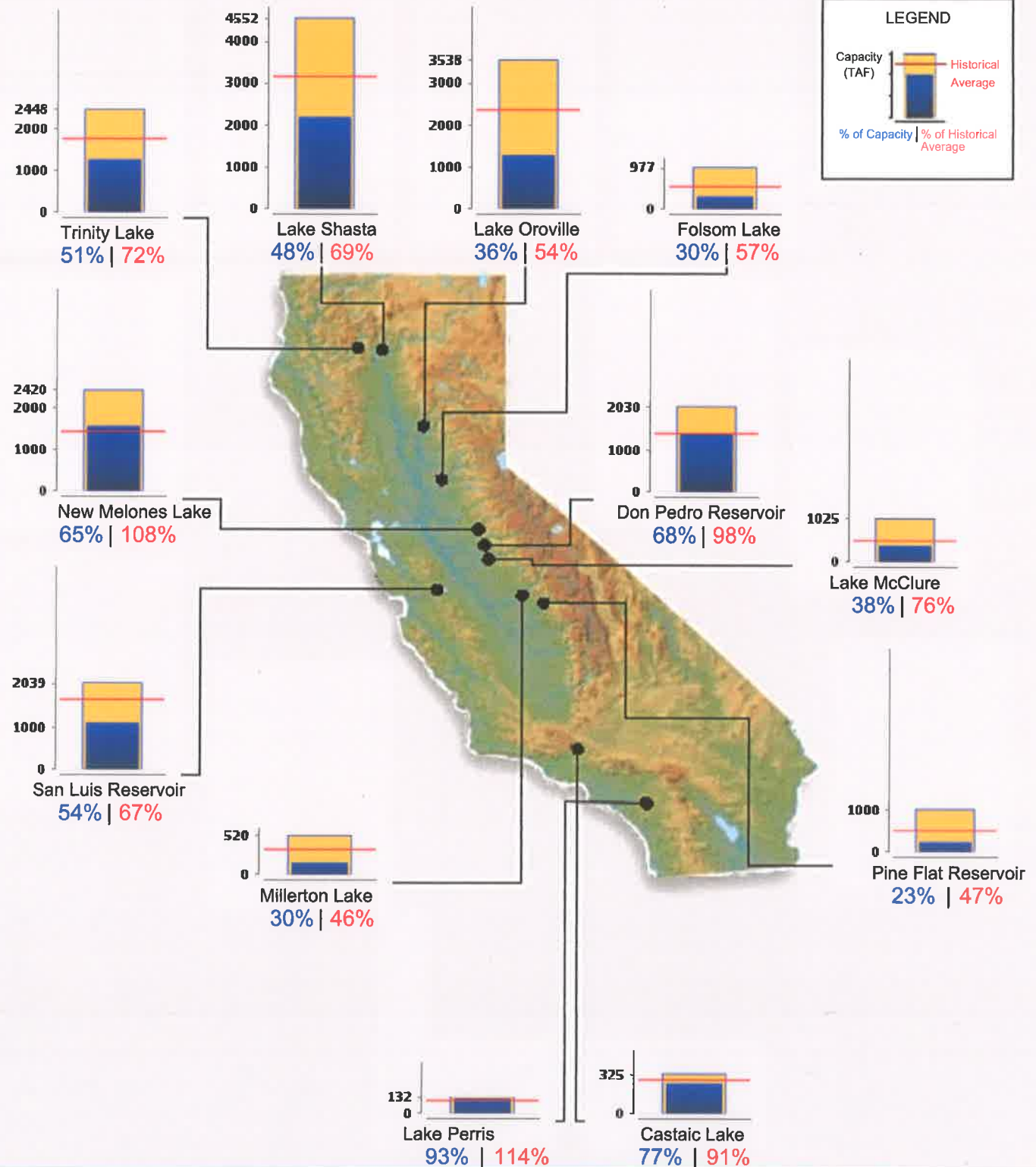
NOTE:



Reservoir Conditions

Ending At Midnight - February 9, 2021

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

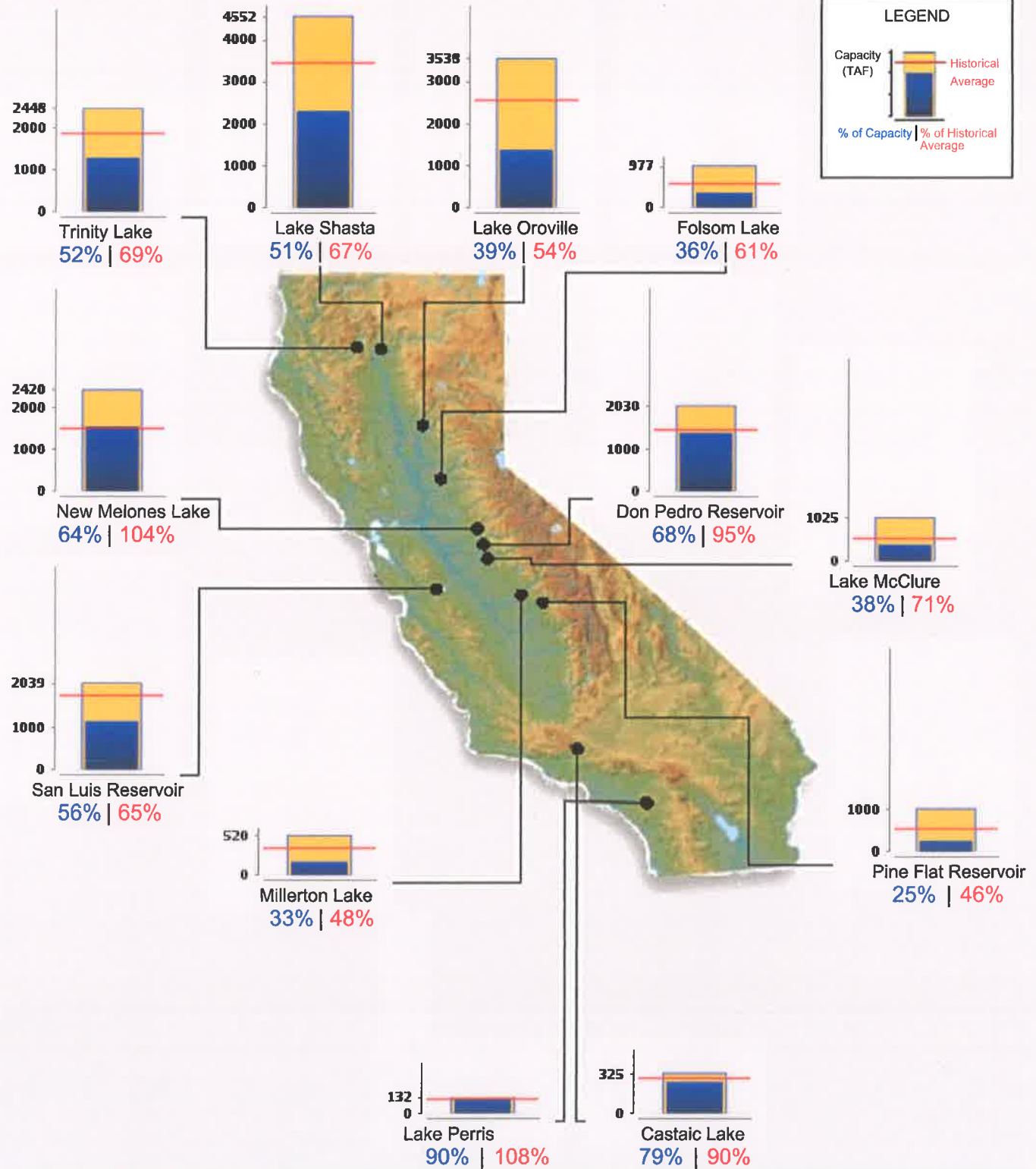




Reservoir Conditions

Ending At Midnight - March 11, 2021

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS





March __, 2021

Assembly Member Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5175
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0048

RE: Assembly Bill 703 (Rubio) – Support [As Introduced]

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

The Public Water Agencies Group¹ is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 703, related to enhancing public access through teleconferencing in a public meeting setting. This bill will be tremendously helpful to public agencies in complying with the Brown Act, while ensuring continued public access to their meetings.

As part of his response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 in March 2020 to expand public access to meetings of local agencies by suspending some of the restrictions on teleconferencing. Allowing local agencies to utilize teleconferencing and video conferences for meetings of the legislative body has enhanced public access and increased participation by the public.

When the Governor's Executive Order expires one day, local agencies will again be required to comply with antiquated provisions of existing law which make it much more difficult to hold meetings of the legislative body by teleconference. Current law refers to "teleconference locations" and requires various actions to be taken at "teleconference locations" by local governments wishing to teleconference meetings. Current law does not recognize that a teleconference location

¹ The Public Water Agencies Group is a non-profit mutual benefit corporation that consists of the following twenty (20) public water agencies and mutual water companies situated in Los Angeles County: Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company, Crescenta Valley Water District, Kinneloa Irrigation District, La Habra Heights County Water District, La Puente Valley County Water District, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, Montebello Land and Water Company, Palmdale Water District, Pico Water District, Quartz Hill Water District, Rowland Water District, Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association, San Gabriel County Water District, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, South Montebello Irrigation District, Sunny Slope Water Company, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Valencia Heights Water Company, Valley County Water District and Walnut Valley Water District.

Hon. Blanca Rubio
March __, 2021
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is now wherever there is a person with a computer, a tablet, or even a mobile phone. AB 703 thus provides much needed modernization of those aspects of the Brown Act.

AB 703 will eliminate the previously existing concept of “teleconference locations and will revise notice requirements to allow for greater public participation in teleconference meetings of local agencies. The bill does not require teleconferencing, rather it modernizes existing law to ensure greater public participation in meetings of the legislative bodies of local agencies who choose to utilize teleconferencing.

AB 703 also expresses legislative intent to improve and enhance public access to local agency meetings, consistent with the digital age, by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options consistent with the Governors Executive Order.

For these reasons, the Public Water Agencies Group is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 703 (Rubio). If you have questions about our position or would like to discuss further, you may contact me by e-mail at jciampa@lagerlof.com or by phone at 626-793-9400.

Very truly yours,

James D. Ciampa

JDC/cc

cc: Kirk Howie, Three Valleys Municipal Water District (khowie@tvmwd.com)
Kristi Foy, Mike Arnold & Associates (kfoy@mjarnold.com)



March __, 2021

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 323
Position: Support

Dear Senator Caballero:

The Public Water Agencies Group¹ is pleased to support your Senate Bill 323, which would provide public agency water and sewer service rates the same protections already afforded to fees and charges that fund other essential government services.

This bill would authorize a local agency or interested person to bring a validation action in a superior court to determine the validity of a fee or charge for water or sewer service. It would also require an interested party bring a validation action within 120 days after the fee or charge becomes effective.

This bill furthers reliable long-term financial planning, which is important for public agency water and sewer service providers. Public water and sewer utility budgets are largely funded by revenue collected through service rates. These rates provide the funding necessary to supply safe drinking water, upgrade and improve aging infrastructure, and to continue to operate effectively. While public water and sewer service providers require financial stability to meet these demands, existing law does not prevent lawsuits that seek refunds or seek to invalidate existing rate structures many years after rates have been adopted and collected.

¹ The Public Water Agencies Group is a non-profit mutual benefit corporation that consists of the following twenty (20) public water agencies and mutual water companies situated in Los Angeles County: Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company, Crescenta Valley Water District, Kinneloa Irrigation District, La Habra Heights County Water District, La Puente Valley County Water District, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, Montebello Land and Water Company, Palmdale Water District, Pico Water District, Quartz Hill Water District, Rowland Water District, Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association, San Gabriel County Water District, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, South Montebello Irrigation District, Sunny Slope Water Company, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Valencia Heights Water Company, Valley County Water District and Walnut Valley Water District.

Hon. Anna Caballero
March __, 2021
Page 2



The Legislature has recognized the need to minimize fiscal uncertainty for public agencies providing essential government services by creating statutes of limitation for legal challenges to certain fees and charges, such as municipal electric rates and connection and capacity fees assessed by water and sewer agencies. However, existing law offers a piecemeal statutory landscape where statutes of limitation are afforded to fees and charges that fund some essential government services, but neglects specific statutes of limitation for other services, including water and sewer service. SB 323 would close this gap in existing law by allowing customers to bring legal challenges to water and sewer rates within a reasonable—but limited—period of time. By following precedent established in existing law, this bill strikes a balance between the interests of ratepayers and the need for public agencies to maintain reliable sources of revenue.

The impacts of COVID-19 have exacerbated many challenges facing local agencies. The necessary disruptions to in-person work and Governor Newsom's executive order prohibiting water shutoffs have made water districts' revenue and financial planning more unpredictable. Now is the time to make existing legal protections consistent and increase predictability for utility providers throughout our State.

For these reasons, the Public Water Agencies Group is pleased to support Senate Bill 323. If you have questions about our position or would like to discuss further, you may contact me by e-mail at jciampa@lagerlof.com or by phone at 626-793-9400.

Very truly yours,

James D. Ciampa,
General Counsel

JDC/cc

cc: Public Water Agencies Group Members (via e-mail)
Kris Anderson, Esq., Association of California Water Agencies (via e-mail)