

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, January 20, 2021 at 6:05 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. Mr. Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel for the District participated electronically. Pico City Councilmember Andrew Lara participated telephonically.

President Gonzales presided over the meeting and Vice President Caballero led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Martinez gave the invocation.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Public Comments. Ms. Camacho-Rodriguez stated that there are residents that are not fully aware of how water contamination happened and graciously requested that the Board put on a public informational meeting to address their concerns. Joey from the city of Downey stated that he is concerned regarding the contamination of the water and would like people to take this seriously.

President Gonzales proceeded to the adoption of the Agenda. Vice President Caballero made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Director Martinez then requested that Item #8A – further extension of the mainline in Rosemead Blvd. be removed to another time. Due to a standing motion on the floor, President Gonzales seconded the motion to adopt the Agenda as written. The General Manager announced the motion to adopt the Agenda as presented passed by roll-call vote, 3 – 1 with Director Martinez voting “no”.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, presentation by AKM Consulting Engineers on status of work to prepare bid specification to purchase and build new PFAS Treatment Systems for the District. Mr. Zeki Kayiran, P.E. informed the Board they are working on all required documents including, plans, specifications, estimates and an engineering report to be submitted to the Division of Drinking Water to address the treatment of PFAS chemicals for District Wells #5A, 8 and 11. The critical restraint facing this project is the number of water entities across the nation who are addressing this issue simultaneously and the availability of vessels for treatment to remove PFAS. It is their recommendation that these vessels be purchased in advance as soon as it is feasible as there is a 26-week lag time for production. If this can be done it is their belief that treatment can begin by the end of the year excluding a state mandate of 6 months of testing. Vice President Caballero stated he is pleased with the projected timeline. Director Martinez inquired as to who will inspect construction and then stated that he spoke with WRD and is happy to announce that the District is a recipient of funding assistance for the PFAS treatment systems. He further stated he spoke with Senator Robert Archuleta and was

informed that there are other monies available there as well. Director Martinez stated that he would get with the General Manager to go over this information.

President Gonzales proceeded to the approval of the Consent Calendar. Director Martinez made the motion to approve and Vice President Caballero seconded the motion. The General Manager announced the motion passed by roll-call vote, 4 – 0.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, consider further extension of the mainline in Rosemead Blvd. as part of the Beverly & Rosemead Boulevards Improvement Project. President Gonzales commented that the General Manager touched on this item at the last Board meeting and he has had the opportunity to go by the current area where the work is being performed and stated they are moving along pretty well as they are the only contractors in there at this time and this is the reason why he was not in favor of pulling this item as he feels time is of the essence. He further stated that being good stewards for the District there are some cost savings that can be realized by doing this now. The General Manager reviewed the project with the Board and the reason staff feels that now is the opportune time to perform the work. Director Ramirez expressed his support of this request as even with this additional work it is well below the bids by the other contractors for the original scope of work. Director Martinez stated he is concerned with this project as he feels since there is no traffic plan, no specifications or construction drawings, and there is no clue as to what is in the ground that this would be a good opportunity for the contractor to charge extras without a confirmative scope of work and he feels it is too big a liability for the District to take. Director Martinez made a motion to remove this item to a later time. Vice President Caballero asked the General Manager to elaborate on the issues presented by Director Martinez as he has done his homework on getting the project done. Director Ramirez asked to make a comment, but his call was dropped. The General Manager stated that Director Martinez makes very sound, valid points but it is because of those reasons that the District utilizes a preferred list of contractors. It has been the District's experience, through the relationships cultivated with these contractors that they do not "charge extras". With regard to J. DeSigio and the work they are doing now, this project has had items that were unknowns and through the relationship established they have been handled at little to no cost. There are projects that get done without plans and specifications, known as "Design and Build", and our engineers did review the county specs to determine what might be in the area, both a sewer and a gas line were notated, and neither one seems to be a problem. Potholing is scheduled to be billed as time and materials as the District did not know how long it would take to perform. At this time Director Ramirez was back on line and the General Manager deferred to him so he could continue with his comment. He stated that the District has been informed that everything in the ground in Rosemead was okay. The General Manager continued that the District feels comfortable and confident that there will not be anything detrimental as Director Martinez stated. The recommendation by District staff is that the District purchase the materials required for the work and the agreement with J. DeSigio be approved to install an additional 745 LF of ductile iron pipe, at a cost not to exceed \$229,045.00 which should more than cover the cost of unknowns, if there are any. Director Ramirez made the motion to approve and Vice President Caballero seconded the motion. The General Manager announced the motion passed by roll-call vote, 3-1, with Director Martinez voting "no".

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, discuss the implementation of a new Capacity Charge. The General Manager introduced Erik Helgeson with Bartle Wells Associates to discuss the Capacity Fee Study that was done in conjunction with the rate study. He explained that Capacity Fees are one-time charges paid by new development of the area and the

benefit they receive, being their share of system capacity. He reviewed requirements under the Government Code, the methodology used to calculate fees, how capacity fee revenues can be used, and discussed how the Board would need to inform the public should they wish to move forward with this action. The General Manager reiterated that these fees will be paid by developers and property owners who may be developing a new or former piece of property. The collection of these fees will help to fund new CIP projects for distribution, new meter projects, and new well projects. Legal Counsel reiterated notice and hearing requirements and accounting and reporting requirements.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, General Manager's report. Work in Beverly Blvd. is moving very quickly and should be over at Layman Avenue by next week; notice of the Board vacancy has been posted as required.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Legal Counsel report. SB 45, a climate resiliency bill, has been introduced providing a bond of \$5.5 billion for various environmental uses with several hundred million dollars of water related funded in it. SB 222 establish a low-income rate assistance program throughout the state. Counsel will be following both of these and will give updates as needed.

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. President Gonzales stated that on more than one occasion the General Manager has had to call Board Members after 6:00 p.m. to inquire if they were attending the meeting. He feels as elected official it is important to be responsible and call in no later than 5:59 p.m. so meetings can begin as scheduled.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Board meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



David R. Gonzales, President

Attest:



Mark J. Grajeda, Secretary

(Seal)

