

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, December 15, 2021 at 6:03 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. Director Raymond Rodriguez, Director E.A. Pete Ramirez, Director Robert Martinez and Vice President Caballero participated telephonically, in adherence to social distancing. Mr. Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel for the District participated electronically.

Director Ramirez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Caballero gave the invocation.

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

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, consideration to approve Resolution 221-R proclaiming a state of emergency persists, re-ratifying the proclamation of a state of emergency by Governor Gavin Newsom, and authorizing continued remote teleconference meetings. Director Martinez made the motion to approve and President Gonzales seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Gonzales proceeded to the adoption of the Agenda. Director Rodriguez made the motion to approve the agenda and Vice President Caballero seconded the motion. The General Manager announced the motion passed by a roll-call vote, 4 – 0 – 1, with Director Martinez abstaining.

President Gonzales proceeded to the approval of the Consent Calendar. Director Rodriguez made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar and Vice President Caballero seconded the motion. The General Manager announced the motion passed by roll-call vote, 4 – 0 – 1, with Director Martinez abstaining.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, consider the Proposed 2022 Operating Budget, Organizational Chart and Capital Improvement Projects Tabled from the Board Meeting Held on December 2, 2021. The General Manager informed the Board that at the last regular scheduled Board meeting, the Board considered the Operational Budget, Capital Improvement Projects, Organizational Chart and 5% cost of living increase which also included some additional percentage increases based on a salary survey which the District participated in. Based on Board Member comments these items were tabled until tonight's Board Meeting. Staff prepared updated figures based on salary comparisons with other water agencies doing business similar to the District. The General Manager stated that with all recommended increases the

District's Operational Budget provided a net income of approximately \$392,300 before Contributed Capital and Depreciation. There were no questions or comments from the Board. Director Raymond Rodriguez made the motion for consideration and Director Pete Ramirez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote 4-1-0, with Director Martinez voting "no".

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, consider revisions to the District's Cross-Connection Control Program (Program). The General Manager stated that the District has had a Cross-Connection Control Program for many years. The District uses the program to identify and require any customer that is required to install a backflow device at their property, to do so. However, the current Program did not provide District staff with the enforcement tool needed to force customers who were required to install a backflow device to do so or risk water service interruption, the revised Program language does now provide District staff with that ability. The District does currently have a number of backflow devices that cannot be tested or are accessible for testing. Director Ramirez made the motion to approve the revisions and Director Martinez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, consider selection of New Board Officers. The General Manager informed the Board that the Secretary and Treasurer positions cannot be a Board Member and therefore recommends that the General Manager, Mark Grajeda and Office Manager, Lorraine Laible serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The General Manager then opened up the nominations for President. Vice President Caballero nominated Director Pete Ramirez as President and the nomination was seconded by Director Martinez. The General Manager announced that Director Ramirez was elected Board President by roll-call vote, 5 – 0. The General Manager then opened up nominations for Vice President. President Gonzales nominated Director Ray Rodriguez as Vice President and Director Martinez seconded the nomination. The General Manager announced that Director Rodriguez was elected Board Vice President by roll-call vote, 5 – 0. Based on the current COVID situation, President-elect Ramirez allowed Past-President Gonzales to continue to run the meeting. Director Martinez moved that the General Manager and Office Manager serve as Board Secretary and Board Treasurer respectively, and Director Ramirez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion carried by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, General Manager Report. The General Manager thanked the Board for approving the 2022 Budget and the staff recommendations; the General Manager will be out of the office beginning on the afternoon of December 16, 2021 and will return on Tuesday, December 21, 2021; bids were received for the On-site PFAS Treatment Facilities. Four companies were invited to bid and two responded, R.C. Foster and Pacific Hydrotech. Both bids were well over the Engineer's Estimate and recommends a Special Meeting to be held on December 22, 2021 at 4:40 p.m. to discuss which avenue the Board would like to take.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Legal Counsel Comments. Legal Counsel reiterated what the General Manager said regarding the submissions of bids in excess of Engineer's Estimates. It is not unusual to see increases of over 40%. A new face covering order went into effect by the State for 30 days beginning on December 15, 2021; the PWAG group

had a Covid informational meeting with the new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and at sometime in the coming months should be coming to a meeting to introduce herself and meet the Board.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Director's Request of Future Agenda Items. There were none.

President Gonzales proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Board Member Comments. Director Martinez stated that he would like to see the District to advertise in contractor publications such as the Green Sheet and the Dodge. Director Martinez also spoke regarding the passing of Orchard Dale Water District Board Member, Mr. Robert Noonan.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Board meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



David R. Gonzales, President

Attest:



Mark J. Grajeda, Secretary

(Seal)

