



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, June 15, 2022 at 5:31 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 was Director David Gonzales, Director Victor Caballero, Vice President Raymond Rodriguez and President Pete Ramirez. Director Robert Martinez participated telephonically in adherence with social distancing. Mr. Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel for the District experienced some difficulty connecting to the meeting.

Director Martinez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Rodriguez gave the invocation.

President Ramirez led a moment of silence for the El Monte Police Officers who were killed in the line of duty.

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

The Board took a short recess at approximately 5:37 p.m. and resumed the meeting at approximately 5:39 p.m. with Mr. Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel, joining the meeting electronically via Zoom.

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

President Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, approval of Consent Calendar. President Ramirez made the motion to approve and Director Caballero seconded the motion. The General Manager announced the motion passed by roll call vote, 5 – 0.

President Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, consider Board Approval of Resolution 231-R a Resolution Declaring a Stage 2 Water Supply Shortage. The General Manager reiterated topics previous discussed at past Board Meetings regarding Governor Newsom's

Executive Order N-7-22 directing the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to draft a resolution pursuant to the current drought situation. Staff recommends that the District declare a Stage 2 Water Supply Shortage as defined in the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan adopted by the Board on October 20, 2021 with the following provisions:

- Limit outdoor watering to three days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday;
- Limit outdoor watering to two days a week – during the months of November through March;
- Obligation to fix leaks, breaks and malfunctions within 72 hours of notification;
- Enforcement of all permanent watering restrictions.

After a brief discussion Director Gonzales made the motion to declare a Stage 2 Water Supply Shortage and Director Caballero seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, consider Board Approval of Employment Contract with Joe Basulto as General Manager of Pico Water District. President Ramirez made a motion to table this matter until the next Board Meeting on July 6, 2022 and Director Martinez seconded the motion. Legal Counsel requested that Director Ramirez withdraw his motion to table and that another motion be made to employ Mr. Basulto as General Manager commencing on July 1, 2022 at an annual salary of \$150,000 with the balance of the terms of the contract be discussed at the July 6, 2022 meeting. President Ramirez withdrew his motion and made a new motion to hire Joe Basulto as the General Manager effective July 1, 2022 with a starting salary of \$150,000 per year with the balance of the terms of the contract to be discussed at the July 6, 2022 Board Meeting. Director Martinez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced the motion passed by roll-call vote, 4 – 0 – 1, with Director Gonzales abstaining.

President Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, consider Fencing Proposals for Well 11 to Raise the Height of the Existing Cinder Block Wall Fence. The General Manager reviewed his staff report with the Board informing them that the current cinder block wall is approximately five feet tall and would like to raise its height to match the new wrought iron fence which is seven feet tall. The site has experienced several break-ins resulting in theft of tools, attempts to access the well, chlorine buildings, the emergency generator and accessed a neighbor's property. Staff recommends that the District increase the height of the wall to 7 feet in an attempt to deter access by unauthorized individuals. After a brief discussion Vice President Rodriguez made the motion to approve the proposal from Benitez Frames & Cabinets in the amount of \$9,880.00 to install fence bars with pointed ends and Director Gonzales seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote 5 – 0.

President Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, General Manager Report. The General Manager informed the Board of the City's action to consider their new street cut moratorium that will limit instances in which the District can perform work in those streets affected. Joe Basulto informed the Board that he is meeting with the City of June 28, 2022 to go over valves in the next area they are looking at to include in the moratorium; he also stated that the lot split at Well 2 and the rental house has been recorded.

President Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Legal Counsel Report. Legal Counsel reported the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted health advisories for PFAS and PFAS compounds, this is not the same as minimum contaminant levels (MCL), more along the lines of guidance, but they are very low and basically anything that is going to be detected will be above that limit. He closed by stating that tonight's meeting was the Mr. Grajeda's last meeting and express that it has been a pleasure working with him and that he has done good job for the District and he has enjoyed working with him.

President Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Director's Request of Future Agenda Items. Director Gonzales stated that Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) is holding an event at the Albert Robles Center at WRD on July 23, 2022 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and would like it on the consent calendar.

President Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Board Member Comments. Director Gonzales stated that he attended a WELL event at the Albert Robles Center regarding Climate Change and Drought. Vice President Rodriguez stated that it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Grajeda and he has learned a lot from him, thanked him for his service, and wished him a happy retirement. He also congratulated Mr. Basulto on his appointment as General Manager. Director Caballero stated that it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Grajeda and appreciated his time spent with the District as well and also congratulated Mr. Basulto. Director Martinez thanked Mr. Grajeda for his service and told him, from his experience, there will be times he will get bored, and wished him good luck and also congratulated Mr. Basulto. Director Gonzales wished Mr. Grajeda a well retirement, he has been my mentor and my friend and looks forward to continuing that friendship. He also asked Mr. Basulto if it is his intention to elevate staff, directly asking if Mr. Barrientos will be the Field Superintendent, is there need for additional field staff and maybe he can think it over and get back to the Board in the near future. President Ramirez discussed how we are creatures of habits and it may take awhile for you to realize you are actually retired.

The Board retreated to Closed Session at 6:41 p.m. regarding three matters.

The Board reconvened at 7:10 p.m. Legal Counsel reported that closed session was held regarding three matters of anticipated litigation under Government Code section 54956.9 paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) the Board was briefed on the facts and circumstances of that case and no reportable action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Board meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

  
Elpidio Ramirez, President

Attest:

  
Mark J. Grajeda, Secretary

(Seal)

