



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 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The District's General Manager, Mr. Joe D. Basulto proceeded with the roll call of the attending Board members. Present from the beginning of the meeting was, Director David Angelo, Director David Gonzales, Director Victor Caballero, Vice President Raymond Rodriguez, President Pete Ramirez and Mr. Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel for the District.

President Pete Ramirez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Public Comments. There was one person in attendance, Dennis Azevedo. There were no public comments.

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

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, approval of Consent Calendar. Director David Gonzales made the motion to adopt and Vice President Raymond Rodriguez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5–0.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item A. Consider Board Approval of Rate Study Report; Presentation by Water Resources Economics. Sanjay Gaur with Water Resources Economics was the presenter for this presentation. Mr. Gaur briefly discussed the Rate Study overview and the process taken. He discussed Proposition 218 and its purpose. One of the changes to the rates that Water Resources Economics does recommend is the Capital charges should be increased with meter size based on meter capacity. Another recommendation is proposed reserve policy changes. Current reserve targets based on fixed dollar amounts per Board adopted resolution. Based on past rate increases, Mr. Gaur recommends a thirty five percent rate increase the first year, the second-year twenty percent and the following the years a twelve percent increase. He touched base on potable and recycle water rates schedule. Based on the rate changes, Pico Water District is reflecting to have the lower water rates than other water agencies. The Next steps to take are seeking authorization from the Board to schedule a public hearing, finalize the rate study report, mail out public hearing notices to all customers, adopt rates at the public hearing and implement first year of proposed

rates in March 2024. Director David Gonzales made the motion to adopt and Vice President Raymond Rodriguez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item B. Consider Board Approval of Rate Study Community Meeting on January 18, 2024. Director Victor Caballero made the motion to adopt and Director David Angelo seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item C. Consider Board Approval of Public Hearing Date February 15, 2024 of proposed adjustments to Pico Water Districts Rates / Charges & Adoption of Ordinance No. 65. Director Victor Caballero made the motion to adopt and Vice President Raymond Rodriguez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item D. Consider Cancelling the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting on January 03, 2024 and Rescheduling to the Following Week January 10, 2024. Director David Gonzales made the motion to adopt and Director David Angelo seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item E. Consider Board Approval of Attorney Service Agreement from Lagerlof, LLP. President Pete Ramirez made the motion to adopt and Vice President Raymond Rodriguez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 4 – 1 Director Victor Caballero voted in opposition.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item F. Consider Selection of New Board Officers – President, Vice President, Board Secretary, and Board Treasurer. Nominated for Board President was Vice President Raymond Rodriguez, nominated for Board Vice President was Director Victor Caballero, nominated for Board Secretary was General Manger Joe Basulto and nominated for Board Treasurer was Office Manager Tomas Rivera. All nominations were accepted and were unanimously approved.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, General Manager's Report. The General Manager reported that Staff been completed out Monthly Meter Reading and all follow up reports have been completed and submitted to our Billing Clerk for processing. Billing is scheduled to be completed December 27, 2023. On 12/13/2023 the contractor on Mines Ave. Hit our 8" AC mainline, waterline was previously marked, staff responded immediately to temporarily shut down main and made necessary repairs. The job took about 5 hours to complete from start to finish. A claim will be filed for damages to the contractor. Results for our quarterly PFAS sampling were received on 12/12/2023, We are scheduled to send out notices to our customers next week. We continue to be busy with our rate study, audit, end of year reports and other day to day operations. PFAS Project -contractor RC Foster re-scheduling to final slurry coat at wells they were scheduled for 12/20/23 but, ran into the weather conditions. Scheduling final electrical work which is still pending. Regarding our permit approval from DDW, we have

submitted our response to their comments, our next step would be to set up meeting with them to finalize.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Legal Counsel Report. Legal Counsel, Jim Ciampa reported that he will go ahead and file the updated roster of public agencies to reflect the new district officers. Mr. Ciampa also reported on Matt Pero with Lagerlof, LLC met with Mr. Steve Bucknum regarding expert witness issues and the meeting went well.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Informational Items. The General Manager reported on information item A. Production & Water Level Report. Reservoir levels are mid to high throughout the state pictured. Our water levels continue to recharge and not showing any drastic drawdown. Director Matthew Tryon reported on item B. Monthly Activity Report. There were no mainline leaks in November 2023. There were five service leaks that were fixed. Three-meter leaks, and one hit fire hydrant early November that were quickly repaired. There were five meters replaced and marked one-hundred and three dig alerts.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Future Agenda Items. There were none at this time.

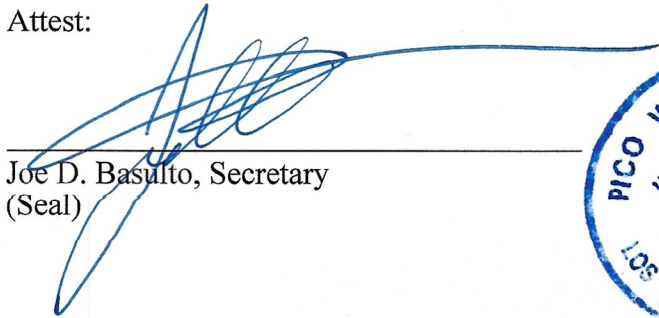
President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Board Member Comments. Director David Gonzales had commented on grant programs for funding for new meters from Neptune. Director David Angelo had a question regarding the PFAS vessels for another water agency and the accuracy of their progress for their vessels. The General Manager, Joe Basulto, gave a brief response regarding their approval progress.

President Pete Ramirez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Closed Session. No Closed session was held.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Board meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m. Next Meeting to be held on January 10, 2023 at 5:30pm.

  
Raymond Rodriguez, President

Attest:

  
Joe D. Basulto, Secretary  
(Seal)

