



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 20, 2024 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 Pete Ramirez, Vice President Victor Caballero, President Raymond Rodriguez and Mr. Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel for the District.

President Raymond Rodriguez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and the General Manager, Joe Basulto, gave the invocation.

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Public Comments. There were two people in attendance on Zoom and three people in attendance in the audience. Mr. Jonathan Beutler, in attendance on Zoom, informed the Board regarding his candidacy to represent special districts on the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and asked for the Board's support in voting for him for that position.

The second speaker was Lee Squire, a retired fraud audit examiner, who commented on potential financial fraud at Central Basin Municipal Water District and his ongoing investigation on their finances. No further comments were made.

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the adoption of the Agenda. Director Pete Ramirez 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 Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, approval of Consent Calendar, consisting of the March 06, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Director Pete Ramirez made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented, and Vice President Victor Caballero seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5–0.

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item A. Consider Board Approval of Resolution 250-R Amending and Restating District Resolution 208-R; *Recommended Action – Board Discussion /Approve*. The General Manager briefly discussed the contents of Resolution of 250-R, which revise the District's dental benefits policy to conform to the benefits set forth in the Employee Handbook to provide

coverage to dependents up to age 26 without having to be a full-time student, and that the amendments will take into effect July 01, 2024. Director Pete Ramirez made the motion to adopt Resolution 250-R and Director David Gonzales seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item B. Consider Board Approval of Amending and Restating the District Employee Handbook; *Recommended Action – Board Discussion / Approve*. The General Manager briefly discussed the amendments made to the Employee Handbook on the advisement of Legal Counsel. President Raymond Rodriguez made the motion to adopt the revised Employee Handbook and Director David Angelo seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item C. Consider Board Approval of Well #5A Rehab of Well Pump by General Pump Company; – Recommend Board Discuss and Approve. The General Manager discussed the cost for the contemplated work, totaling \$109,096.79, the maintenance schedule for the rehabilitation work at Well #5A and completing this prior to the completion of PFAS facilities. He also showed a maintenance video for well #5A. Director Pete Ramirez made the motion to approve the rehabilitation work at Well #5A and the award of that work to General Pump Company, and President Raymond Rodriguez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Action/ Discussion Items. Action Item D. Consider Board Approval of District’s Scholarship Application Process. *Recommended Action – Board Discussion / Approve*. Director Pete Ramirez commented about the scholarship program and he also thanked the board for their consideration of bringing this topic back to be presented. He suggested for each director to contribute \$200 in order to raise \$1,000 to fund two \$500 scholarships for high school seniors residing in the District’s service area. The Board engaged in further discussion regarding the scholarship program and past issues concerning the program. Based on that discussion, Legal Counsel, Jim Ciampa, restated the motion, to proceed with the District scholarship being awarded, with two \$500 scholarships to go to a student who lives within the District service area, with the \$1,000 to fund the scholarship being paid by each of the directors, \$200 each from the five directors, that the District will select the recipients based on the quality of the students’ water-related essay. President Raymond Rodriguez made the motion to adopt as stated by Legal Counsel and Director Pete Ramirez seconded the motion. The General Manager announced that the motion passed by roll-call vote, 5 – 0.

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, General Manager’s Report. The General Manager reported on the District’s newest field rep, Matt Rostro, who was introduced to the Board prior to the meeting. The General Manager gave an update on the PFAS project, AKM is in process of working on addressing DDW latest comments. More sample documentation was given and once that gets finalize, the District can resubmit at the end of the month. The field staff worked on getting samples for PFAS for Well #6 and Well #7 to be submitted in connection with the District’s claims in the PFAS litigation. Construction will be beginning on Beverly Blvd, as there will be building a new Starbucks constructed, plans were reviewed and adjustments were made. The General Manger will keep the Board updated on the installation of a hydrant and two-meters for that ongoing construction.

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Legal Counsel Report. Legal Counsel, Jim Ciampa, reported that would be no closed session tonight. He stated the mandatory settlement conference has been rescheduled to April 12, 2024. Also, the District received a Public Records Act request from the City's attorneys regarding water rate and investment policy issues. Legal Counsel and the General Manager will work to provide all responses and responsive documents as required under the Public Records Act.

Legislatively, Legal Counsel Ciampa stated there are several Proposition 218 bills that are beneficial to water agencies. Also, there are three different bills that impact connection fees and capacity charges for new construction as far as when they can be billed and collected. There are also several Public Records Act bills focused on public employee record request and requirements to notify a public employee their personnel records are being requested.

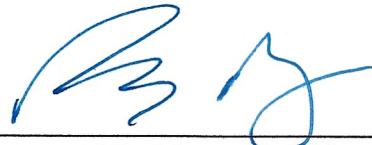
President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Informational Items. The General Manager reported on information items, Production & Water Level Report, the state water levels, there was a small increase due to the weather. The state reservoir, water levels went up compared to a year ago. The water levels are relatively very good. The Director of Operations, Matt Tryon, reported on the monthly activity for the month of February. There was one main line leak due to tree roots, three service line leaks that were repaired. There were four meter leaks and the field was able to exercise a few valves in conjunction with the main line leak. The field has been trying to implement the new meters received and doing meter replacements. Most recently there have been more request for construction hydrant meters to be checked out, some were for the project on Stephens Street. The Virginia Country Club, Pico Water District did lease 120 acre ft. and payment was already made.

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

President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Board Member Comments. Director David Gonzales commented on some articles on the most recent ACWA News and Legal Counsel addressed the questions posed regarding the Water Use Efficiency regulations and possible amendments to address groundwater use. Director Pete Ramirez commented on Central Basin's local building, 8601 Washington Blvd, is outdated And stated Central Basin is also having difficulties communicating with the public and their employees. Director David Angelo commented on establishing a committee to generate funding for the District's scholarship program.

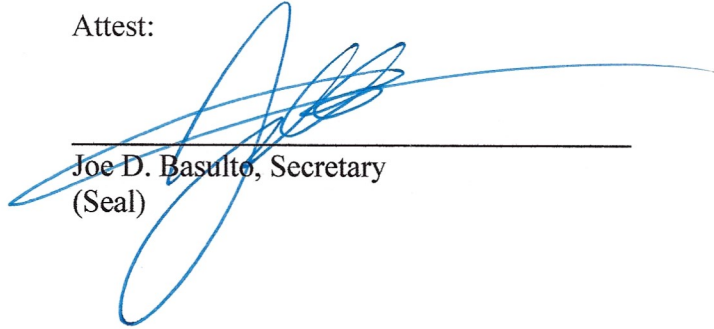
President Raymond Rodriguez proceeded to the next item on the Agenda, Closed Session. There is no closed session.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Board meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Next Meeting to be held on April 3, 2024 at 5:30 pm.



Raymond Rodriguez, President

Attest:



Joe D. Basulto, Secretary
(Seal)

