

**PURISSIMA HILLS WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**November 14 2013 Minutes**

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** President Jordan called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the District office.

Directors Present: Directors Robert N. Anderson, Brian Holtz, Ernie Solomon, Gary Kremen and President Steve Jordan.

Staff Present: Patrick D. Walter, General Manager; Joubin Pakpour, Engineer; David Gehrig, Attorney, Hanson Bridgett; and Ray Collins, Office Manager/District Secretary

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** None to Report

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

It was moved by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Solomon, to approve Items A. and B. on the Consent Calendar, and Item C. as amended. Motion approved – voice vote.

4. **PENSION COMMITTEE FINDINGS.** Director Holtz presented the Committee's findings: Over a decade ago the District's employees skipped two years of raises in exchange for the District picking up the 7% employee share of pension contributions. By paying this share with what are pre-tax dollars to the employees, the District enjoys about \$16K/yr in tax advantage compared to what it would cost to provide the same level of post-tax compensation to the employees if the District did not pick up the employee share.

The Board recognizes that many California agencies are facing criticism for having granted generous employee benefits with insufficient regard for future taxpayer liabilities. However, the Board notes:

- The District's pension pickup was granted in lieu of raises, rather than as a windfall benefit as has been done by some agencies.
- The District's employees are in the 2% at 60 plan, which is the least generous CalPERS plan the District could have offered them.
- The 7% pickup is not subject to any automatic increase if CalPERS raises the employee contribution percentage.
- Pension pickups have become unseemly at some agencies because of a lack of foresight/planning. Because of the District's conservative and financially sustainable approach to financing the pension, it has avoided having to fund the pension out of the employees' pocket
- The District will remain cognizant of the pickup when evaluating employee compensation levels against target compensation ranges for job categories.
- By decreasing the pensionable portion of employees' compensation, the pickup represents a lower future liability on CalPERS than would otherwise be the case. Thus the pickup is effectively the opposite of pension spiking -- the practice of inflating an employee's pensionable salary in the last year(s) before retirement.

The Board concluded that it is preferable to explain and document the status quo, rather than to eliminate the pickup by extracting an additional \$16K/yr. from the pockets of employees and/or ratepayers.

5. **GENERAL HYDRANT ISSUES,** The General Manager provided a draft statement, in English and Spanish, to be printed on a plaque and installed on hydrants to warn of illegal uses. He also reported on the new permitting process with the Town of Los Altos Hills that requires contractors, who are seeking building permits, to also obtain water use approval from the District General Manager. This process is successful at reducing the chances of illegal connections to hydrants.

6. **WATER TANKS FOR WESTWIND BARN** Director Jordan explained that new water tanks are needed at Westwind Barn to increase stored, non-potable water used to reduce dust in the equestrian arenas and to fight potential fires. He further explained that Westwind Barn has requested that the District share the cost of installing the new tanks.

7. **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

A. **NEARY TANK UTILIZATION PROJECT PHASE 1.** The Engineer reported that the work has started on Phase 1, the installation of a pipeline from Altamont Ct to Altamont Tank, that requires pot-holing to identify underground facilities. The contractor has prepared a traffic control plan, and is required to bring a traffic control engineer to the site. For special attention to the safety of cyclists, two custom warning signs will be displayed for the duration of the project that are located at the stop signs at the top and bottom of Altamont, Taaffe, and Moody. Flaggers also warn cyclists to go slowly and to stay out of the cone zone. Krishna Permaul, on site Project Manager for Pakpour Consulting, summarized the Daily Inspection Report which included a detailed account of a bicycle traffic incident.

B. **NEARY TANK UTILIZATION PROJECT PHASE II.** This project retrofits the tank to performance under a "975-year" return period earthquake. At the December 2013 Board meeting, the engineer will provide the total estimated cost of Phase II after obtaining bids from the bid opening planned for December 4, 2013. The tank is scheduled to be operational by summer 2014.

C. **RESOLUTION 2013-13 APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEARY TANK UTILIZATION PROJECT PHASE II**

It was moved by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Solomon, to approve Resolution 2013-13. Motion approved – roll call vote.

AYES: Directors Jordan, Solomon, Holtz, Anderson, Kremen

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

D. **QUARRY LAKE EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY.** The Engineer reported that he and the General Manager had met with Peter Jewett, a former president of Home Owners Association to discuss emergency access to the Quarry Lake.

E. **LOS ALTOS HILLS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT PROPOSAL FOR FIRE FIGHTING FACILITIES.**

The Engineer summarized three preliminary alternatives for seismically reinforcing the Page Mill Tank: installing a small 24 foot high x 27 foot wide tank next to the existing 24x60 foot Page Mill tank, or replacing the existing Page Mill tank with a larger 24x72 foot tank or 30x72 foot tank. He will provide cost estimates and preliminary schedule at the December 2013 Board meeting.

**8. MANAGER'S REPORT**

**A. WATER TANK SITES**

**1. STATUS OF SEISMIC UPGRADES:** Welding continuing.

**B. FIELD REPORT:**

- A leaking valve on Taaffe was excavated for abandonment and will be replaced with a new three valve set at the hydrant lateral near the abandoned valve.
- Completed Christopher Lane water main installation.
- Completed installation of conduit at La Cresta to access power from Verizon's generator.
- Replaced air relief valve on Wild Crest.
- Repaired a leak on Moody. The leak was a split about 12" and was fixed with 4' of new 8" DIP
- Repaired a leak on Natoma. The leak was a full circle crack that was repaired with a clamp
- Repaired a leak on Altamont, south of Natoma. The leak was a split and was fixed with approximately 14' of new DIP.
- The General Manager reported on a radio propagation study by Aclara that could potentially replace the District's Orion drive-by meter reading system. The new Aclara system would provide a remote meter reading system that would collect hourly usage information. The system would provide benefits of water conservation, leak detection and notification to the customer. The system could also provide District-wide leak detection and may provide alerts of illegal hydrant use.

**C. LEAK INCIDENCE FOR OTHER AGENCIES** The General Manager reported that some neighboring water agencies had experienced a higher volume of leaks in the last couple of months than normal. Other districts did not report notable increases in leaks, though one had speculated that the movement of concrete trucks on the roads tends to break their pipe system.

**D. BILL PAYMENT PROCESS** The General Manager reported that 185 customers have signed up for the automatic debit payment.

**9. DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**A. BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY (BAWSCA) AND OTHER AGENCY ISSUES (SUCH AS LAFCO)** Director Anderson will attend the JPIA/ACWA Fall conference in Los Angeles, California.

**B. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS** None to report

**C. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DECEMBER 11, 2013 BOARD MEETING**

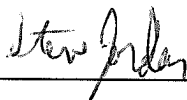
**10. ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Raylene Collins, District Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Steve Jordan, President

