



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT | JUNE 5, 2024

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD or District) conducted on June 5, 2024, was called to order by President Stephen Dopudja at 5:33 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Administrative Facility located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon, California. Ms. Claire Collins, Assistant District Secretary, transcribed the minutes thereof.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Stephen Dopudja
Vice President Ed Mandich
Director Glenn Acosta
Director Don Chadd
Director Michael Safranski

STAFF PRESENT

Fernando Paludi, General Manager
Karen Warner, Principal Accountant
Oscar Ulloa, Wastewater Operations Superintendent
Jason Stroud, Maintenance Superintendent
Roseann Lejsek, Administrative Assistant

STAFF ABSENT

Michael Perea, Assistant General Manager
Lorrie Lausten, District Engineer

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

Claire Collins, District General Legal Counsel – Hanson & Bridgett, LLP
Robin Rockey, RockSpark Communications - Virtually

PUBLIC PRESENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Mandich led the Board of Directors, District staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

None

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

None

ORAL COMMUNICATION

None

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

None

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REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Paludi reported that Senate Bill 366, which will establish water supply targets for creating more supply throughout the state, will be coming up for Committee vote soon. Mr. Paludi added that the District is supporting this bill.

Mr. Paludi reported that MWDOC will be hosting a Joint Board Workshop next month to discuss Metropolitan Water District’s business model. Mr. Paludi stated that he has been invited to join the panel and will be participating in the MWDOC member agencies panel discussion on this matter.

ACTION CALENDAR

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 1: PURCHASE OF MULTISTAGE CENTRIFUGAL AIR BLOWERS FOR ROBINSON RANCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that this matter has been discussed with the Engineering/Operations Committee. Mr. Paludi provided an overview of the project, and he stated that purchasing the equipment will assist in expediting the project. Mr. Ulloa commented that ordering new equipment now will provide flexibility when future issues arise. The Board expressed their concerns with potential noise pollution by having the blowers outside. Mr. Ulloa stated that staff has performed sound/noise testing with favorable results. Discussion occurred regarding solutions to mitigate any possible noise pollution issues. Mr. Paludi noted that these two blowers will be more energy efficient and therefore will provide cost and energy savings. Mr. Paludi gave the Wastewater staff kudos for coming up with alternative solutions for this project.

MOTION: Authorize the General Manager to purchase two multistage centrifugal air blowers from Lone Star Blower for a total of \$209,050 – Director Acosta.

SECOND: Director Safranski

AYES: Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta, Chadd & Safranski

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 5 – 0

ITEM 2: DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNICATING ADJUSTMENTS TO WATER RATES AND CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that this matter was discussed at the May 30, 2024 Special Board Meeting . Mr. Paludi provided a brief overview of the Board’s previous discussion regarding the increase to water rates from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) and the District’s pass-through provision in its Proposition 218 Notice. Mr. Paludi also stated that the Board discussed decreasing the noticed rates for FY 24-25. Mr. Paludi provided a handout of a draft notification regarding the District’s rates for FY 24-25. Discussion occurred regarding the timing requirements for sending out the notice and how timing and implementation of the pass-through rates may financially impact the District. Discussion also occurred regarding the messaging and presentation of the rate notice. Ms. Rockey, the District’s communications consultant, provided communication options for the rate notice as well as production timelines. Mr. Paludi provided a handout of a draft article for future printing in the District’s newsletter discussing the Board’s reduction to the FY 24-25 noticed rates. Discussion occurred regarding minor changes to the messaging in the article and publishing timeline.

MOTION: None – Informational item only.

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Mr. Ulloa made a statement to the Board regarding employee retention. Mr. Ulloa stated that the District lost a big bargaining chip for recruitment and retainment with the decrease in health benefits. Mr. Ulloa also stated that the District has a very limited team to cover standby response efforts and that the staff rotation is much more frequent compared to other Districts. Mr. Ulloa stated that the District had a difficult time recruiting for the Water Operator II position, and he expressed his fears that the District will continue to have a difficult time with recruitment as long-time employees retire from service. Mr. Ulloa requested that the Board look to see how to keep current employees and recruit in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

President Dopudja adjourned the June 5, 2024 Special Board Meeting at 6:52 p.m.