

Approved February 24, 2021

**EAST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**January 27, 2021**

**MINUTES**

The Chairman of the Board called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. Director Coats led the flag salute.

**PRESENT:** Directors: Carrillo, Coats, Goodrich, Morales, Smith

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** John Mura, General Manager/CEO; Brian Tompkins, Chief Financial Officer; Jeff Noelte, Director of Engineering and Operations; Kelly Malloy, Director of Strategic Services; Justine Hendricksen, District Clerk; Shayla Antrim, Sr. Administrative Assistant

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Jean Cihigoyenette, Marty Cihigoyenette

**GUEST(s):** Members of the public

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Smith declared the public participation section of the meeting open at 5:40 p.m.

There being no written or verbal comments, the public participation section was closed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

M/S/C (Coats-Goodrich) by unanimous roll call vote that the January 27, 2021 agenda be approved as submitted.

**DISBURSEMENTS**

M/S/C (Morales-Goodrich) by unanimous roll call vote that the General Fund Disbursements #257041 through #257184 which were distributed during the period of December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, bank drafts, and ACH Payments in the amount of \$17,572,787.91 and \$416,407.15 for payroll and benefit contributions, totaling \$17,989,195.06 be approved.

## **APPROVE INVESTMENT REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

M/S/C (Morales-Goodrich) by unanimous roll call vote that the Board accept and file the investment report for the quarter ended December 31, 2020.

## **ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021.04 - A RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY AUTHORIZING EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY; PUBLIC HEARING.**

Legal Counsel provided information regarding the steps the District has taken to acquire remaining shares of the North Fork Water Company. He stated that the District sent letters to each remaining shareholder to purchase their shares at the appraised value. He stated that the District now owns more than 99% of all North Fork Water Company shares. The Board authorized Web and Associates to review the project for compliance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); it was deemed exempt and notice of exemption became final October 21, 2020. The few remaining shareholders listed in Exhibit "A" have been sent written offers but have not yet responded to the District. He stated that adopting the Resolution of Necessity being brought to the Board is a legal prerequisite to initiate the eminent domain process.

## **THE CHAIRMAN OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:50 P.M.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Smith declared the public participation section of the meeting open at 5:50 p.m.

The District Clerk read an email statement received by the District January 27, from Mr. Santiago Avina in opposition of agenda item #3 as follows:

"I am opposed to the approval of acquisition of my North Fork Water shares."

There being no further written or verbal comments, the public participation section was closed at 5:52.

## **ADJOURN TO REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 5:52 P.M.**

### **BOARD DISCUSSION**

Director Morales asked if any of the remaining shareholders have the ability to take water deliveries. Legal Counsel responded by stating that he does not have the information on hand but will provide it to him at a later date.

Director Carrillo stated that approving this item is in the best interest of the public.

There were no other questions or comments from the Board.

M/S/C (Carrillo-Coats) by unanimous roll call vote that the Board adopt Resolution 2021.04 as submitted.

AYE: Directors: Carrillo, Coats, Goodrich, Morales, Smith  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

**ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021.05 - CERTIFYING ADDENDUM NO. 2 TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE STERLING NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER**

The Director of Engineering and Operations provided a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC) and adoption of Addendum No. 1. He stated that the District has prepared Addendum No. 2 pursuant to CEQA guidelines for the potential of new or significant environmental impacts not identified in the 2016 EIR. He stated that in March of 2016, the Board certified the original Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sterling Natural Resource Center project and since then, there have been potential modifications that will improve the overall value of the project to the community; that the project modifications will not create substantial or any new impacts from the original EIR, and that there was no new mitigation that was identified, and no new litigation would be required as a result of implementing the project modifications.

M/S/C (Coats-Goodrich) by unanimous roll call vote that the Board adopt Resolution 2021.05 as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF PROJECT MODIFICATIONS TO THE STERLING NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER**

The Director of Engineering and Operations stated that following approval of Addendum No. 2 to the Sterling Natural Resource Center Environmental Impact Report (EIR), he requested that the Board formally approve modifications outlined in Addendum No. 2 to the Sterling Natural Resource Center EIR.

M/S/C (Morales-Goodrich) by unanimous roll call vote that the Board approve the modifications to the Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC) project as described in the Addendum No. 2 to the SNRC Environmental Impact Report.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

Director Coats reported on the following: January 14 he participated in the Advisory Commission on Water Policy meeting; January 19 he participated in the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board meeting; January 22 visited the Sterling Natural Resource Center with the Director of Strategic Services; January 25 he participated in the Engineering and Operations Committee meeting; January 25 he participated in the Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts meeting; January 26 he participated in the Highland Chamber of Commerce meeting; and January 26 he discussed District business with the General Manager/CEO.

Director Carrillo reported on the following: January 20 he participated in the City of San Bernardino City Council meeting where they provided a public safety update; January

21 he visited the Sterling Natural Resource Center with the Director of Strategic Services; and January 26 he participated in the Inland Action meeting via Zoom.

Director Morales reported on the following: January 15 he participated in the East Valley Association of Realtors meeting; January 19 he participated in the Association of California Water Agencies Region 9 meeting where they held a leadership session; January 21 he met with the General Manager/CEO for Sterling Natural Resource Center updates; January 22 he met with the Director of Engineering and Operations for a tour of the Sterling Natural Resource Center; and January 26 he participated in the San Bernardino Board of Water Commissioners meeting.

Vice Chairman Goodrich reported on the following: January 19 he toured the Sterling Natural Resource Center; January 21 he met with the General Manager/CEO to review the agenda; January 25 he participated in the Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts meeting; and January 26 he participated in the Highland Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting.

Chairman Smith reported on the following: January 19 he toured the Sterling Natural Resource Center; January 21 he met with the General Manager/CEO to review the agenda; January 25 he participated in the Engineering & Operations Committee meeting; January 25 he participated in the Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts meeting; and January 26 he participated in the Highland Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting.

Information only.

## **GENERAL MANAGER/CEO REPORT**

The General Manager/CEO reported on the following:

- Construction for the SNRC is now going vertical with work happening above ground. The January bill insert highlights construction progress and the installation of co-digesters.
- Starting in February, the District's contractor, Crosno, will begin rehabilitation work at Plant 108. Residents living within close proximity of the facility have been notified of the work.
- The District will begin work on Elm Street to replace the 6" water main with an upgraded 8" pipe. Crews will begin survey work starting January 25. Impacted residents will receive a mailer notifying them of the upcoming work and service impacts.
- He reminded the public that it is important to continue saving water through the winter months: avoid irrigating during and two days after measurable rainfall, avoid overwatering by irrigating 2-3 times per week and water between 6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.

- January 28 he will be hosting a virtual All Hands meeting to provide staff with District updates.

The General Manager/CEO thanked the public for their continued support during these trying times and for participating in the District's teleconferencing meetings. He stated that meetings will continue to be held via teleconference until further notice.

Information only.

### LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

No report at this time.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Morales thanked staff the General Manager/CEO and Legal Counsel for the information they provided on North Fork Water Company. He congratulated the District on its reaccreditation for the Special Districts Leadership Foundations' Transparency of Excellence Award. He thanked IT Manager, Ryan Ritualo, for his technological assistance.

Director Coats commended the Director of Engineering and Operations and the Operations Manager for the information they provided at the Engineering & Operations Committee meeting. He stated that they make the information easy to understand.

Chairman Smith thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting.

Information only.


### ADJOURN

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.



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John Mura, Secretary



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David E. Smith, Board President