

May 28, 2020
Fremont, California

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT was held on May 28, 2020, at the hour of 4:00 P.M. Due to COVID-19 and in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 which suspends portions of the Brown Act, this meeting was conducted by Zoom Webinar and Teleconference and members of the public were invited to participate.

Present: Directors Akbari, Gunther, Sethy, Weed, and Huang

Staff members present: General Manager Robert Shaver, Manager of Engineering and Technology Ed Stevenson, Manager of Finance Jonathan Wunderlich, Manager of Water Resources and Conservation Laura Hidas, Manager of Operations and Maintenance Kurt Arends, Project Engineering Manager Rekha Ippagunta, Supervising Financial Analyst Sydney Oam, Senior Financial Analyst Martin Koran, General Counsel Patrick Miyaki, and District Secretary Gina Markou.

President Judy Huang presided.

Director Weed led in the Salute to the Flag.

3 – PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

4 – REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2019/20 AND 2020/21 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Mr. Shaver stated that the Budget preparation process takes several months and involves numerous employees across the organization. Mr. Shaver believes that this Budget is prudent, responsible and moves the District further towards meeting the Board's strategic goal that the Directors identified a few years ago.

Mr. Wunderlich gave a brief recap of what was covered in the previous Special Board Meeting that was held on May 21, 2020.

Director Weed asked for a status on items discussed at the previous meeting regarding implementing a pilot program to test different meter technologies and conducting literature review. Mr. Shaver responded stating that staff is reviewing available literature and plans to develop a potential pilot test plan, which will be reviewed with the Board at a future date.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to inquiries from the Board.

Ms. Ippagunta presented an update on the Capital Improvement Program. Discussion ensued and staff responded to inquiries from the Board.

Mr. Oam presented the financial planning model metrics and reviewed several different financial planning scenarios. Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Wunderlich requested the Board’s consideration of the items presented and the Board concurred in making additional annual payments for pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB).

Mr. Ken Nishimura, a Fremont resident, made several comments during the presentation including: he commented that, in his view, the District is collecting more revenue than is necessary and suggested that it would be helpful to show the expected service life of the various projects contained in the capital program.

The Budget will be brought to the Board for consideration at the June 11, 2020, meeting.

5 – GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORTS – Mr. Shaver stated that Smart Energy Water has agreed to conduct a demonstration of their customer portal application. After some discussion, it was decided that a presentation would be made to the full Board at a future Special Meeting.

6 – DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS AND/OR AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

Director Sethy requested that the multiple bids presented for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project be made available for review at an upcoming committee meeting. Director Sethy also requested further review of the payback period and return on investment that was presented at the May 21, 2020, meeting.

Director Weed stated that he will be participating in an upcoming webinar hosted by the Association of California Water Agencies on non-revenue water.

Director Sethy inquired if a special board meeting could be held to give a status report to the community regarding the purchase of the N3 Ranch. Discussion ensued and Mr. Shaver recommended holding a closed session in June to allow the negotiators to update the Board on the status before scheduling an open-session item. There was no objection to this approach expressed by the Directors.

7 – CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Shaver announced that the Board will convene in closed session to discuss the following item:

- 7.1 Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: General Manager

President Huang adjourned the meeting to closed session at 6:51 P.M. and reconvened the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

Mr. Shaver reported that in closed session, regarding Item 7.1, the Board met with the General Manager and provided input on his performance.

8 – OPEN SESSION

- 8.1 Appoint Agency Designated Representatives for Labor Negotiations between the District and the General Manager, an Unrepresented Employee, for a possible Amendment to the General Manager’s Employment Agreement

A motion was made by Director Weed, seconded by Director Akbari to nominate President Huang and Vice President Akbari as the Agency Designated Representatives for labor negotiations with the General Manager.

The motion was passed by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Akbari, Gunther, Sethy, Weed, and Huang
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

9 – CLOSED SESSION

President Huang announced that the Board will convene in closed session to discuss the following item:

- 9.1 Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6
Conference with Labor Negotiators
Agency Designated Representatives: President Huang and Vice President Akbari
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

President Huang adjourned the meeting to closed session at 9:08 P.M. and reconvened the meeting at 9:26 P.M.

President Huang reported that in closed session, regarding Item 9.1, the Board provided direction to its agency designated representatives.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

/s/ GINA MARKOU
Gina Markou, District Secretary

Attest:

/s/ JUDY C. HUANG
Judy C. Huang, President