

March 26, 2020
Fremont, California

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT was held on March 26, 2020, at the hour of 4:06 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 & Technology Services Ed Stevenson, Manager of Finance Jonathan Wunderlich, Manager of Water Resources and Conservation Laura Hidas, Manager of Operations and Maintenance Kurt Arends, Human Resources and Risk Manager Jennifer Solito, Emergency Response/Security Officer Jacob Reed, General Counsel Patrick Miyaki, and District Secretary Gina Markou.

President Judy Huang presided.

Director Akbari led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3 – PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

4 – CLOSED SESSION

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

- 4.1 Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957
- Threat to Public Services or Facilities
Consultation with District Counsel and Security Operations Manager

President Huang adjourned the meeting to closed session at 4:09 P.M. and reconvened the meeting at 6:03 P.M. President Huang stated that the District received a report from District Counsel and Security Operations Manager and no actions were taken.

5 – OPEN SESSION

5.1 UPDATE ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Mr. Shaver reported that COVID-19 is an infectious respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus that was first detected in Fall 2019 with the initial cases originating in China. The virus quickly migrated to nearby countries and has developed into a worldwide pandemic. Federal, state, and county agencies have issued guidelines, recommendations, and now mandate curtailing person-to-person contact, including the implementation of social distancing and shelter-in-place orders. Updated directives are being issued daily and both public and

private entities are activating their emergency response plans. The Alameda County Water District (District) performs an essential function and operates essential infrastructure to provide water to over 357,000 residents of Fremont, Newark, and Union City. The District Emergency Operations Team has been activated by the General Manager.

Mr. Shaver made a presentation to the Board which gave an overall update of the measures being implemented to keep employees safe and to ensure the District continues providing services to the community. Mr. Shaver further stated that the District is not currently experiencing any major operational issues.

5.2 CONSIDERATION OF DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Mr. Shaver requested that the Board of Directors (Board) consider a resolution proclaiming the existence of a local emergency, consistent with the state of emergencies declared by Alameda County and the State of California. The resolution would grant authority to the General Manager to take necessary actions, including authorization to suspend and/or modify administrative procedures, personal rules and policies, and procurement policies, authorize expanded paid administrative and sick leave, expanded leave donation program bank, and to take other necessary actions to protect District employees and the public and to ensure water supply during the declared national, state, and local emergencies resulting from the COVID-19 virus pandemic. All actions taken under this extended authority will comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Proclaiming a local emergency could provide the District with opportunities for additional state or federal funding assistance. The General Manager will report financial impacts regularly to the Board.

After discussion, a motion was made by Director Weed, seconded by Director Sethy to adopt the alternate version of the resolution recognizing that there is a state of emergency within the District's service area and jurisdiction resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and authorizing the General Manager to suspend and/or modify administrative procedures, personnel rules and policies, and procurement policies, to expand paid administrative and sick leave, to expand the leave donation program bank, and to take all other actions necessary to protect District employees and the public and to ensure safe and reliable water supply during the declared national, state, and local emergencies resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Huang, on behalf of the Board, stated that the safety of ACWD employees is extremely important to the Board as they make it possible for ACWD to fulfill its mission so competently and that this this resolution reflects the Board's commitment to support employees and their families.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-018

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN RECOGNITION OF THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY

The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

6 – GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORTS

- Mr. Shaver clarified that the Resolution adopted by the Board is temporary and for a limited time and pertains to issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic only.

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

- Director Weed commented that hopefully through the experience of the pandemic, the District will recognize the importance of developing a rate structure that includes placing the service charge on property taxes, which in his view is more rational, responsible, and advantageous to economically disadvantaged customers.
- President Huang thanked staff for increasing the District’s electronic outreach during the current pandemic.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 P.M.


Gina Markou, District Secretary

Attest:


Judy C. Huang, President