

**RUBIDOUX COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 16, 2025**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bernard Murphy
Hank Trueba, Jr.
John Skerbelis
Diana Leja
Leslie Altamirano

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Laddusaw, General Manager
Brandon Thomas, Assistant General Manager
Kirk Hamblin, Director of Finance and Administration
Miguel Valdez, Director of Engineering
Martha Perez, Customer Service/Accounts Payable
Manager
Melissa Trujillo, HR Generalist/Safety and Facilities
Coordinator

VISITORS (SIGNED IN): Ross Leja, RCSD Resident

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rubidoux Community Services District by President Trueba, at 4:00 PM Thursday, January 16, 2025, in-person and by teleconferencing at the District's Administrative Office, 3590 Rubidoux Boulevard, Jurupa Valley, California.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – General Manager

*****Director Murphy called for a five (5) minute recess 4:00 p.m., Resume at 4:03 p.m.*****

ITEM 3. ROLL CALL – General Manager

COMMENT(S):

*****Director Murphy would like to Move Consent Calendar Item E. DM 2025-03: Consider Acceptance of Work and Filing Notice of Completion for the Backwash Supply Pipeline Project at Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility to Action/ Discussion Items 8B.**

*****Director Leja would like to modify Minutes for December 19, 2024, Regular Meeting. The following need to be added and updated. 1. Director Leja recommended making**

Christmas Eve a permanent District holiday with half-day paid status. 2. President Trueba adjourned the meeting at 5:27 P.M not Director Skerbelis.

Revised Minutes for December 19, 2024, Regular Meeting will be available on <https://www.rcsd.org/2024-12-19-board-of-directors-board-meeting>

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

ITEM 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes for December 19, 2024, Regular Meeting-***REVISED***

B. Consideration to:

A) Ratify the January 2, 2025, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers

B) Approve the January 17, 2025, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers

C. **DM 2025-01:** Receive and File Statement of Cash Asset Schedule Report Ending November 2024

D. **DM 2025-02:** Consideration to Approve a Master Service Agreement for SCADA System Services with Stellar Technology

~~E. **DM 2025-03:** Consider Acceptance of Work and Filing Notice of Completion for the Backwash Supply Pipeline Project at Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility~~

Item E has been moved to Action/Discussion Items 8B

ACTION:

Director Murphy moved, and Director Trueba seconded to approve the Consent Calendar with Item E. **DM 2025-03: Consider Acceptance of Work and Filing Notice of Completion for the Backwash Supply Pipeline Project at Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility moved to Action/ Discussion Items 8B and the modifications to the Minutes for December 19, 2024, Regular Meeting.**

Roll call:

Ayes – 5 (Murphy, Trueba, Skerbelis, Leja, Altamirano)

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried 5-0-0-0.

ITEM 6. CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED INFORMATION

GM Brian Laddusaw presented four (4) articles to the Board of Directors. The first article was from the [pressenterprise.com](#). It was titled "Los Angeles County- Experts: Municipal Water Sewer Systems not designed for Wildfires." The article was about the municipal water and sewer systems in Los Angeles County and other regions that were primarily designed for urban development and routine use, not for the demands imposed by wildfires. During wildfires, the infrastructure often struggles to supply adequate water pressure and volume to firefighters, particularly in rural or remote areas. Water systems rely on electricity to pump and distribute water, and power outages during wildfires further compromise firefighting efforts. Experts suggest that municipalities need to invest in more resilient infrastructure, including backup power systems, increased storage capacity, and fire-resistant designs, to better handle wildfire emergencies. Coordination between municipal systems, fire departments, and urban planners is essential to adapt these systems to the increasing risk of wildfires due to climate change.

The second article was titled "California- EPA Oks State's ban on Gas Cars," also from the [pressenterprise.com](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved California's plan to phase out the sale of new gasoline-powered vehicles, granting the state a waiver under the Clean Air Act. California's policy mandates that by 2035, all new cars and light trucks sold in the state must be zero-emission vehicles, such as electric or hydrogen-powered models. The decision is part of California's broader strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, combat climate change, and improve air quality, especially in urban areas affected by pollution. As California often sets the trend for environmental regulations, this move could influence other states to adopt similar measures, potentially transforming the national auto market. The policy has faced criticism from some automakers, industry groups, and political figures who argue that the transition may pose economic and technological challenges, including concerns about vehicle affordability, infrastructure readiness, and supply chain constraints. Many environmental advocates and automakers support the move, viewing it as an essential step toward a sustainable and electrified transportation future.

The third article from the [pressenterprise.com](#), "Courts-Riverside Utility Refunds Ordered." A court has ordered Riverside's municipal utility to issue refunds to customers after determining that certain utility fees were improperly charged. The case centered on whether specific charges violated state laws, such as Proposition 218, which requires voter approval for new taxes and fees that exceed the cost of providing the service. The ruling mandates the utility to return millions of dollars to ratepayers, potentially through direct refunds or billing credits. Thousands of residential and business customers in Riverside are expected to benefit from the decision, though the refund process and timeline may vary. The ruling could strain the utility's budget and lead to adjustments in operations or future rate structures to comply with legal requirements.

The last article was from [mercurynews.com](#) titled, "News-Environment-Sierra Nevada Snowpack above average to start the year, a promising sign for state water supplies." The Sierra Nevada snowpack is measuring well above average for the beginning of the year, providing a positive outlook for California's water supply. The snowpack is a critical source of water for the state, supplying about 30% of California's water needs as it melts during the spring and summer. Above-average snow levels could alleviate some of the drought conditions that have plagued the state in recent years, improving reservoir levels and agricultural water availability. While the early snowpack levels are promising, experts note that consistent precipitation throughout the winter season is necessary to sustain these benefits. The report highlights the ongoing challenges

of managing water resources in the face of climate change, which brings more frequent and intense weather extremes. State water agencies will continue to monitor snowpack and reservoir levels closely to plan for water allocations and usage.

COMMENT(S):

Director Altamirano asked if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had recently changed the law mentioned in the article "California- EPA Oks State's ban on Gas Cars." GM Laddusaw will be providing an update on the current law.

ITEM 7. REPORTS

A. Operations Report (Second Meeting Each Month)

The Operations Report format was updated to include the Potable Water Production report. In December, potable water production totaled 371 acre-feet.

Well No. 18 and Well No. 8A produced the majority of the water. Chemical deliveries for the reporting period included the following:

- Sodium Bisulfite 25%: 3,052 gallons delivered to the Thompson Plant.
- Morton NSF Certified White Crystal Salt: 22.41 tons delivered to the Smith Plant.
- Sodium Hypochlorite 12.5% (Liquid Chloride): 7,227 gallons delivered to the Thompson Plant, Smith Plant, and Well 8.

The Operations Report also included information on SCE Public Safety Power Shutoffs, which began on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, around 2:00 a.m. and lasted through Friday, January 10, 2025. The District was without power for approximately 60 hours. On Sunday, January 12, 2025, the power went out again and remained off until Wednesday, January 15, 2025, affecting five (5) lift stations and a well. The Mission Booster was not affected.

There was a spill at the Fleetwood lift station, which does not have a generator. The other sites were operating on generators. American Rentals was able to provide a generator during the outage. During this time, a spill occurred that reached a manhole and was classified as a Category 4 sewer spill. The incident was reported to the state.

COMMENT(S)

Director Skerbelis confirmed whether the spill had reached a storm drain. Although the spill did enter the storm drain, it did not flow into the receiving water. The District is currently looking to purchase a generator for the Fleetwood lift station.

Director Trueba thanked Director of Operations Miguel for his hard work.

Director Murphy requested the inclusion of this month's and next month's water reservoir levels.

B. Emergency and Incident Report (Second Meeting Each Month)

Deferred to the next meeting if Fire Station 38 Personnel are available.

C. General Manager and Staff Reports / Updates

General Manager Brian Laddusaw informed the Board that the Western Water Retail meeting is scheduled for January 28th, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The headshot photographer for the Board of Directors and Management Team is scheduled for Thursday, February 20th, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room. The JARPD Art Reveal is scheduled for January 31st at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office, located at 8621 Jurupa Rd., Jurupa Valley, CA 92509. GM Laddusaw also shared the updated Santa Ana River Watershed map, which includes the District's logo and information. Additionally, AGM Brandon Thomas presented to the Board the JCSD Boil Order Notice, along with background information and an operations update.

COMMENT(S):

Director Altamirano shared the criticism she heard regarding the JCSD Boil Order Notice and emphasized that the District should be more active on social media to help JCSD residents stay informed and up-to-date with District-related updates. She also noted that not all residents use social media, and therefore, the District should collaborate with stakeholders and local agencies to share important information effectively.

Director Leja inquired whether the District has updated customer contact information to ensure effective communication when needed. She also mentioned that not all JCSD customers were contacted during the JCSD Boil Order Notice.

Director Murphy requested that the District create a list of local radio stations, news outlets, and other channels to reference during situations like the JCSD Boil Order Notice. He asked whether updated contact information, such as text, email, and phone numbers, is being collected when residents apply for water service to ensure rapid communication. Additionally, he inquired about the availability of door hangers for distribution if needed. He also noted that sampling stations need to be locked, as he has observed instances during inspections where they were left unsecured.

D. Committee Reports

The Solid Waste Trash Disposal Committee, which includes Directors Skerbelis and Murphy, met on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, to discuss the current Burrtec contract and rates. They will meet again on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

COMMENT(S):

Director Murphy asked for input regarding the service. Director Altamirano commented that she would like to ensure we negotiate the best rates and try to match the City's rates. Director Leja inquired about street sweeping, noting that residential street sweeping currently occurs monthly and suggesting an increase in frequency.

Director Skerbelis mentioned they are working towards having residential and commercial street sweeping conducted twice a month. He also noted that Director Murphy was focusing on the commercial areas. In response, Director Murphy stated that he has no issue with twice a month service but would prefer weekly service from the Santa Ana riverbed to Mission.

Director Altamirano added that increasing the frequency of services might lead to higher costs.

ITEM 8. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- A. DM 2025-04:** Consider Proposal for Internal Piping Upgrades from Filtronics, Inc. for Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility Manganese Vessels #1 and #2

BACKGROUND:

The Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility (“Thompson Facility”) was designed and constructed with manganese filter vessels to manage elevated manganese concentrations in water from Wells 8, 18, and 1A. These filter vessels currently use PVC piping for internal water distribution. Over time, issues have arisen due to the aging and potential structural weaknesses of the PVC piping, leading to inefficiencies in the water treatment process.

In 2024, the Board of Directors (“Board”) approved the rehabilitation of manganese filter vessel #3 following the identification of structural failures in its internal PVC piping. The Board authorized repairs using 304 stainless steel components, which were successfully completed by ERS Environmental Services (“ERS”). The transition to stainless steel significantly enhanced the vessel's durability and performance, setting a precedent for addressing similar issues in other manganese filter vessels.

To continue improving the reliability and longevity of the Thompson Facility’s manganese treatment infrastructure, District staff reached out to Filtronics, Inc. (“Filtronics”), the original equipment manufacturer, for a proposal to upgrade the internal piping of manganese filter vessels #1 and #2. Filtronics proposed replacing the internal PVC components with 304 stainless steel components to enhance durability, structural integrity, and performance (Attachment 1). The internal piping components are proprietary to Filtronics and are only available through them, making this a sole-source procurement (Attachment 2). This purchase is compliant pursuant to the District’s Procurement Policy Section 1040.21 Sole and Single Source Purchases Subsection (d) which notes a sole source purchase is authorized when the “item is a component or replacement part for which there is no commercially available substitute, and which can be purchased only from the manufacturer or authorized distributor.”

Budget Considerations

The total cost of the piping, including tax, is \$98,171.03, or just under \$50,000 per vessel. These necessary piping repairs were not anticipated during the preparation of the Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2024|2025 Water Fund Budget. Traditionally, similar costs would be allocated to Line 19, ‘R & M Water System.’

To appropriately fund this unforeseen repair cost without impacting the budget capacity for other water system repairs, staff recommends amending the budget. Specifically, \$100,000 should be reallocated from Line 24, ‘Operating Expense: Treatment Media,’ within the FY 2024|2025 Water Fund Budget. This amendment would allocate these funds to the repairs and maintenance account outlined above.

If approved, this amendment will result in an increase in Line 19, 'R & M Water System,' from \$523,000 to \$623,000, and a reduction in Line 24, 'Operating Expense: Treatment Media,' from \$1,000,000 to \$900,000.

Currently, Line 24 has a year-to-date balance of approximately \$155,000. This account is reserved for the District's treatment process media, such as granular activated carbon ("GAC") and ion exchange ("IX") resin. Six months into the fiscal year, staff anticipates that even with the proposed reduction in Line 24 by \$100,000, there will still be sufficient funds to cover the treatment media requirements for the remainder of the fiscal year.

COMMENT(S):

Director Altamirano asked if Filtronics, Inc. was the only company available to provide the piping. Staff confirmed that it was. She also inquired whether staff were being properly trained to complete the task. Staff responded that they are receiving confined space training as well as respirator training. Lastly, she asked if staff would receive additional compensation. Staff replied that they would not, as the task falls within the scope of their work, and they are capable of performing it.

Director Murphy requested clarification on what "enhancement performance" referred to, given that the pipe would be upgraded from plastic to metal. Staff clarified that it referred to the increased longevity of the new pipe. While the current pipe lasted 12 years, the new one is expected to last significantly longer.

ACTION:

Director Skerbelis moved, and Director Murphy seconded, to approve the proposal from Filtronics, Inc. for the internal piping upgrades for manganese filter vessels #1 and #2 at the Thompson Facility. Issue a purchase order to Filtronics, Inc. in the amount of \$98,171.03. Amend the FY 2024|2025 Water Fund Budget as follows: Line 19 'R & M Water System' from \$523,000 to \$623,000 and Line 24 'Operating Expense: Treatment Media' from \$1,000,000 to \$900,000.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5 (Murphy, Trueba, Skerbelis, Leja, Altamirano)

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried 5-0-0-0.

B. DM 2025- 03 Consider Acceptance of Work and Filing Notice of Completion for the Backwash Supply Pipeline Project at Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility

BACKGROUND:

On November 14, 2024, construction work for the Leland J. Thompson Water Treatment Plant Backwash Supply Pipeline (“Backwash Pipeline”) was substantially completed (Attachment 1). The project included constructing steel piping and appurtenances, modifying existing piping and valve systems, and providing all required equipment, labor, and materials to support these improvements. The project site is located at 5249 34th Street, Jurupa Valley, CA, under Assessor’s Parcel Number 179-230-019.

The project, performed by G&A Nelos Construction, Inc. (“Contractor”), addressed critical upgrades to the facility’s backwash water supply infrastructure. The improvements ensure reliable operation of the water filtration facility’s backwash process.

The original contract amount was \$534,000.00. Four change orders were approved during the project, resulting in an adjusted final contract amount of \$675,039.26. The final completion date was extended to November 14, 2024, due to unforeseen utilities, additional work requested by District staff, and delays in pipe fabrication.

TABLE 1	
SUMMARY OF CONTRACT COMPLETION	
CONTRACTOR: G & A NELOS CONSTRUCTION, INC.	
ITEM	AMOUNT
Original Contract Amount	\$ 534,000.00
Approved Change Orders	\$ 141,039.26
Adjusted Contract Amount	\$ 675,039.26

- Substantial Completion Date: November 14, 2024
- Final Acceptance Date: January 16, 2025

A summary of the total project costs are as follows:

TABLE 2	
SUMMARY OF PROJECT	
PROJECT: LELAND J. THOMPSON WATER TREATMENT PLANT BACKWASH SUPPLY PIPELINE	
ITEM	AMOUNT
Adjusted Contract w/ Change Orders	\$ 675,039.26
Valves (purchased direct from vendor)	\$ 56,972.52
Construction Oversight (K&S)	\$ 176,700.00
Total Project Cost	\$ 908,711.78
Budgeted Project Cost (DM 2024-43)	\$ 890,000.00
(Under)/Over Budget - \$	\$ 18,711.78
(Under)/Over Budget - %	2.10%

The project was executed in accordance with the contract documents, and the work has been inspected and approved. The project exceeded the original budget by approximately \$19,000, or

2%, due to additional design and geotechnical inspection services. A draft Notice of Completion has been prepared and is ready for filing with the County of Riverside (Attachment 2). Filing the Notice of Completion will initiate the 35-day lien period, after which the final retention payment will be issued to the Contractor. The final retention payment due to Contractor is \$33,751.96.

COMMENT(S):

Director Murphy commented on change orders 2 and 4, referencing page 4, last paragraph, second sentence. He noted that the verbiage, "the \$80,000," was not included in the original set of plans. He remarked that it would have been better if this cost had been included in the plans during the bidding process. The additional cost was due to comments made by a state agency inspector in the field and unforeseen utilities. These included the connection of the pipe to street utilities and underground concrete on District properties that had not been shown in the plans.

ACTION:

Director Murphy moved, and Director Skerbelis seconded, to accept the work performed by G&A Nelos Construction, Inc. for the Leland J. Thompson Water Treatment Plant Backwash Supply Pipeline as complete. Authorize the General Manager, or designee, the execute and file the Notice of Completion for the project with the County of Riverside and release the contract retention in the amount of \$33,751.96 after the waiting period has been satisfied.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5 (Trueba, Skerbelis, Leja, Altamirano, Murphy)

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried 5-0-0-0.

ITEM 9. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Director Trueba shared that the Don Schroeder Family Care Center experienced an issue with their toilets, specifically brown water. RCSD employees addressed the problem by flushing the affected areas, which were impacted by manganese.

Director Murphy commented on the power outages in the area and expressed his desire to donate his uncashed checks to assist customers on payment plans. He also shared information about free food programs, mentioning that he had received a phone call from the State Assembly regarding food recovery programs. Additionally, he complimented fire department personnel for their work.

Director Murphy raised concerns about the lack of rotation within the AD HOC Field/Administration Building Committee. He referenced relevant verbiage on page 14 of the Board of Directors Policies and Procedures Manual and requested that the status of the building be included on the next Board meeting agenda. He also requested for the original documents

from the Finance and Budget Committee meeting where the building's status was discussed, as well as the minutes that established the AD HOC Committee to be included with the agenda.

Director Altamirano expressed interest in receiving a tour of the District sites to become more familiar with them. She mentioned having additional questions for management, which she planned to discuss directly with them. She thanked staff for the email updates during the power shutoffs but emphasized the importance of also informing residents about such events. No other Directors had comments.

ITEM 10. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT

President Trueba adjourned the meeting at 5:15 P.M.