

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 1, 2021**  
**RUBIDOUX COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Armando Muniz  
Bernard Murphy  
John Skerbelis  
F. Forest Trowbridge  
Hank Trueba, Jr.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jeffrey Sims, General Manager  
Ted Beckwith, Director of Engineering  
Brian Laddusaw, Director of Finance  
Brian Jennings, Customer Service Manager  
Miguel Valdez, Operations Manager

Call to order: the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rubidoux Community Services District by President Skerbelis, at 4:00 P.M., Thursday, April 1, 2021, by teleconferencing at District Office, 3590 Rubidoux Boulevard, Jurupa Valley, California.

**ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes for March 18, 2021, Board Meeting.

**Director Trueba moved, and Director Muniz seconded to approve the March 18, 2021 Regular Board Minutes.**

**Roll call:**

**Ayes – 5 (Muniz, Murphy, Skerbelis, Trowbridge, Trueba)**

**Noes – 0**

**Abstain – 0**

**Away – 0**

**The motion was carried unanimously.**

**ITEM 5. Consideration to Approve the April 2, 2021 Salaries, Expenses and Transfers.**

Consideration to Approve the April 2, 2021 Salaries, Expenses and Transfers.

**Director Trowbridge moved, and Director Muniz seconded to Approve the April 2, 2021 Salaries, Expenses and Transfers**

**Roll call:**

**Ayes – 5 (Muniz, Murphy, Skerbelis, Trowbridge, Trueba)**

**Noes – 0**

**Abstain – 0**

**Absent – 0**

**The motion was carried unanimously.**

**ITEM 6. PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGE OF NON-AGENDA MATTERS**

There were no members of the public to address the board.

**ITEM 7. CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED INFORMATION**

There was a letter to Chair Spiegel and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, requesting direct financial assistance for 2020 customer past-due utility debt.

**ITEM 8. MANAGER’S REPORT**

**Operations Report:**

The front office will be open to the public for bill paying on Monday, April 5, 2021. Board Meetings will continue to be conducted via Zoom along with in-person. Board Members are welcome to attend in-person conditioned on wearing face coverings while state guidance mandates wearing of face coverings in public places.

There has been progress on the PFAS treatment systems at the Smith Treatment Plant. Ted Beckwith gave a detailed slide presentation on the GAC treatment addition for PFAS contaminants for Well 6. The concrete foundation has been poured, and the pressure vessels and some of the piping has been installed. Well No. 4 was completed a while ago and will be put into service shortly. Well No. 6 should be completed in approximately 3-4 weeks.

Work continues to move forward on installing PFAS removal through ionic exchange treatment at the Leland Thompson site. Rehabilitation of Well No. 18 is complete, with consideration of the Notice of Completion anticipated on the agenda of the next board meeting.

Well No. 2 treatment is functioning well to remove both TCP 1, 2, 3 and PFAS contaminants. Over the past 18 months the District has spent or committed to spend approximately \$5,000,000 to remove PFAS contaminants from the water.

General Manager Sims added to the report regarding trash pick-up on Mission Ave. between Crestmore and Riverview. He and Ted Beckwith met with Paul Toor at the City of Jurupa Valley. They gave Mr. Toor a copy of information provided by Director Murphy. Brian Jennings has contacted RTA to see if RTA is getting funding from the city landscape maintenance district.

Director Murphy stated several government agencies are getting paid to empty the trash receptacles along Mission and not every one of them is getting emptied routinely. The money generated for this effort comes through property taxes. Customers are being charged for this service and it appears not all the work is getting done. The goal is to get the trash emptied. Jeff Sims said district personnel will continue to follow up on this issue.

### **Emergency and Fire Report:**

Chief Kibby stated a meeting with District management staff at Station 38 has been scheduled to walk around the fire station to identify repairs needed over the next few years. The goal is to start building up a cycle and replacement of commodities in the fire station that slowly break down from use. The station's getting cleaned up. Landscaping is being worked on in the backyard.

### **ITEM 9. Consider Approval of Agreement with Cal OES. DM 2021-17.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services ("Cal OES") makes grant funds available for its Community Power Resiliency Program to help agencies mitigate power disruptions. Electrical power disruptions have become more frequent in response to fires attributed to electrical facility failures during high wind events. Now energy providers shut down power to areas where high winds are anticipated. This on one hand should help reduce the number of fires caused by downed electrical facilities, but on the other hand puts added pressure on water providers to maintain water service reliability. Rubidoux Community Services District ("District") applied for the maximum allocation of \$300,000 and was recently notified of being a recipient. Blais and Associates assisted the District in preparation of the funding application at a cost of \$2,940.00.

The District like other water service providers relies on the electrical grid for power to run pumps, wells, and treatment systems. Power outage planning includes designing storage tanks with emergency storage, and back-up generators are installed to provide temporary power. The District evaluated where generators would be beneficial for increased system reliability and proposed in its application to Cal OES to install fixed generators at Well 1A, Well 2, and Mission Booster Station. A copy of the application submitted to Cal OES is attached and the Budget Narrative section describes the proposed use of the Cal OES funding. The total estimated cost to install the generators is \$391,700. Cal OES Funding will reimburse the District \$300,000. Staff will include these projects in the upcoming FY 2021-2022 Budget, with the anticipation total District out of pocket expense being approximately \$100,000.

Cal OES sent the District a Letter Agreement dated March 12, 2021, attached, notifying of the award. The letter outlines activities the funding can and cannot be used for, and what requirements must be met. Requirements include progress reporting, CEQA compliance, and contract compliance per all state statutes.

Staff did not receive the Letter Agreement in sufficient time to include it on the March 18, 2021 Board Agenda. The Letter Agreement includes a deadline of returning the signed Letter Agreement within 20 calendar days of March 12, 2021, or April 1, 2021. To make sure the Letter Agreement was received by Cal OES in a timely manner, the General Manager signed and

returned the Letter Agreement. The purpose of this Board Action is to 1) notify the Board of the allocation of funds, and 2) ratify the General Manager's signature of the Letter Agreement.

**Director Muniz moved, and Director Trowbridge seconded the Board of Directors ratify and authorize the General Manager's signing of the Cal OES Letter Agreement dated March 12, 2021.**

**Roll call:**

**Ayes – 5 (Muniz, Murphy, Skerbelis, Trowbridge, Trueba)**

**Noes – 0**

**Abstain – 0**

**Absent – 0**

**The motion was carried unanimously.**

**ITEM 10. Consider Professional Services Contract with Krieger and Stewart for Design of Disinfection System at Leland Thompson Treatment Plant. DM 2021-18.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Rubidoux Community Services District ("District") provides sewer service within its boundaries and conveys collected wastewater to the City of Riverside's (City's) Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) for treatment and disposal in accordance with treatment capacity agreement agreements. The RWQCP provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment processes pursuant to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit ("NPDES" Permit). The RWQCP's NPDES Permit limits Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in recycled water discharged to the Santa Ana River to be at or less than 650 mg/l (parts per million, ppm).

Currently the District exceeds this limit and is discharging wastewater to the City averaging about 720 ppm TDS. The City has taken certain actions to require the District to reduce the level of TDS in the wastewater sent to the RWQCP.

The Board may recall in 2019 work began on a pipeline to redirect the District's largest discharger's industrial waste flow from RCSD's sewer system to the Inland Empire Brine Line. The discharger was Aramark Uniform Service, and in November 2019 the work was completed. At that time Aramark's industrial waste began flowing to the Brine Line resulting in a reduction of the District's TDS concentration in its wastewater from around 1,000 ppm to an approximate average of 720 ppm TDS flow the District installed and paid for a new pipeline from Aramark's site to the Inland Empire Brine Line at a cost of \$322,719.00 as detailed in attached DM 2019-70. Additionally, since most of Aramark's discharge was diverted to the Inland Empire Brine Line, the District agreed to refund Aramark \$1,934,997.00 in Sewer Capacity Fees. Detail of this transaction is in attached DM 2020-06.

District project "Well 18 Rehabilitation" is nearing completion and construction of the Ion Exchange Project to remove PFAS contaminants is about to commence at the Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility. This site also includes Manganese Plant No. 2 (MN Plant No. 2) which is used to remove manganese from Well 18 and 1A to meet water quality standards. Part

of the existing MN Plant No. 2 facility includes a MiOx Chlorine Generation Facility (MiOx). The MiOx requires the use of salt in the form of Sodium Chloride (NaCl) and produces chlorine at 0.8% concentration. Calculations show that adding salt to generate chlorine will result in an increase of TDS levels by approximately 27 ppm. Given the District has spent considerable effort and money to reduce the TDS discharged into the RWQCP, it is not prudent to intentionally introduce new additional TDS into the wastewater sent to RWQCP with use of the MiOx system and replacing it with a disinfection system using 12.5% liquid chlorine. Doing this can avoid adding TDS, lower staff time expense, create a safer working environment, and reduce operating expense as explained below:

1. Reduction in staff time: the MiOx system requires staff time to clean the chlorine generation cells of calcium build-up. Calcium build-up lowers the efficacy of the generation cells and eventually makes them ineffective at generating chlorine. The generation cells need to be cleaned about every 10 days with a concentration of toxic hydrochloric acid posing a workplace hazard. The annual labor cost to maintain the MiOx runs about \$24,000.
2. Maintenance cost reduction: The cells need to be replaced on an 8-to-10-year interval as the catalyst wears out. The cells cost over \$50,000 to replace which equates to about \$5,000 a year. Going to 12.5% liquid chlorine eliminates the annual expense.
3. Electrical cost savings: Creating chlorine from salt water requires considerable electricity to power the cells and run the pumps. Based on current electrical rates and Well 18 producing approximately 1,000 AFY, electrical savings with removal of the MiOx system is estimated to be about \$14,000 a year.
4. Safety enhancement: Removal of the MiOx system eliminates use of hydrochloric acid to remove calcium build up on the generator cells. Hydrochloric acid is hazardous to the respiratory system and can burn if contact is made with skin.

The District has requested and received a proposal from Krieger and Stewart in the amount of \$64,700, attached, for Professional Services to design a replacement system, with consists of 12.5% concentrated sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) storage, dosing pumps and related piping. It is staff's intent that this work will be done as a change order to the Ion Exchange Project which is about to commence for expediency of completing the work at the same time.

**Director Trowbridge moved, and Director Muniz seconded the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to:**

1. **Transfer \$64,700 from the Water Reserve Fund to the Water Capital Improvement Fund and track as a Budget Amendment to the FY 2020-2021 Budget.**
2. **Issue a Task Order in a not to exceed amount of \$64,700 to Krieger and Stewart under Master Agreement RCSD 2021-1 to prepare the plans and documents for the replacement of the MiOx system with a Sodium Hypochlorite dosing system.**

**Roll call:**

**Ayes – 5 (Muniz, Murphy, Skerbelis, Trowbridge, Trueba)**

**Noes – 0**

**Abstain – 0**

**Absent – 0**

**The motion was carried unanimously.**

**ITEM 11. Directors Comments**

Director Murphy had a comment regarding the board packet being delivered late. He would like the packets to have everything in them and for them to be delivered on a regular schedule.

Director Murphy's second comment was a question regarding the City – RCSD lawsuit. He asked if there is something happening soon with a hearing. General Manager Sims stated the hearing is scheduled for April 27, 2021. As soon as the tentative order is received, he will advise.

Director Skerbelis adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM.