

**RUBIDOUX COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2023**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

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

VISITORS (SIGNED IN): Kit Bobko, District Special Counsel
John Harper, District General Counsel

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rubidoux Community Services District by President Murphy, at 4:00 P.M., Thursday, December 7, 2023, in-person and by teleconferencing at the District's Administrative Office, 3590 Rubidoux Boulevard, Jurupa Valley, California.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – General Manager

ITEM 3. ROLL CALL – General Manager

LATE AGENDA ADDITION - DM 2023-107

Unanimous vote to approve late agenda addition, item 8D: DM 2023-107.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5

Noes – 0
Abstain – 0
Absent – 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

8D. DM 2023-107 Consider Annual Board of Directors Reorganization for Calendar Year 2024

BACKGROUND:

Since 1991, the Rubidoux Community Services District (“District”) Board of Directors (“Board”) have practiced the custom of yearly rotating the Vice-President position into the President position for the succeeding Calendar Year. Last December, Vice-President Murphy was affirmed President for Calendar Year 2023 and Director Skerbelis was elected Vice-President. Should the Board continue to maintain this legacy practice of title rotation, current Vice-President Skerbelis will serve as Board President for Calendar Year 2024 (specifically December 2023-December 2024) and the Board will need to elect a new Vice-President. Further, for the new Calendar Year, the newly installed President is responsible for that year’s District Committee assignments.

For the December 7, 2023, Board meeting, the Board should consider the following order of events:

1. Recognize Vice-President Skerbelis as Board President for Calendar Year 2024.
2. President Skerbelis assumes the President role and conducts the balance of the Board meeting.
3. Board considers nominations and vote on who will be Vice-President for Calendar Year 2024 with eventual rotation to Board President in 2025.
4. President Skerbelis begins the process of filling the District Committee assignments for Calendar Year 2024. This should be finalized by the regularly scheduled Board meeting on January 4, 2024. Attachment 1 is a blank Committee assignment sheet for Calendar Year 2024. This can be a helpful tool for President Skerbelis when considering Committee assignments. Additionally, the Calendar Year 2023 Committee assignments is provided as Attachment 2 should President Skerbelis need to reference this list.

Director Skerbelis moved, and Director Murphy seconded to approve the following:

1. The Board affirm Vice-President Skerbelis as Board President for Calendar Year 2024.
2. The Board discuss, nominate, and elect a Board Vice-President for Calendar Year 2024.

Director Trueba was nominated as the Board Vice-President.

3. President Skerbelis seek interest from fellow Board members on desired Committee assignments and deliver a final Calendar Year 2024 Committee assignment list to the General Manager no later than January 4, 2024.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

NOTE: President Skerbelis conducted the balance of the meeting.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

ITEM 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes for November 16, 2023, Regular Meeting
- B. Consideration to Approve December 8, 2023, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers
- C. **DM 2023-103:** Receive and File Statement of Cash Asset Schedule Report Ending October 2023
- D. **DM 2023-104:** Consider Proposal for Professional Services for Bid Documents for Phase One of the District Wide Reservoir Corrective Action Plan with Harper and Associates Engineers

Director Murphy moved, and Director Trueba seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED INFORMATION

None

ITEM 7. REPORTS

- A. **Operations Report** (Second Meeting Each Month)

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

C. General Manager and Staff Reports / Updates

General Manager Brian Laddusaw reported on the Holiday Toy & Diaper Drive that is taking place from December 1st-15th. Individuals can drop off new, unwrapped toys for children 1-12 years and/or diapers of any size to Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes office located at 391 N. Main St. STE.210, Corona, Monday - Friday from 9 AM - 5 PM. He also shared Vice-President Trueba Santa Clause pictures from the City of Jurupa Valley Christmas event. Lastly, he reminded the Board of the Employees Holiday Potluck on Wednesday, December 13th from 12pm-2pm. Director of Engineering Ted Beckwith updated the Board on the grant the District received from Western for the usage of the District Main Office front lawn water-efficient landscaping.

D. Committee Reports

There were no Committee Meetings to report.

ITEM 8. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS.

A. DM 2023-105: Consider Approval of a Professional Services Agreement and Proposal for Down Well Logging at Well 8 with Best Environmental Subsurface Sampling Technologies

BACKGROUND:

Rubidoux Community Services District (“District”) and Jurupa Community Services District (“Jurupa”) have an interagency potable water intertie at Jewel Street. Both agencies contributed funds to construct this intertie approximately 10 years ago. Although the intertie allows water to move in both directions, the main use of the facility has been to move District water to Jurupa. Jurupa is reliant on its groundwater wells for supply, which like the District has required installation of treatment processes for removal of various contaminants. In addition to its wells, Jurupa is a member of the Chino Desalter Authority and entitled to a supply of desalted water.

Based on anticipated future demand increases, Jurupa needs additional water supply and has partnered with the District to purchase District water. Jurupa ceased taking water from the District in 2018 due to the emergence of 1,2,3-TCP. Shortly after the District installed treatment processes to mitigate 1,2,3-TCP, the PFAS family of compounds emerged as another contaminant of concern. Jurupa made a policy decision to not import water exceeding the notification level for any PFAS contaminant before the new Notification Limit (“NL”) became effective September 2021. The District’s potable supply exceeded the NL, but not the then current response limit (“RL”). In early 2020, the Division of Drinking Water (“DDW”) lowered the NL and RL for PFOS and PFOA and due to the District’s proximity to a closed landfill placed the District on an Order to not serve water to customers in excess of the lowered RL by September 2021. The District successfully installed treatment systems on all wells to remove PFAS and met the September 2021 deadline. For the remainder of 2021, District staff ran the newly installed PFAS treatment systems to get familiar with their configuration and operation.

In January 2022, after a few months of successful operation, District staff engaged Jurupa on updating the wholesale water rate charged between the two agencies pursuant to the original intertie operating agreement. As water mostly flows from the District to Jurupa, District staff were tasked with setting the new wholesale rate. The wholesale rate derived by the District was based on the added operating costs associated with PFAS treatment in addition to capital recovery of the treatment systems. In March 2022, the District successfully negotiated Amendment No. 1 to the inter-agency operating agreement with Jurupa. Jurupa commenced water purchases in April 2022 and this continued throughout calendar year 2022 until late November. Since late November 2022 Jurupa has again ceased taking water from the District due to a variety of water quality concerns. Staff has addressed most of those concerns and is in the final stages of procuring some additional equipment to install at the Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility (“Thompson Plant”) which will provide continuous monitoring of Manganese at various stages of the treatment process including effluent into the District’s distribution system. This piece of equipment is expected to be installed in late December 2023. Jurupa’s water demand is seasonal and currently is not in need of imported water. The District expects to re-commence water sales to Jurupa in Spring 2024.

A significant part of the water quality concerns is the presence of Manganese in the District’s water supply. Manganese is considered a Secondary Contaminant by the DDW and there is a Maximum Contaminant Level (“MCL”) for the constituent of 50 parts-per-billion (“ppb”). Manganese is a chemical element found naturally in the environment. Often, it’s found in minerals combined with iron. Secondary contaminants are generally aesthetic concerns with the color and/or taste of the drinking water. Manganese is found in many foods, including whole grains, coffee, and even black pepper. The Thompson Plant was originally constructed to remove Manganese from the District’s water supply. High concentrations of Manganese are found in the District’s Well 1A and 18, well above the MCL. Alternatively, Well 8’s Manganese level has historically been below the MCL, ranging from less than 20 ppb to 50 ppb. Because of this, water produced from Well 8 has historically bypassed Manganese treatment and blended with the treated effluent of Wells 1A and 18 for introduction into the District’s distribution system. The blended water of Wells 1A, 8, and 18 allowed for the District to remain below the MCL compliance level of 50 ppb while also saving on treatments costs.

With the successful installation of PFAS treatment at the Thompson Plant in September 2021, the blended water of Wells 1A, 8, and 18 was configured to flow through PFAS treatment before introduction into the District’s distribution system. The District has operated under this configuration since September 2021 with only toggling wells on/off based on seasonal demand.

In September 2023, Operations staff noticed increased levels of Manganese in the effluent from the Thompson Plant going to the distribution system. Operations staff immediately began diagnosing the issue by using a portable water quality analyzer, known as a DR 3900, which provides real-time water quality data to District staff thus bypassing the multi-week lag time often associated with laboratory tested samples. This allows for a more expeditious approach to mitigating water quality issues. After much research and analysis District staff came to the following conclusions:

1. There is a direct correlation between wet years and the increase in ambient Manganese levels in the District’s groundwater basin, i.e., the more it rains, the higher the Manganese levels.

Southern California had an unusually high rainy season last year, well above seasonal averages compared to recent years. The heavy rainfall percolates into the District's groundwater basin, giving rise to the water table and stirring up Manganese in the District's raw water supply.

2. Manganese at the District's Thompson Plant is treated by a filtration media that needs to be monitored and changed out on a routine basis. Absent this practice, Manganese treatment becomes ineffective and the Manganese itself is at risk of infiltrating the downstream PFAS treatment process or making its way into the distribution system.

This downstream infiltration occurred at the Thompson Plant up until December 2022, when the filtration media was replaced. Since the replacement of the new filtration media, the District's Manganese treatment process is now working effectively but from September 2021 to December 2022, the District's PFAS resin was being saturated with Manganese.

3. Since Well 8 bypasses Manganese treatment but blends with the treated effluent of Wells 1A and 18, a chemical reaction occurs as the chlorinated water from Wells 1A and 18 precipitates the Manganese of Well 8 when blended. This results in precipitated Manganese flowing through the District's PFAS vessels. The removal of Manganese is not the intended purpose for the Ion Exchange process as it was built to remove PFAS. Over saturation of the Ion Exchange resin with Manganese will result in the eventual breakthrough and release of Manganese into the distribution system. The District's lead PFAS treatment vessels, A, C, and E had become over saturated with Manganese from an inefficient Manganese treatment process and the precipitated Manganese from Well 8. The District replaced the spent resin of Vessels A, C, and E in November 2023 and Well 8 is currently off.

Best Environmental Subsurface Sampling Technologies ("BESST") is a groundwater technology and services company that specializes in groundwater wells and exploratory boreholes. BESST designs, develops, builds, and deploys forensic, technically minded, miniaturized, subsurface-based technologies for solving groundwater quality and quantity problems in innovative and cost-effective ways. Since Well 8 is currently off due to fouling of the PFAS Ion Exchange Treatment process at the Thompson Plant, staff engaged BESST to analyze the well profile for Well 8 to determine if modifications to the well casing can be made to block Manganese from entering the well casing and therefore eliminate the need to treat for Manganese from Well 8. If this is successful, the District may consider this process for all its wells.

BESST intends to use data provided by the District and the dynamic profile of Well 8 to understand these water quality issues better and to apply this data to generate conclusions and solutions that either eliminate or minimize treatment as well as to provide a broader context to the potential extent of groundwater contamination. This data will be used in the long run to select more favorable sites for new well installations.

BESST proposes to perform a high-resolution dynamic survey that delineates contaminant distribution over closely spaced intervals - including the clay boundaries in contact with more permeable sediments. BESST will also review local geohydrologic literature, other previous studies, and localized data to better inform and provide a comprehensive profiling effort, data interpretation, and recommendations. Some of this data will include precipitation trends, pumping history, and changes in static water levels.

BESST's proposal includes the fees to perform a well access survey, profile the well, and provide a detailed hydrogeologic profiling report with conclusions and recommendations. The proposal does not include laboratory fees, as well as contingent costs to improve access if warranted by means of drilling access holes through the pump plate or performing a lift and shift of the discharge head. If a lift and shift is warranted, scenarios to gain access to the well are detailed in the proposal under Profiling Preparation, Access Survey and Video Inspection of Well Casing and Screens.

BESST's proposal for this work is \$31,482.50. There will be additional costs to the District for obtaining lab tests of water samples pulled from the well during the process which are not included in the BESST proposal. The District will use its current lab, Babcock Labs, for this work. There may be additional costs as indicated above. Staff recommends allocating \$50,000.00 for this effort to cover these costs if necessary.

Budget Considerations:

In the FY 2022/23 Budget, staff anticipated 2,000 acre-feet (AF) of sales to Jurupa which would generate around \$1.2 million in revenue. With Jurupa not taking water, this revenue was not realized in FY 2022/23 and revenue from Jurupa was approximately \$540,000, about half of the amount budgeted. Furthermore, staff assumed no sales to Jurupa in the FY 2023/24 Budget and did not consider this income in the budget. The revenue from sales to Jurupa goes to recover some of the \$5 million spent on PFAS treatment facilities which the District completed in 2021.

In addition to revenue from Jurupa, the District desires to provide a better quality of water to its customers and to have a clean Consumer Confidence Report ("CCR") which is free of occasional MCL exceedances which further require footnotes explaining the issue.

Although staff was working on this effort simultaneously with the preparation of the FY 2023/24 Budget, increase in Manganese from Well 8 was a recent manifestation and therefore the District did not anticipate and fund this effort in the Water Fund Budget for this year. Not having water sales to Jurupa significantly impacts the District's operating revenues and limits the District's ability to replenish its reserves from the \$5 million in capital spent the last couple of years. Additionally, the estimated \$1.2 million in revenue generated from water sales to Jurupa could help fund other District priority projects or mitigate customer rate increases in the future. Staff proposes the District fund this work from its Water Fund unrestricted operating reserves via a budget amendment, which has a current balance of approximately \$6.719 million as of November 17, 2023, and is more than sufficient to cover this scope of work. Staff anticipates additional costs associated with this effort, most notably lab analysis costs and potential costs to obtain access to the well casing.

PRESENTATION BY STAFF: Thompson Plant Manganese Issues

Director Murphy moved, and Director Muniz seconded to approve the following:

1. Amend the District's FY 2023/24 Water Fund Budget to create a new consulting expense called "Engineering Fees: Well 8 Down Well Logging and Analysis" in the amount of \$50,000 and fund this effort from the District's Water Fund unrestricted operating reserves.

2. Approve BESST proposal in the amount of \$31,482.50 and authorize staff to issue a Professional Services Agreement and Task Order to BESST to perform this work.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

B. DM 2023-106: Consider Approval of a Professional Services Proposal for Manganese Investigation at the Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility with Trussell Technologies

BACKGROUND:

Rubidoux Community Services District (“District”) and Jurupa Community Services District (“Jurupa”) have an interagency potable water intertie at Jewel Street. Both agencies contributed funds to construct this intertie approximately 10 years ago. Although the intertie allows water to move in both directions, the main use of the facility has been to move District water to Jurupa. Jurupa is reliant on its groundwater wells for supply, which like the District has required installation of treatment processes for removal of various contaminants. In addition to its wells, Jurupa is a member of the Chino Desalter Authority and entitled to a supply of desalted water.

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the final stages of procuring some additional equipment to install at the Leland Thompson Water Treatment Facility (“Thompson Plant”) which will provide continuous monitoring of Manganese at various stages of the treatment process including effluent into the District’s distribution system. This piece of equipment is expected to be installed in late December 2023. Jurupa’s water demand is seasonal and currently is not in need of imported water. The District expects to re-commence water sales to Jurupa in Spring 2024.

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In September 2023, Operations staff noticed increased levels of Manganese in the effluent from the Thompson Plant going to the distribution system. Operations staff immediately began diagnosing the issue by using a portable water quality analyzer, known as a DR 3900, which provides real-time water quality data to District staff thus bypassing the multi-week lag time often associated with laboratory tested samples. This allows for a more expeditious approach to mitigating water quality issues. After much research and analysis District staff came to the following conclusions:

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Southern California had an unusually high rainy season last year, well above seasonal averages compared to recent years. The heavy rainfall percolates into the District’s groundwater basin, giving rise to the water table and stirring up Manganese in the District’s raw water supply.

2. Manganese at the District’s Thompson Plant is treated by a filtration media that needs to be monitored and changed out on a routine basis. Absent this practice, Manganese treatment becomes ineffective and the Manganese itself is at risk of infiltrating the downstream PFAS treatment process or making its way into the distribution system.

This downstream infiltration occurred at the Thompson Plant up until December 2022, when the filtration media was replaced. Since the replacement of the new filtration media, the District’s

Manganese treatment process is now working effectively but from September 2021 to December 2022, the District's PFAS resin was being saturated with Manganese.

3. Since Well 8 bypasses Manganese treatment but blends with the treated effluent of Wells 1A and 18, a chemical reaction occurs as the chlorinated water from Wells 1A and 18 precipitates the Manganese of Well 8 when blended. This results in precipitated Manganese flowing through the District's PFAS vessels. The removal of Manganese is not the intended purpose for the Ion Exchange process as it was built to remove PFAS. Over saturation of the Ion Exchange resin with Manganese will result in the eventual breakthrough and release of Manganese into the distribution system. The District's lead PFAS treatment vessels, A, C, and E had become over saturated with Manganese from an inefficient Manganese treatment process and the precipitated Manganese from Well 8. The District replaced the spent resin of Vessels A, C, and E in November 2023 and Well 8 is currently off.

The District has used Trussell Technologies ("Trussell") extensively in the recent past to prepare its current Standard Operating Procedures ("SOP's") for the treatment plants at both the Thompson Plant and Anita B. Smith Water Treatment Facility ("Smith Plant"). Trussell also did the analysis of PFAS issues at the Smith Plant in 2021 when it was found the Nitrate Removal Resin was saturated with PFAS and there was inadequate resin available at the time. Trussell has worked with the District in preparation of Operation Plans for permitting from the Division of Drinking Water resulting in a testing protocol which reduced the frequency of testing required in turn saving the District money on water testing requirements.

The District contacted Trussell to investigate current issues with Manganese ("Mn") at the Thompson Plant. Trussell provided a proposal which includes the following efforts:

- Review of historical water quality trends for Wells 1A, 8A, 18, and 2 to determine changes in Mn over time and potential influences from the water table.
- Review the design and historic operational data of the existing Mn treatment system and provide guidance whether it can accommodate treatment of Well 8A. In parallel, Trussell will evaluate the potential reduction in PFAS treatment capacity (e.g., loss of bed life) that may be expected if Well 8A continues to run to the IX vessels without first treating for Mn. This will include a summary of the most recent resin change out that occurred at Thompson WTF.
- Preparation of a technical memo documenting Trussell's investigation and recommendations for Mn recurring issues.
- Preparation of any required updates to SOPs based on the findings of this investigation.

Trussell provided a proposal in the amount of \$28,660.00 to perform this work effort.

Budget Considerations:

In the FY 2022/23 Budget, staff anticipated 2,000 acre-feet (AF) of sales to Jurupa which would generate around \$1.2 million in revenue. With Jurupa not taking water, this revenue was not realized in FY 2022/23 and revenue from Jurupa was approximately \$540,000, about half of the amount budgeted. Furthermore, staff assumed no sales to Jurupa in the FY 2023/24 Budget and did not consider this income in the budget. The revenue from sales to Jurupa goes to recover some of the \$5 million spent on PFAS treatment facilities which the District completed in 2021.

In addition to revenue from Jurupa, the District desires to provide a better quality of water to its customers and to have a clean Consumer Confidence Report (“CCR”) which is free of occasional MCL exceedances which further require footnotes explaining the issue.

Although staff was working on this effort simultaneously with the preparation of the FY 2023/24 Budget, increase in Manganese from Well 8 was a recent manifestation and therefore the District did not anticipate and fund this effort in the Water Fund Budget for this year. Not having water sales to Jurupa significantly impacts the District’s operating revenues and limits the District’s ability to replenish its reserves from the \$5 million in capital spent the last couple of years. Additionally, the estimated \$1.2 million in revenue generated from water sales to Jurupa could help fund other District priority projects or mitigate customer rate increases in the future. Staff proposes the District fund this work from its Water Fund unrestricted operating reserves via a budget amendment, which has a current balance of approximately \$6.719 million as of November 17, 2023, and is more than sufficient to cover this scope of work. Staff anticipates additional costs associated with this effort, most notably lab analysis costs and potential costs to obtain access to the well casing.

Director Murphy moved, and Director Muniz seconded to approve the following:

1. Amend the District’s FY 2023|2024 Water Fund Budget to create a new consulting expense called “Engineering Fees: Thompson Plant Manganese Analysis” in the amount of \$30,000 and fund this effort from the District’s Water Fund unrestricted operating reserves.
2. Approve the Trussell Proposal in the amount of \$28,660 and authorize staff to issue a Task Order to Trussell to perform this work.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

C. CLOSED SESSION (4:30 PM): Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9: Legal Counsel Status on Litigation Case No. CIVDS 1310520, City of Riverside vs. Rubidoux Community Services District.

RESUME FROM CLOSED SESSION: 4:50 PM. No comments to report back on.

ITEM 9. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

The Board of Directors who currently have tablets provided positive feedback. The Board instructed Management to purchase an additional tablet for Director Muniz. Vice-President Treuba stated Director Murphy did a good job as the 2023 Board President. Director Murphy commented on the waterline for Marketplace the District is the only one complete and everyone

else is not. Director Trowbridge asked how much the District had expended in the City of Riverside litigation case. Management will be providing the cost within the next few meetings.

ITEM 10. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 4:00 P.M.

ITEM 11. ADJOURNMENT

President Skerbelis adjourned the meeting at 4:57 P.M.