

HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 5, 2023

Members Present – Jim Jones, Frank Hilliard, Jim Gerdes, Tony Salvador and David Anderson.

Members Absent – None.

Public in Attendance – None.

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**Action Items**

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by David Anderson and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve Bills Payable: September 2023 was made by Frank Hilliard and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion for the continuation of the emergency order the Board approved at the July 31, 2023 board meeting, based on the conditions continue as per Resolution 565, was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson.

A motion to approve the renewal of the Conditional Can and Will Serve Letter for Hector Ramos, was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve the renewal of the Can and Will Serve Commitment Notice for Hector Ramos, was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to table Action Item 6e indefinitely – A Resolution of Intent to Increase Compensation of Board Members by Amending Hilmar Ordinance 2022-01 and calling for a Public Hearing Thereon, was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by Frank Hilliard. Motion passed 5-0.

**Meeting – 09/05/23**  
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The meeting was called to order at 5:28 p.m. by President Jim Jones.

**Consent Items** – Curtis Jorritsma stated that the consent items this month did not include the normal item for the financial information, due to not having had the information available at the July 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. The July financial information is being provided tonight and will be part of the Consent Items next month. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Items.

**Public Forum** – None.

## **District Manager's Report –**

Curtis Jorritsma reported TSS was 34 mg/L and BOD was 21 mg/L for the month of August. We continue to use the same chemicals and will continue to do so. According to the supplier, the product does not work in the warmer months. We will continue to use the product regardless to see if we can maintain it under the State standard of 40mg/L as we tend to have higher results in the spring time, as the weather warms up. Water used in August was 35.920MG and the amount billed was 34.926MG for a 2.7% loss. Looking at the SCADA system data and the spreadsheets we maintain on the amount of water pumped, the Jake well was within 32,000 gallons. This proves the SCADA system is picking up the correct data. We are working through some kinks with the data at Well #7.

Curtis updated the Board on the Nitrate testing. We continue to test twice a week. We have not exceeded the State standard of 10mg/L. Curtis has contacted our state representative, to determine if we need to continue testing two times a week as well as the next steps. He is waiting on a reply.

Curtis reported Project W05 – Test Holes and Water Sampling is out to bid. Bids are due next Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Eight drilling companies are on the plan holder list. We may need to hold a special meeting to determine the direction the Board would like to take with the project once all the bids are received.

Curtis informed the Board he attended the California Special District Association (CSDA) annual conference last week. It was a good conference. CSDA brings in vendors that work with special districts, for example: companies that provide funding opportunities, banks, grant writers etc. Curtis stated he did have a conversation today with one of the companies from the conference, Holman Capital, as to the financing options they provide. He has also submitted a request to CSDA Financing for options. He will continue to look at all options available to the District.

Curtis reported the District has not received a response from the resident, Brittany L. Ramirez, regarding the agreement to participate in the data collection program.

Curtis informed the Board he met with Bill Nicholson, with Merced LAFCO, to have a conversation regarding future growth and the annexation process. Bill stated there's no need to do anything at this point. The LAFCO process can be done on as need basis. Since the District does not have water for new developments, it's not in the best interest of the District to annex new developments at this point.

**Director Reports –** Mr. Frank Hilliard inquired into the status of the Diamond station, as it has had the warning light on. Curtis stated that is to do with the SCADA system calibration. We are working on adjusting the sensors. Mr. Jim Jones inquired about the move into the new corporation yard. Curtis reported we are at about 80% done moving. Still looking for a fencing contractor to install a fence around the shop area. Mr. Tony Salvador suggested getting a quote from King Fence and Mr. Jim Gerdes suggested Denair Fencing. As soon as we get a fence installed, we can then finish moving the items that will be stored outside.

## **Action Items –**

- A) The bills that are due to be paid in September were presented. A motion was made and seconded to pay the bills presented.

- B) Curtis stated, at the last meeting, the Board approved Resolution 565-Finding an Emergency and Authorizing Abbreviated Emergency Procedures for Construction of a New Well. As part of this process, the Board needs to analyze the situation and determine if the situation still constitutes an emergency. After a brief discussion, the Board determined the conditions warrant to continue with an emergency order. A motion was made and seconded to continue with the emergency order.
- C) The Conditional Can and Will Serve Notice for Hector Ramos was presented to the Board. This Conditional Can and Will Serve notice expired on April 5, 2023. Mr. Ramos did not respond to the email reminder that was sent to him in March, reminding him of the expiration date. This CC&W Notice is for a maximum of seven residential units. He called a couple of weeks ago to say that he is ready to start the project. He also provided a letter requesting a renewal. The project is within our District boundary. Staff recommended approval of the renewal effective September 5, 2023. A motion was made and seconded to renew the Conditional Can and Will Serve Notice.
- D) The Can and Will Serve Commitment Notice for Hector Ramos was presented to the Board. This C&W Serve Commitment notice is for a maximum of four residential units, and it also expired on April 5, 2023. Staff recommended approval of the renewal effective September 5, 2023. Mr. Ramos will have to provide a \$1,500.00 deposit for any legal and engineering fees and pay all the fees specified on the C&W Serve Commitment Notice before being provided with a C&W Serve Letter. A motion was made and seconded to renew the Can and Will Serve commitment Notice.
- E) Resolution No. 564: A Resolution of Intent to Increase Compensation of Board Members by Amending Hilmar Ordinance 2022-01 and Calling for a Public Hearing Thereon was presented. At the last meeting, the Board was concerned to act on this resolution and tabled the item. The District continues to work through the same issues. After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to table this item indefinitely. It may be put back on the agenda once the board is ready.

**Discussion Items –**

- A) Curtis explained we provide the street sweeping service for State Highway 165 aka Lander Avenue and CalTrans reimburses the District for that section of the service. We have had an agreement with CalTrans for various years and recently they provided us with a new agreement. Looking at the agreement they provided it's more geared towards cities and counties, which we are not. We had Mr. Stuart Spencer look over the agreement and he has provided his corrections based on our District. We will be providing the revised agreement to CalTrans and don't foresee an issue.

The Directors Convened to Closed Session at 6:21 p.m. to conference with Real Property Negotiator per Government Code Section 5496.8. Location: 19903 First Street, Hilmar, CA.

Directors returned to Open Session at 6:59 p.m. Staff was given direction by the Board of Directors.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Trina Borge*

Approved by:

*Jim Jones*

Board Member

*10-3-23*

Date