

HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
October 1, 2024

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

Members Absent – Frank Hilliard.

Public in Attendance – Mr. Joe Gomes.

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**Action Items**

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion to approve Bills Payable: October 2024 was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion to approve 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 David Anderson and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion to approve the extension of the Conditional Can and Will Serve Letter for Villa Cordoba Unit IV Subdivision – Residential Partners, LP was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 4-0.

**Meeting – 10/01/24**  
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The meeting was called to order at 5:28 p.m. by President Jim Jones.

**Consent Items** – A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Items.

**Public Forum** – Mr. Gomes had nothing to state.

**District Manager’s Report –**

Curtis Jorritsma reported that the water loss for the month of September was 7.74%. Water pumped for the month was 32.3296 MG and we billed for 29.826 MG. He also reported the TSS average for September was 27.5mg/L and BOD was 40.3mg/L. We are missing results from the last week of September. The hope is the last BOD result will change the average for the month to be below 40mg/L. The average flow at the plant was lower than we typically see. Leading us to believe that the meter at the plant may be reading the flows that go forward and backward. The reason being the Echo station has been down for the month, having one source isolated has dropped the flow almost 20%.

Curtis provided a follow-up on the office incident of having two gentlemen present themselves at the office as First Amendment “auditors”. Their purpose is to get a rise in people and get cops involved and have it posted on their YouTube channel. Curtis commended Dina and Wendy in maintaining their

composure under a stressful incident. We are looking at options that may need to be implemented to keep our staff safe.

Curtis provided an update on the Nitrate exceedance. We continue to send notices with our monthly billing statements. We have not received correspondence from the Department of Drinking Water. Curtis stated he had a conversation with our District Engineer, Mr. Spencer Supinger, regarding the max flow rate at Well #7. Looking at data, the flow rate needed is 1500 gallons per minute. Well #7 has no limitations on the VFD, this may be pushing the well harder and possibly be pulling water from the upper aquifer. We are looking at setting a limit on the VFD at Well #7.

Day	Date	Well 6	Well 7	Nyman Blend	TID Yard
<b>Tues</b>	<b>27-Aug</b>	1.48	5.96		5.77
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>29-Aug</b>	1.5	9.94		8.5
<b>Tues</b>	<b>3-Sep</b>	1.61	<b>19.4</b>		9.07
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>5-Sep</b>	2.22	<b>23.2</b>		7.75
<b>Tues</b>	<b>10-Sep</b>	1.22	4.74		4.14
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>12-Sep</b>	1.51	3.24		8.03
<b>Tues</b>	<b>17-Sep</b>	1.43	<b>22.2</b>		6.75
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>19-Sep</b>	1.02	<b>21.7</b>		2.51
<b>Tues</b>	<b>24-Sep</b>				
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>26-Sep</b>				

Curtis reported the plans for Well #8 are about done and should be out to bid in late October beginning of November.

Curtis informed the Board that Mr. Wickstrom has received the building permit for his property on Geer Road. He also stated that we are working on the inventory and notices for the revised lead and copper regulation. We need to provide our inventory to the state by October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Curtis reported the State of California wants housing and we have received various inquiries regarding additional dwelling units (ADU’s) to be added to a current residence. We will be working on revamping our development processes and he believes we will need to add processes’ regarding ADU’s. He also reported that the District has started implementing a service order system.

**Director Reports** – Mr. Tony Salvador asked, regarding the office incident, at what point does an employee have the right to call law enforcement if individuals like these were to show up at the office again. Mr. Stuart Spencer, our legal counsel, stated that safety is first and foremost, if an employee is feeling threatened, they need to do whatever it needs to be done to keep themselves safe.

**Action Items –**

- A) The bills that are due to be paid in October were presented. A motion was made and seconded to pay the bills presented.
- B) Curtis stated the Board approved Resolution 565 – Finding an Emergency and Authorizing Abbreviated Emergency Procedures for Construction of a New Well on July 31, 2023. 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 Letter for Villa Cordoba Unit IV Subdivision – Residential Partners, LP was presented to the Board. Staff recommended approval of the extension of the Conditional Can and Will Serve Letter. A motion was made and seconded to extend the Conditional Can and Will Serve Letter.

**Discussion Items –**

- A) Curtis informed the Board we received a letter from SDRMA stating that we had no “paid” worker’s compensation claims for the program year 2023/2024. This is great for the District as we receive a lower “experience modification factor” thus reducing our annual contribution amount.
- B) Curtis distributed the audit results for FY 2023-24. The District is in a good financial position. He asked the Board to look over the financial statement and we will have an action item at the next meeting to accept the audit.
- C) Dina informed the Board that they have a couple of options regarding the biennial ethics training. The first option is to attend, in person, the training Merced County is providing and the second option is an on-demand webinar that is provided by SDRMA. The board would like to go with the second option. Dina will line up the training.
- D) Curtis and Mr. Stuart Spencer, our legal counsel, discussed the aspects of a blanket-general agreement with Hilmar Unified School District (HUSD). It would create a cooperation agreement that would lay groundwork when something comes up that would affect HCWD and HUSD. Mr. Spencer will be working on the agreement and provide it at the next meeting.

The Directors Convened to Closed Session at 6:05 p.m. to update the real property negotiations per Government Code Section 54956.8. Location: 045-200-033.

Directors returned to open session at 6:18 p.m.

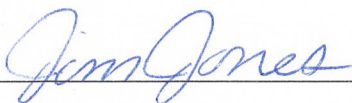
The Board was provided with an update on the process regarding location 045-200-033.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Approved by:



Board Member



Date