



Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the Rowland Water District
November 14, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
3021 Fullerton Road
Rowland Heights, CA 91748

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

President Szu Pei Lu-Yang
Vice President John Bellah
Director Vanessa Hsu
Director Robert W. Lewis
Director Anthony J. Lima

ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ryan Guiboa, Legal Counsel, Best, Best & Krieger
Samuel Johnson, Associate, Best, Best, and Krieger
Jody Roberto, TVMWD
Mike Ti, TVMWD
Sylvie Lee, TVMWD
Erin LaCombe, CV Strategies
Tara Bravo-Mullaly, CV Strategies
Lizbeth Muñoz, RWD Education & Community Relations Intern

ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT STAFF

Tom Coleman, General Manager
Dusty Moisio, Assistant General Manager
Allen Davidson, Director of Operations
Myra Malner, Director of Finance
Gabby Sanchez, Executive Services Manager
Elisabeth Mendez, Compliance & Safety Manager

ADDITION(S) TO THE AGENDA – General Manager Tom Coleman noted that discussion of USA Today article, dated November 11, 2023, *EPA detected “forever chemicals” in water systems serving 46 million. Is yours on our map?* shall be further discussed under General Manager’s and Director’s Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion by Director Lewis, seconded by Director Hsu, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved as follows:

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held on October 10, 2023

1.2 Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting held on October 26, 2023

1.3 Demands on General Fund Account for September 2023

1.4 Investment Report for September 2023

1.5 Water Purchases for September 2023

1.6 California Reservoir Conditions

(Motion pass 5-0)

Next Regular Board Meetings: December 12, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

2. ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Review and Approve Directors' Meeting Reimbursements for October 2023

Upon motion by Director Lima, seconded by Director Bellah, the Board unanimously approved the Directors' Meeting Reimbursement Report as presented. (Motion pass 5-0)

2.2 Grant of Easement to Southern California Edison Company at Joint Water Line Reservoir Site

Upon motion by Director Lewis, seconded by Director Lima, the Board unanimously approved a Grant of Easement to Southern California Edison Company to perform work on underground electrical supply systems and communications systems located at the Joint Water Line Reservoir site (APN 8709-023-904). (Motion pass 5-0)

2.3 Adopt RWD Resolution No. 11-2023, Amending the Policies, Rules, and Regulations Applicable to District Employees

General Manager Tom Coleman advised that staff and Legal Counsel conducted a thorough review of the Rules and Regulations governing District personnel. Based upon their review, substantial edits to policies, rules, and regulations applicable to District employees have been recommended. Board members were asked to review the draft Personnel Rules and Regulations included in the Board packet in preparation for the January 23, 2024, RWD Special Board meeting where detailed discussion of proposed edits will be held. No formal Board action was taken on this matter.

2.4 Discussion Regarding Cost-of-Living Adjustment

General Manager Tom Coleman provided an update on the tax inflation adjustments forecasted for the calendar year 2024 and noted that staff's recommended COLA adjustment will be presented for Board consideration at the December 12, 2023, Regular Board meeting. No formal Board action was taken on this matter.

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

3.1 Communications Outreach (CV Strategies)

Erin LaCombe reported that a series of videos on the Colorado River Supply are currently in production. She then highlighted the various press releases drafted and published on behalf of the District, noting in particular earned media recognition for the release on Board Ethics Training and Occupational Excellence Achievement Award.

3.2 Education Update

The Board received a Certificate of Recognition and award from the Buckboard Days Parade Committee for placing first in the business float category at the October 21st parade and festival. Following a brief presentation of this award, Executive Services Manager Gabby Palomares advised that over 300 students have enlisted in the 2023-24 Mini Solar Challenge, she provided the timeline for the installation of water bottle filling stations at Nogales and Santana High Schools and advised that Splash Cash grant applications were received and are currently under review.

4. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, OR EVENTS (INCLUDING ITEMS THAT MAY HAVE ARISEN AFTER THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA) – None.

5. LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION – None.

6. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Notification of the Local Agency Formation Commission’s special election results was received. Board members were apprised of the election of Mr. Micha Ali.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Joint Powers Insurance Authority – None.

7.2 Three Valleys Municipal Water District – Board members Bellah and Lima reported on TVMWD business meeting matters.

7.3 Association of California Water Agencies – None.

7.4 Puente Basin Water Agency (PBWA) – The next PBWA meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2023, 7:00 a.m., at WVWD.

7.5 Project Ad-Hoc Committee – None.

7.6 Regional Chamber of Commerce – None.

7.7 P-W-R Joint Waterline Commission – The next P-W-R JWL meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2023, following PBWA.

7.8 Sheriff’s Community Advisory Council – None.

7.9 Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council (RHCCC) – None.

7.10 Local Agency Formation Commission – None.

8. OTHER REPORTS, INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMENTS

8.1 Finance Report

Director of Finance, Myra Malner, presented a year-to-date Financial Dashboard containing comparative graphs of Revenue and Expense by Category and Consumption by Class through September 2023. Following her report, she answered questions posed by Board members.

8.2 Operations Report

The Board was provided with the field operations tasks completed during the month of September 2023 (as listed below):

- Water Samples - 235
- Site Inspections - 85
- Service Orders Completed - 348
- Meters Replaced - 5
- Modules Replaced - 32
- Dig Alerts - 389
- Service Lines Replaced - 10
- System Valves Replaced - 9
- Air Releases Inspections - 0
- Recycled Water Inspections - 19

8.3 Projects Update – None.

8.4 Personnel Report – None.

9. ATTORNEY’S REPORT – None.

10. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Legal Counsel Ryan Guiboa adjourned the meeting to closed session at 7:22 p.m. and announced that the purpose of the closed session and the provisions of the Brown Act authorizing the closed session were listed in the agenda as indicated below:

a. Conference with Real Property Negotiator – [§54956.8]

Property: Portion of Property Located at
839 S. Azusa Ave., City of Industry, CA
District Negotiator: Tom Coleman, General Manager
Negotiating Parties: City of Industry
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

b. Conference with Real Property Negotiator - [§54956.8]

Property: Portion of Property Located at
Anaheim & Puente Road
City of Industry
District Negotiator: Tom Coleman, General Manager
Negotiating Parties: City of Industry
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

c. Conference with Real Property Negotiator – [§54956.8]

Property: Assessor Parcel Numbers 8266-002-900, 8266-002-901 and
8269-003-903
District Negotiator: Tom Coleman, General Manager
Negotiating Parties: Puente Hills Habitat Authority
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Claim of Cari McCormick dated June 28, 2023, filed against CalPERS as a class action and submitted as a claim to the District as a potential Defendant.

e. Public Employment - [§54957]

Title: Emergency Management Coordinator

e. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of §54956.9

Name of Case: City of Camden v. 3M Company, Settlement Agreement Between Public Water Agencies and DuPont and 3M re: PFAS Class Action

11. Reconvene/Report on Closed Session – 7:58 p.m.

Closed Session Announcements – It was reported by Legal Counsel that the Board was briefed on the facts and circumstances of the matters and took no reportable action on the closed session items.

Legal Counsel further reported that regarding closed session item 10-e, upon motion by Director Hsu, seconded by Director Lewis and unanimously carried (5-0), the Board unanimously approved exclusion as a class member from the Class Action Settlement Agreement between Chemours Company, the Chemours Company FC, LLC, Dupont de Nemours, Inc., Corteva, Inc., and E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company n/k/a EIDP, Inc, and Class Representatives in the above-captioned matter. Legal Counsel was instructed to submit a request for exclusion on behalf of the District. (Item 10-e)

General Manager’s and Directors’ Comments – General Manager Tom Coleman reported on USA Today’s article, “EPA detected ‘forever chemicals’ in water systems serving 46 million. Is yours on our map?” (November 11, 2023).

Future Agenda Item(s) – None.

Late Business – None.

A motion was made by Director Hsu, seconded by Director Lima, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

SZU PEI LU-YANG
Board President

Attest: _____
TOM COLEMAN
Board Secretary