

# PESCADERO RECLAMATION DISTRICT # 2058

3650 W. Canal Blvd.  
Tracy CA 95304  
(209) 835 2293 FAX: (209) 835 2337

## **PESCADERO RECLAMATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES**

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 this meeting will be conducted exclusively by teleconference.

### **Minutes of December 2, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Nat Bacchetti  
Richard Pellegri  
Greg Pombo

OTHERS PRESENT: Alexis Stevens (District Counsel)  
Alyson Ackerman (Somach Simmons & Dunn)  
Nick Prichard (District Engineer)  
Francesca Gosner (District Staff)

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Bacchetti at 10:30.

### **ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken and Trustees Bacchetti and Pombo were present. Trustee Pellegri joined the meeting after roll call and consideration of the consent calendar.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Trustee Bacchetti read the items for consent.

Trustee Pombo moved to approve the minutes for the November 4, 2020 Board Meeting, the November 20 Special Board Meeting, and approve Items B, C, and D of the consent calendar (review and approve claims for payment and financial report, review and approve pump report, and review and approve payroll, respectively). Trustee Bacchetti seconded the motion. The matter was put to a vote, and votes were cast as follows:

<b>Trustee Nat Bacchetti:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Trustee Richard Pellegri:</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Trustee Greg Pombo:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

The motion to approve the minutes for the November 4, 2020 Board Meeting, the November 20 Special Board Meeting, and approve Items B, C, and D of the consent

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calendar (review and approve claims for payment and financial report, review and approve pump report, and review and approve payroll, respectively) carried.

## **PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS:**

### **A. Consider and Discuss Approval of 2021 Water Rates**

Trustee Bacchetti reported, based on his reading of the aging summary and financial status of the District, it appears that the water rates may need to be increased to cover the District's costs. Trustee Pellegrini asked District Counsel whether the water rates were increased last year (2019). District Counsel reported that the Board did not approve a water rate increase in 2019, but did approve a \$0.50 increase in 2018, or thereabouts.

Trustee Pombo reported concern about raising the water rates at present because he understands that some landowners' meters are not working, which would affect the total water rates the District collects. Trustee Pombo suggested investigating the disposition of collected water rates to see if there are efficiencies that the District may implement to eliminate the need to raise water rates. Trustee Pombo also suggested comparing water rate revenues between water years. Trustee Bacchetti agreed with this suggestion because the District could simply be selling less water due to the industrial development within the District.

Trustee Pellegrini raised the possibility of assessing a different water rate for winter irrigation similar to other nearby water purveyors. He reported that this option may be appropriate given the electrical costs to run pumps providing winter irrigation water and the number of tree crops being planted throughout the District that require the same. Trustee Pombo advocated for studying the electrical costs for a longer period of time to have a clearer representation of the issue and possible solutions.

District Counsel advised that the water rates are effective January 1, unless the Board changes the water year. She reported that the Board could consider starting the water year on March or April 1, providing the Board additional time to evaluate the need for a water rates increase and/or special winter irrigation rates. District Counsel further advised that whatever route the Board takes, it must provide the landowners notice.

District staff reported that despite District rules requiring pre-payment of water charges, many landowners who received water in 2020 have yet to pay the District for that water. District Counsel advised the Board to consider sending out a notice at the start of the water year, reminding landowners of this rule and providing notice that it will be strictly enforced in 2021. The Board took no action regarding water rates and will consider the matter further at its next meeting.

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## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### Repairs and Maintenance

The General Manager reported that Otis completed cleaning the District's ditches. He further reported that spraying for water hyacinth is complete.

The General Manager reported that Pump 2 was routed to serve the irrigation needs on Pump 8 because of the forthcoming pipeline replacement for Pump 8. Routing Pump 2 in this way was done as an "emergency" measure, but the General Manager reported that once the pipeline for Pump 8 is completed, Pump 2 will serve as a permanent backup to Pump 8. When Pump 2 is supplementing Pump 8, the General Manager will prioritize water cards on Pump 2 over water cards on Pump 8.

### Irrigation

The General Manager reported that water is running to Pumps 6 and 2, serving landowners growing tree crops. He further reported that the District is incurring substantial electrical costs to provide winter irrigation water. Consequently, General Manager will research the applicable Pacific Gas & Electric programs that can monitor electrical usage trends.

Trustee Pombo inquired whether installing a variable frequency drive (VFD) on the District's pumps would reduce their electrical demand and, thus, reduce the District's electrical costs. General Manger reported that not all pump engines are compatible with VFDs, meaning that those engines would require replacement before installing a VFD. The General Manager received one quote estimating that replacement and VFD installation would cost approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000 per pump. The General Manager reported that he would solicit another quote because the aforementioned quote is high. In addition, he will research the availability of any grant funding that may be available to offset the costs in the event the District decides to install VFDs on the pump engines.

## **LEVEE REPORT**

Trustee Pombo reported that he has not received a draft or final levee inspection report from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). However, he reported that he will reach out to the inspector and request a status update.

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## **DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The District Engineer reported that the environmental easement on the Perry Property remains the only outstanding item for the FSRP, and that Chase Bank and Chicago Title are working to resolve it. The District Engineer inquired about the status of payments from DWR. District staff reported that the District received payments in July and August, and she intends to send a check to Asta Construction this week.

The District Engineer reported that the documents for the Encroachment Permit Agreement, allowing discharge of stormwater from NEI Basin into District facilities, are completed and that construction should begin in the near term. The 90 percent design plans have already been submitted to the City of Tracy (City).

The District Engineer reported that the irrigation pipeline installation has begun. He further reported that an existing 12-inch water line was discovered in the field, conflicting with the planned route for the irrigation pipeline. The District Engineer presented two possible options for addressing the conflict: 1) request the City to lower the water line by 18 inches, allowing the irrigation pipeline corridor to continue as planned; or 2) move the irrigation pipeline corridor to the east, bypassing the conflict area. The second option, however, may create issues in the future given potential development of the Crispin Road project. Accordingly, the District Engineer recommended requesting the City to lower the 12-inch water line, noting that such a request is not unusual. The District Engineer will report back to the Board with updates once he confers with the City.

The District Engineer also reported that the easement documents for the Borges property are now complete. He asked the Board whether the property has been sold. Trustee Pellegrini reported that the property is not yet sold, and the goal is to finalize the easement prior to the sale.

## **TRUSTEES' REPORTS**

None.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The District did not go into closed session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, District Counsel adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.