



# PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

## A CENTURY OF SERVICE

August 19, 2020

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROBERT E. ALVARADO

Division 1

DON WILSON

Division 2

GLORIA DIZMANG

Division 3

KATHY MAC LAREN

Division 4

VINCENT DINO

Division 5

DENNIS D. LaMOREAUX

General Manager

ALESHIRE & WYNDR LLP

Attorneys



## AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

### TO BE HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY

**DIAL-IN NUMBER: 571-748-4021 ATTENDEE PIN: 904-193-006#**

**Submit Public Comments at: <https://www.gomeet.com/904-193-006>**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020**

**6:00 p.m.**

**NOTES:** To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to participate in any Board meeting please contact Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 at least 48 hours prior to a Board meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Additionally, an interpreter will be made available to assist the public in making comments under Agenda Item No. 4 and any action items where public input is offered during the meeting if requested at least 48 hours before the meeting. Please call Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 with your request. (PWD Rules and Regulations Section 4.03.1 (c) )

Adicionalmente, un intérprete estará disponible para ayudar al público a hacer comentarios bajo la sección No. 4 en la agenda y cualquier elemento de acción donde se ofrece comentarios al público durante la reunión, siempre y cuando se solicite con 48 horas de anticipación de la junta directiva. Por favor de llamar Dawn Deans al 661-947-4111 x1003 con su solicitud. (PWD reglas y reglamentos sección 4.03.1 (c) )

Agenda item materials, as well as materials related to agenda items submitted after distribution of the agenda packets, are available for public review at the District's office located at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale (Government Code Section 54957.5). Please call Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 for public review of materials.

**PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES:** The prescribed time limit per speaker is three-minutes. Please refrain from public displays or outbursts such as unsolicited applause, comments, or cheering. Any disruptive activities that substantially interfere with the ability of the District to carry out its meeting will not be permitted, and offenders will be requested to leave the meeting. (PWD Rules and Regulations, Appendix DD, Sec. IV.A.)

Each item on the agenda shall be deemed to include any appropriate motion, resolution, or ordinance to take action on any item.

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.
- 2) Roll Call.
- 3) Adoption of Agenda.

- 4) Public comments for non-agenda items.
- 5) Presentations:
  - 5.1) Palmdale Water District Rebate Programs. (Resource and Analytics Supervisor Bolanos)
- 6) Action Items - Consent Calendar (The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item on the Consent Calendar as the Consent Calendar is considered collectively by the Board of Directors prior to action being taken.)
  - 6.1) Approval of minutes of Regular Board Meeting held August 10, 2020.
  - 6.2) Payment of bills for August 24, 2020.
  - 6.3) Approval of absence of Director Dizmang from August 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting due to illness. (General Counsel Dunn)
- 7) Action Items – Action Calendar (The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Board of Directors prior to action being taken.)
  - 7.1) Consideration and possible action on Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Independent Special District Alternate Representative. (No Budget Impact – General Manager LaMoreaux)
  - 7.2) Consideration and possible action on Resolution No. 20-12 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the District's Application for Funding from the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Title XVI Congressionally Authorized Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project. (\$1,500,000.00 – Potential Revenue – Non-Budgeted – Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers)
  - 7.3) Received and file on evaluation of Cost Sharing Agreement for Lobbying Services at state level. (No Budget Impact – Assistant General Manager Ly)
  - 7.4) Consideration and possible action on adoption of 2020 Strategic Plan. (General Manager LaMoreaux / Personnel Committee / Resource and Facilities Committee / Finance Committee)
  - 7.5) Consideration and possible action on authorization of the following conferences, seminars, and training sessions for Board and staff attendance within budget amounts previously approved in the 2020 Budget:
    - a) None at this time.
- 8) Information Items:
  - 8.1) Reports of Directors:
    - a) Meetings; Standing Committee/Assignment Reports; General Report.

- 8.2) Report of General Manager.
  - a) August 2020 written report of activities through July 2020.
- 8.3) Report of General Counsel.
- 9) Board members' requests for future agenda items.
- 10) Adjournment.



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DENNIS D. LaMOREAUX,  
General Manager

DDL/dd



**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT**  
A CENTURY OF SERVICE

# REBATE STATUS UPDATE

Claudia Bolanos  
Resource & Analytics Department



# Outdoor Rebates

- Water Wise Landscape Conversion Program
  - 17 Processed Applications
  - \$30,126
- Weather Based Irrigation Controller
  - 32 Rebates
  - \$3,093



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT  
A CENTURY OF SERVICE

# Indoor Rebates

High Efficiency Toilets  
55 Rebates  
\$5,026



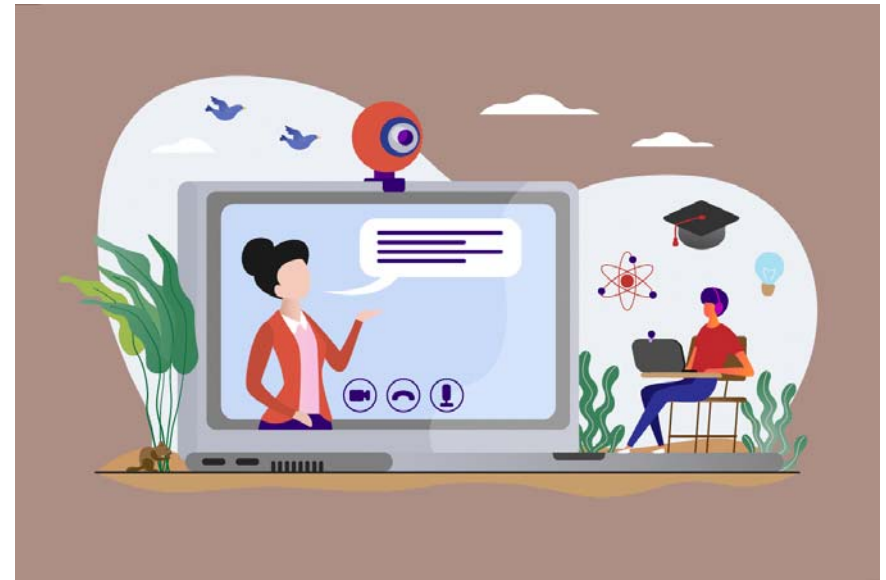
High Efficiency Washers  
21 Rebates  
\$3,100



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT  
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# Upcoming Projects

- o Current Rebate Offering Video
- o Virtual videos/presentations for distanced learning



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Thank you

**P A L M D A L E   W A T E R   D I S T R I C T**  
**B O A R D   M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** August 17, 2020 **August 14, 2020**  
**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**  
**FROM:** Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager  
**RE:** ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.3 – APPROVAL OF ABSENCE OF DIRECTOR  
DIZMANG FROM AUGUST 10, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
DUE TO ILLNESS. (GENERAL COUNSEL DUNN)***

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Director Dizmang was absent from the August 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Agenda Item No. 6.3 has been placed on the Consent Calendar to excuse this absence pursuant to Section 4.07.2 of the District’s Rules and Regulations which states, “The Board shall excuse absences by approving such absences pursuant to the Consent Calendar at the next regular Board meeting.”

**P A L M D A L E   W A T E R   D I S T R I C T**  
**B O A R D   M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** August 17, 2020 **August 24, 2020**  
**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**  
**FROM:** Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager  
**RE:** ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.1 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION  
ON LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO)  
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE  
REPRESENTATIVE. (NO BUDGET IMPACT – GENERAL MANAGER  
LaMOREAUX)***

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The Palmdale Water District is entitled to cast one vote for a Special District Alternate Representative on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for the term expiring in May 2021. The candidates are as follows, and candidate statements are attached.

Representative:

- Robert W. Lewis, Rowland Water District
- Dan Medina, The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
- Melvin L. Matthews, Foothill Municipal Water District
- Sharon S. Raghavachary, Crescenta Valley Water District

**Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:**

This item is part of Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership.

This item directly relates to the District's Mission Statement.

**Budget:**

This item will have no impact on the budget.

**Supporting Documents:**

- Special District LAFCO Representative ballot and instructions
- Nomination forms and candidate statements

RECEIVED

AUG 03 2020

*Lagerlof, LLP*

301 NORTH LAKE AVENUE, 10TH FLOOR  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101  
PHONE: (626) 793-9400 ! FAX (626) 793-5900

William F. Kruse  
E-MAIL: WFKRUSE@lagerlof.com

TO: PRESIDING OFFICER OF EACH INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT IN  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

FROM: WILLIAM F. KRUSE, SPECIAL COUNSEL

RE: BALLOT; LAFCO INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE

DATE : JULY 29, 2020

Enclosed is the Ballot and the supplementary materials submitted for each of the candidates for the LAFCO INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE for the term expiring in May 2022. Nominations closed as of 5:00 p.m. on July 24, 2020.

Please vote for ONE candidate. The marked ballots should be placed in the envelope marked "Ballot Envelope." Please write the name of your agency and sign your name on the outside of the ballot envelope and return the completed ballots by mail to:

**William F. Kruse, Esq.**  
**Lagerlof, LLP**  
**301 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 1000**  
**Pasadena, CA 91101**

**No ballot will be counted if it is missing the name of the voting agency and the signature of the Presiding Officer on the ballot envelope.**

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be declared the Independent Special District Alternate Representative to LAFCO.

**Ballots must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2020.**

WFK/drb  
Enclosures

cc: Paul Novak (w/enclosures)

# BALLOT

## LAFCO INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE

**Please vote for no more than one candidate.**

☐

**ROBERT W. LEWIS**

Occupation: Water District Director  
Sponsor: Rowland Water District

☐

**DAN MEDINA**

Occupation: Board of Trustee Member  
Sponsor: The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

☐

**MELVIN L. MATTHEWS**

Occupation: Water District Director  
Sponsor: Foothill Municipal Water District

☐

**SHARON S. RAGHAVACHARY**

Occupation: Water District Director  
Sponsor: Crescenta Valley Water District



NOMINATION  
OF  
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE  
TO THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT

Date: JULY 15, 2020

Name of Candidate: ROBERT W. LEWIS

ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT is pleased to nominate  
ROBERT W. LEWIS as a candidate for appointment as special district alternate  
representative to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected  
official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your  
consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's  
qualifications.

Elective office: DIRECTOR, DIVISION IV

Agency: ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT

Type of Agency: SPECIAL DISTRICT WATER AGENCY

Term Expires: DECEMBER 2, 2022

Residence Address: 2231 S. FULLERTON ROAD, UNIT #8

ROWLAND HEIGHTS, CA 91748

Telephone: (626) 964-0875

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT

(Name of Agency)


By:

  
TOM COLEMAN

Its:

GENERAL MANAGER

# Robert W. Lewis

 (626) 964-0875 | [rlewis@rowlandwater.com](mailto:rlewis@rowlandwater.com)

Experienced public servant and proven leader seeking to apply management and collaboration skills and knowledge of California special districts as the designated alternate representing special districts on the Los Angeles County LAFCO.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT, ROWLAND HEIGHTS, CA**

*Board of Directors, December 1993 – Present*

- Current Board President leading five-member team of Directors
- Develop short- and long-term planning initiatives related to water supply, financials and strategic plan
- Oversee \$27.7 million annual budget
- Implement plans and projects to position District as industry leader

### **PUEENTE BASIN WATER AGENCY, WALNUT, CA**

*Board of Commissioners, 1993-1997; 2004 – Present*

- Identify and pursue projects to optimize local water supplies
- Integrate plans to improve regional water quality
- Facilitate and coordinate regional projects
- Secure supplemental funding and influence legislation for the region

### **REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SAN GABRIEL VALLEY, ROWLAND HEIGHTS, CA**

*Government Affairs Committee, 2016 – Present*

- Monitor public policy and legislative actions related to business growth
- Advocate for the interests of the business community
- Review business development issues

### **ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES/JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY (ACWA/JPIA), ROSEVILLE, CA**

*Voting representative, 2011 – Present*

- Develop tactics, services and programs to meet the insurance needs of water agencies
- Monitor legislative and regulatory issues
- Oversee annual operating budget

### **ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES (ACWA), SACRAMENTO, CA**

*Region 8 Board of Directors, Representative and Chairman, 2002-2012*

- Monitor state and federal legislation and policy agenda affecting regional agencies

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS AD HOC COMMITTEE, LOS ANGELES, CA**

*Member, 1994-1995*

- Successfully lobbied to secure special district representation on Los Angeles County LAFCO

### **EMMERSON GLOBAL, NORTH AMERICA**

*Field Service Project Engineer, 1975-2004*

- Installed, monitored and repaired machinery, systems, and processes across various industries

## EXPERTISE

- Leadership
- Governance
- Brown Act
- Fairness
- Public policy

## MILITARY SERVICE

**UNITED STATES ARMY**  
(1970-1973)

Fort Belvoir, Virginia  
Intelligence Analyst

## EDUCATION

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,**  
Fullerton (1979)

*Technical Studies –  
Industrial Process  
Control Engineering  
Certification*

**FULLERTON COLLEGE** (1973)

Associate degree,  
Electronics



NOMINATION  
OF  
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE  
TO THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Mary-Joy Coburn, Director of Community Affairs

Date: July 20, 2020

Name of Candidate: Dan Medina

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District is pleased to nominate

Dan Medina as a candidate for appointment as special district alternate representative to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Board Of Trustee Member

Agency: Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

Type of Agency: Vector Control - Mosquito Abatement

Term Expires: January 2022

Residence Address: 15403 S. Wilton Place, Gardena, CA 90249

Telephone: 310-339-9919

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

(Name of Agency)

By: Mary-Joy Coburn  
Director of Community Affairs / Board Liaison  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

15403 S. Wilton Place  
Gardena CA 90249

# Dan Medina

310-339-9919  
[danmmolina1@aol.com](mailto:danmmolina1@aol.com)

## Business Development – Project Management Government and Community Affairs

### PROFILE

**Government and Community Relations Officer** with extensive public, municipal and private business experience managing initiatives, projects, and operations resulting in increased revenue, improved community relations and budget savings. Initiated strategic planning for numerous projects working with local, municipal leaders and residents. Accounting background with good understanding of market and social media strategies for new business development and retention. Effective bilingual Spanish/English communication skills to build and maintain critical relationships. Demonstrated ability to meet established goals and objectives. Future-oriented executive, focused on public sector growth and sustainability. Veteran.

### CORE COMPETENCIES

**Strategic Planning**  
**Credible and Authentic**

**Business and Government Liaison**  
**Creative Thinker and Contributor**

**Public Relations/Marketing**  
**Reliable and Results-Driven**

### EXPERIENCE

**Gardena City Councilman**

**City of Gardena CA**

**2008 to 04/2020**

#### Projects

- Recycled Water Project, City of Gardena, 2013
- Brought in \$92 Million of revenue to the city thru "Measure R" as President of the South Bay COG
- \$22 Million to up-grade Rosecrans Avenue from Vermont to Crenshaw
- Initiated the "Military Recognition Program" for all Veterans in Gardena
- Started the "Drug Drop-off Program"
- Initiated Litigation against the State Water Quality Board (MS-4) in 2015 and won in 2019, resulting in a \$20 Billion savings for Los Angeles County
- Immediate Past President of the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control Foundation
- Metro Service Council Former Board Member
- Regional Council Representative for District 28, Southern California Association of Governments for Inglewood, Hawthorne and Gardena regarding transportation and airport access and egress

**Public Relations Director**

**Normandie Casino, Gardena CA**

**01/2000 to 01/2008**

- Represented Normandie Casino and Hustler Casino with local, regional, and State representatives, interacting and collaborating with respect to gaming issues
- Met with regional leaders: Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Jennie Oropeza to advocate gaming issues that could potentially affect the Normandie and Hustler Casinos.
- Met with State legislators: Rod Wright and Curren Price to promote relevant gaming issues.
- Attended and reported at City of Gardena City Council meetings to stay updated and relevant on issues and regulations that may affect Normandie Casino.
- Represented and advocated for employee's reduction of work permit fees with Gardena Police Department, ultimately winning the case for Casino Employees
- Attended and reported at Human Resource Meetings; Provided translation assistance to limited English speaking employees on health benefits and policies.
- Developed press releases for print media, tv and radio spots marketing Casino services.

### EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree Program in Accounting, University of Southern California-USC, Los Angeles CA  
Theodore Roosevelt High School Graduate, Los Angeles CA

### COMMUNITY SERVICE/VOLUNTEER WORK

Past President, Gardena/Carson Rotary Club, Gardena Valley Lion's Club,

Gardena Sports Advisory Board

Gardena Mexican American Democratic Club

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Member, South Bay Environmental Services Center

Board of Managers and Publicity Director, YMCA

Board Member, SBWIB One-Stop Employment and Business Center, Gardena CA

OF  
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE  
TO THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Richard Atwater

Date: July 22, 2020

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Foothill Municipal Water District

is pleased to nomin

Melvin L Matthews

as a candidate for appointment as special district altern

representative to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elec  
official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For yo  
consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidat  
qualifications.

Elective office: Director, Divison 2

Agency: Foothill Municipal Water District

Type of Agency: Special District

Term Expires: 12/2023

Residence Address: 2121 Glen Springs Rd, Pasadena, CA 91107

Telephone: 626-622-9137

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Foothill Municipal Water District

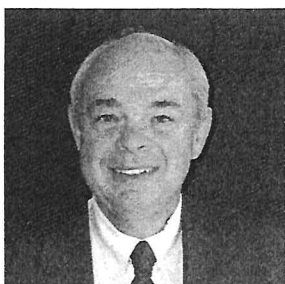
(Name of Agency)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Richard Atwater*

Richard Atwater

Its: President



Mr. Matthews is the General Manager of Kinneloa Irrigation District (KID), a water purveyor serving the Kinneloa Ranch area east of Altadena, CA and portions of Pasadena, California. Before becoming General Manager, he served as Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Directors for KID. Mr. Matthews is also the founder and president of KDM Services, which provides property management and business consulting services. Mr. Matthews also serves on the Board of the Foothill Municipal Water District as Vice President and Chairman of the Finance Committee and is active in professional organizations dedicated to special district management and governance.

Previously, Mr. Matthews was in the cable television business for 32 years as founder and president of KTS Corporation and later with Charter Communications serving as the Director of Government and Community Relations after selling his cable systems to Charter in 1993. Mr. Matthews left Charter in 2002 to establish KDM Services.

Prior to his cable television career, he worked for Rockwell International and was a member of the engineering group that performed the certification testing of the Environmental Control System of the Apollo Command Module.

Mr. Matthews is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and holds a BS in Chemical Engineering. He also holds an MBA in Operations Management from the Anderson Graduate School of Business at UCLA. He is a native of Pasadena, California and still lives there with his wife, Donna. They have five children and 12 grandchildren.

NOMINATION  
OF  
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE  
TO THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: President Kerry D. Erickson and Member of the the Board of Directors

Date: June 4, 2020

Name of Candidate: Sharon S. Raghavachary

The Board of Directors of the Crescenta Valley Water District is pleased to nominate  
Sharon S. Raghavachary as a candidate for appointment as special district alternate  
representative to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected  
official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your  
consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's  
qualifications.

Elective office: Director of Board of Directors of

Agency: Crescenta Valley Water District

Type of Agency: Water and Sewer District

Term Expires: December 2020

Residence Address: 2209 Maurice Avenue

La Crescenta, CA 91214

Telephone: 818 541-9071

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Crescenta Valley Water District

(Name of Agency)

By: 

Its: Chairman of the Board of Directors



## **Crescenta Valley Water District**

2700 Foothill Boulevard, La Crescenta, California 91214

Phone (818) 248-3925 Fax (818) 248-1659

### **Directors**

Judy L. Tejeda  
James D. Bodnar  
Kerry D. Erickson  
Kenneth R. Putnam  
Sharon Raghavachary

### **Officers**

Nemesiano Ochoa, P.E.  
*General Manager*  
James Lee  
*Director of Finance & Administration*

Director Raghavachary has been active in the La Crescenta Community for 20 years and has a background in accounting and computer systems.

Ms. Raghavachary is a founder of the Crescenta Valley Community Association. She served for seven years on the Crescenta Valley Town Council, during which time she was co-chair of the Foothill Design Committee that wrote design standards for Foothill Boulevard and was a member of Supervisor Antonovich's Library Committee. She also served as Council Vice President and Land Use Committee Chair.

Additionally, Director Raghavachary served three years on the Parent Advisory Council for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, providing input for the new hospital tower. She has been a volunteer for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Treasurer of the Crescenta Valley Arts Council, as well as a Girl Scout troop leader for ten years. For over five years she wrote a featured column for the Glendale New Press and the Crescenta Valley Weekly. She is currently serving her second year on the Clark Magnet High School's School Site Council.

Ms. Raghavachary has teenage twins, a boy and a girl, who attend Clark Magnet and Crescenta Valley High Schools.



**P A L M D A L E   W A T E R   D I S T R I C T**  
**B O A R D   M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** August 17, 2020 **August 24, 2020**  
**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**  
**FROM:** Scott Rogers, Engineering/Grant Manager  
**VIA:** Mr. Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager  
Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager  
**RE:** ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.1 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVING RESOLUTION NO. 20-12 BEING A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT’S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATERSMART: TITLE XVI CONGRESSIONALLY AUTHORIZED WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE PROJECTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 FOR THE PALMDALE REGIONAL GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND RECOVERY PROJECT. (\$1,500,000.00 – POTENTIAL REVENUE – NON-BUDGETED – ENGINEERING/GRANT MANAGER ROGERS)***

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**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Board:

1. Approve a resolution for submitting a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Drought Title XVI Congressionally Authorized Reclamation and Reuse Projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Funding Announcement Number BOR-DO-20-F008;
2. Approve the grant application requesting \$1,500,000 in grant funds to complete the design for the Phase 1 of the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project; and
3. Authorize the General Manager to sign and transmit the grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, Colorado.

**Alternative Options:**

The Board can choose not to apply for the grant funding.

**Impact of Taking No Action:**

There will be no potential to receive this grant funding.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

VIA: Mr. Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager  
Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager

August 17, 2020

**Background:**

The WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program provides a framework for Federal leadership and assistance to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations in support of the Department's priorities. Through the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program (Title XVI), authorized by Public Law (P.L.) 102-575 in 1992, Reclamation provides financial and technical assistance to local water agencies for the planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects. Title XVI projects develop and supplement urban and irrigation water supplies through water reuse, thereby improving efficiency, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply. Through the Title XVI Program, Reclamation provides funding to facilitate investment in technology and enables broader scale use of recycled water which supports the goals of the October 19, 2018 Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West.

Phase 1 of the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project is the installation of a turn-out on the State Water Project East Branch canal, recharge site, raw water conveyance pipe from the turn-out to the recharge site, recycled water pipeline, recovery wells, distribution reservoir, pump station and existing system connection..

The grant application requires that the Board of Directors approve a resolution that the District make a good faith effort to enter into a cooperative agreement with Reclamation for the receipt and administration of said grant funds.

**Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:**

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 1 – Water Resource Reliability.

This item directly relates to the District's Mission Statement.

**Budget:**

There is no impact on the budget for preparing the resolution, and the District has the potential to receive grant funding.

**Supporting Documents:**

- Resolution Number 20-12

**RESOLUTION NO. 20.12**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT  
AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING  
FROM THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATERSMART: TITLE XVI  
CONGRESSIONALLY AUTHORIZED WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE  
PROJECTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 FOR THE  
PALMDALE REGIONAL GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND RECOVERY  
PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (the "Bureau") has established the WaterSMART Title XVI Congressionally Authorized Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects (the "WaterSMART Title XVI Projects") to provide funding opportunities for entities seeking new water supplies using water recycling and reuse projects;

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau has requested proposals for grant funding under the WaterSMART Title XVI Projects from eligible entities interested in conducting planning, design, and construction of projects that make beneficial use of recycled water;

**WHEREAS**, the Palmdale Water District has need for funding to complete design of using recycled water to meet future water needs and supplement groundwater recharge, particularly for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project (the "Project");

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of Palmdale Water District (District) has reviewed the draft proposal to the Bureau prepared and recommended by Staff.

**WHEREAS**, the WaterSMART Title XVI Projects requires at least 75 percent non-Federal cost share funding and/or in-kind contribution from applicants, and the Board finds the District has the capability of funding its required share of the Project.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Funding for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project (the "Project") under the WaterSMART Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects meets the objectives of Strategic Initiative No. 1 – Water Resource Reliability.

**SECTION 2.** The draft proposal prepared by Staff meets the objectives of the Project, and Staff is authorized to finalize and submit the proposal by the deadline of September 10, 2020.

**SECTION 3.** If selected for WaterSMART Title XVI Projects funding, up to \$4,500,000 of funds shall be committed for funding the District's proportionate share of the Project, as may be required by the Bureau of Reclamation under the WaterSMART Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects, and the District will work with the Bureau to meet established deadlines for entering into an agreement to commit such funds.

### **CERTIFICATION**

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.

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Vincent Dino, President  
Board of Directors  
Palmdale Water District

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Don Wilson, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Palmdale Water District

Approved as to form:

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Aleshire & Wynder, LLP  
District Legal Counsel

**P A L M D A L E   W A T E R   D I S T R I C T**  
**B O A R D   M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** August 17, 2020 **August 24, 2020**  
**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**  
**FROM:** Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager  
**VIA:** Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager  
**RE:** ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.3 – RECEIVED AND FILE ON EVALUATION OF COST SHARING AGREEMENT FOR LOBBYING SERVICES AT STATE LEVEL. (NO BUDGET IMPACT, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER LY)***

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**Review:**

Board Approval – April 2019  
Lobbyist – Reeb Government Relation, LLC  
Partnership – Puente Basin Water Authority and Valley County Water District  
Cost - \$1666.66/month for PWD for 18 months; Expire in October 2020  
Year-To-Date - \$21,666.58 over last 13 months  
Number of CA State Legislature Bill advocated – 11 bills (7 AB and 4 SB)  
Number of bills monitored and reviewed – 25+ bills related to water

**Discussion:**

Open to Board discussion and guidance.

**Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:**

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership

This item directly relates to the District's Mission Statement.

**Budget:**

No Budget Impact

**Supporting Documents:**

- Cost Sharing Agreement – Lobbying Services

## COST SHARING AGREEMENT – LOBBYING SERVICES

This Cost Sharing Agreement – Lobbying Services (“Agreement”) is made, entered into and effective as of April \_\_, 2019 (the “Effective Date”), by and among: Puente Basin Water Agency (“PBWA”), a joint powers agency consisting of Rowland Water District (“RWD”) and Walnut Valley Water District (“WVWD”); Valley County Water District, a county water district (“VCWD”); and Palmdale Water District, an irrigation district (“PWD”); and any additional agencies which may be added in the future (which entities may be referred to individually herein as a “Party” or collectively as the “Parties”), with respect to the following facts:

### RECITALS

- A. Each Party is a water supplier duly organized and operating under applicable California law.
- B. The Parties desire to collectively engage a legislative advocacy firm, Reeb Government Relations LLC (the “Consultant”), to provide advocacy and lobbying services with respect to legislative and regulatory matters pending or which may be introduced in the California State Legislature and certain state agencies that impact the Parties’ interests, and desire to memorialize their agreement regarding their collective payment of the Consultant’s costs.

### AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Point of Contact. Tom Coleman of PBWA and RWD shall be designated as the point of contact between the Consultant and the Parties; provided, however, that the Consultant may freely communicate with any Party as necessary to efficiently obtain information or documents needed in connection with the services Consultant shall provide, as described in Section 1 of Exhibit A hereto (the “Services”). In accordance with the Services Agreement defined below, each Party shall appoint a representative to the management steering committee to coordinate the Services to be provided to the Parties.
2. Authorization to Execute Agreement with Consultant. The Parties hereby authorize PBWA, on the Parties’ collective behalf, to execute a Lobbying Firm Retention Contract (the “Services Agreement,” a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference) with the Consultant, subject to each Party’s review and concurrence in such agreement, which review and concurrence shall occur as each Party shall determine to be appropriate, provided that each Party shall provide PBWA with its written concurrence to the Services Agreement. Any material amendment to the Services Agreement (i.e., an increase in price, extension of delivery

schedule or significant change in the scope of work to be performed by the Consultant) shall be subject to the review and approval of each Party.

3. Cost Sharing. As stated in the Services Agreement, Consultant shall bill PBWA the sum of \$6,000 per month as compensation for the Services, plus reimbursable costs under the Services Agreement. The Parties shall be responsible for the following shares of that monthly fee: PBWA: \$3,333.34 per month; PWD: \$1,666.66 per month; and VCWD: \$1,000 per month. Reimbursable costs incurred by the Consultant shall be initially split with PBWA paying one-half (1/2) of such costs, and PWD and VCWD each paying one-quarter (1/4) of such costs, with that split to be proportionately adjusted as additional Parties join the Agreement. As to the monthly fee, PBWA's and PWD's respective shares shall decrease as additional Parties join this Agreement, as shall be agreed as between PBWA, PWD and any such additional Party, and this Section 3 shall be amended accordingly. The Parties agree that VCWD's share shall be reduced proportionately after more than four additional Parties have joined the Agreement. The Consultant shall invoice PBWA each month and PBWA shall in turn invoice each Party for that Party's share of such fees and costs and each Party shall pay PBWA such costs within twenty-five (25) days of receipt of PBWA's invoice. PBWA shall pay Consultant in accordance with the terms of the Services Agreement.

4. Failure to Pay. If a Party fails to timely pay PBWA as set forth in Section 3, above, that Party shall thereafter pay PBWA within three (3) calendar days of receipt from PBWA of a final written demand for payment. If that Party does not pay PBWA its respective share within that three (3) day period, then the other Parties that have paid PBWA shall further pay to PBWA their proportionate share of the unpaid amounts (by way of example, if there are six Parties to the Agreement and four of the Parties have paid PBWA and two Parties have not, then each of the four Parties that have paid PBWA their respective shares shall contribute to PBWA one-fourth (1/4<sup>th</sup>) of the total unpaid amount). If the Party that has failed to pay PBWA its share subsequently pays PBWA that share, PBWA shall credit to the other Parties the contributions made pursuant to this paragraph. If such payment is not made within that three (3) calendar day period, PBWA may commence legal action to collect the unpaid amount, and the Party that has failed to pay those costs shall be liable for all costs of collection incurred by PBWA, including attorneys' fees. Within three (3) business days of recovery of such payment, PBWA shall reimburse or credit the other Parties the contributions made pursuant to this paragraph.

5. Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, the Parties shall maintain the confidentiality of information provided by Consultant that is marked "confidential."

6. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

7. Amendment. This Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement signed by the Parties.

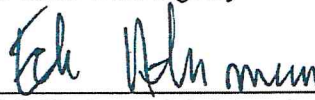
8. Severability. If any court determines that any provision of this Agreement is invalid or unenforceable, any invalidity or unenforceability will affect only that provision and will not make any other provision of this Agreement invalid or unenforceable and such provision shall be modified, amended or limited only to the extent necessary to render it valid and enforceable.

9. Counterparts; Execution by Fax or E-Mail. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, effective as of the Effective Date first set forth above. The parties agree that this Agreement will be considered signed when the signature of a party is delivered by facsimile or e-mail transmission. Such facsimile or e-mail signature shall be treated in all respects as having the same effect of an original signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed and delivered as of the last date set forth below.

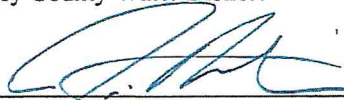
Puente Basin Water Agency

Dated: April 24, 2019

By   
Erik Hitchman, Administrative Officer

Valley County Water District

Dated: April 24, 2019

By   
Jose Martinez, General Manager

Palmdale Water District

Dated: April 24, 2019

By   
Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager



**EXHIBIT A**

**Reeb Government Relations, LLC**

1107 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 230  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Phone: 916-558-1926  
Facsimile: 916-558-1932  
robertreeb@comcast.net

**LOBBYING FIRM RETENTION CONTRACT**

The following constitutes a lobbying firm retention contract between **REEB GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LLC** ("RGR" hereinafter), or its legal successor in interest, and **PUEENTE BASIN WATER AGENCY** ("PBWA" hereinafter), or its legal successor in interest.

1. **SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED**—PBWA engages the services of RGR as an independent contractor. RGR will provide advice and representation to PBWA and on behalf of other local water agencies associated with PBWA pursuant to a written Cost Sharing Agreement. Services will relate to California state legislative and regulatory matters. Such services shall include:

- A. Representation in the State Capitol and with the Executive Branch in regard to the 2019-20 California legislative program of the participating agencies.
- B. Research and analysis of state legislative and regulatory issues and related initiatives; drafting legislation and amendments thereto relating to such issues.
- C. Legislative reporting services as may be required by the participating agencies.
- D. Participation and attendance at meetings, upon request by the participating agencies, including, but not limited to, meetings related to issues management and formation of lobbying coalitions.

RGR will work under the direction of a management steering committee of the participating agencies, which shall include PBWA's management, and will coordinate services to be performed with same. Initially, Tom Coleman shall be PBWA's point of contact with RGR.

**Puente Basin Water Agency**  
**Lobbying Firm Retention Contract**  
**Page 2 of 3**

- B.           TERMS OF PAYMENT—PBWA will pay RGR, according to terms and conditions set forth herein, a fee of SIX THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$6,000.00) per month for the period of April 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020. This amount shall be due on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of each month from April 2019 through October 2020, inclusive. Payment shall cover all time expended by RGR personnel unless otherwise agreed to by RGR and PBWA.
- A.           Invoices shall be submitted monthly by RGR for payment by PBWA. Payment is past due the next business day following the fifteenth of the month. If PBWA has any valid reason for disputing any portion of an invoice, PBWA will so notify RGR within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of invoice, and if no such notification is given, the invoice shall be deemed valid. The portion of RGR's invoice that is not in dispute shall be paid in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.
- B.           PBWA shall reimburse RGR all costs incurred in connection with the services rendered. Reimbursable costs include, but are not limited to, travel costs, telephone, facsimile, copies, and delivery that are attributable to the services rendered. Travel costs are defined as air travel, lodging, meals and incidentals, ground transportation, and all costs associated with travel. All extraordinary travel expenses must receive PBWA's prior approval. RGR shall provide to PBWA substantiation of reimbursable costs incurred. In no event shall the aggregate amount of reimbursable costs payable by PBWA in 2019 exceed the amount of THREE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00). Any expense incurred in excess of THREE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) shall be the legal responsibility of RGR.
- C.           A finance charge of 1.5% per month on the unpaid amount of an invoice will be charged on past due accounts. Payments by PBWA will thereafter be applied first to accrued interest and then to the principal unpaid balance. Any attorney fees, court costs, or other costs incurred in collection of delinquent accounts shall be paid by PBWA. If payment of invoices is not current, RGR may suspend performing further work.
3.           INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR—It is understood that RGR will function as an independent contractor and will hold itself out as such and will be without authority to obligate PBWA for indebtedness, contracts, or other legal obligations.

**Pico Water District  
Lobbying Firm Retention Contract  
Page 3 of 3**

4. **POLITICAL REFORM ACT**—RGR will be solely responsible for its filing and reporting obligations pursuant to the Political Reform Act of 1974, as it may be amended from time to time. PBWA, and any other participating agencies, will be solely responsible for their respective filing and reporting obligations pursuant to the Political Reform Act of 1974, as it may be amended from time to time.
5. **GOVERNING LAW** - This contract shall be governed by and construed pursuant to the laws of the State of California.
6. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT** - This contract represents the entire agreement of the parties and no other representations, promises or agreements, oral or otherwise, shall be of any force or effect. This contract may be supplemented, amended or revised only in writing by agreement of the parties.
7. **TERM OF CONTRACT**—This engagement shall be subject to review at any mutually agreed upon time. Either party may terminate this engagement without cause by giving written notice at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of termination. PBWA's obligation to pay any further monthly installments shall cease upon the date of the termination and PBWA shall have no further monetary obligation to RGR as of that date of termination. The effective date of this agreement is April 1, 2019, and it shall terminate on October 31, 2020.

**PUENTE BASIN WATER  
AGENCY**  
271 South Brea Canyon Road  
Walnut, CA 91789

**REEB GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS, LLC**  
1107 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

By: Erik Hitchman  
Administrative Officer

By: Robert J. Reeb  
Managing Officer

Date: April \_\_, 2019

Date: April \_\_, 2019

# Reeb Government Relations, LLC

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## MEMORANDUM

DECEMBER 2, 2019

**TO:** Erik Hitchman, Administrative Officer  
Puente Basin Water Agency

**FROM:** Bob Reeb and Raquel Ayala  
Reeb Government Relations, LLC

**SUBJECT:** 2019 Annual Report

It has been an honor and privilege to work with Puente Basin Water Agency this year on behalf of Palmdale Water District, Rowland Water District, Valley County Water District and Walnut Valley Water District (Districts). Collectively, the goal of state government representation is to advance the interests of the districts, their taxpayers and customers to support beneficial legislation and oppose mandates that impose burdens on the districts with little or no measurable benefit to urban retail water customers.

### State Budget

On Thursday, June 27, Governor Newsom signed a \$214.8 billion state budget that dedicated significant new spending for K-12 schools and healthcare, while setting aside an unprecedented amount of tax revenue for future economic slow-downs by adding billions of dollars to the state's reserve funds. The state's total rainy fund is now \$19 billion. The state avoided a return of surplus tax revenues to California taxpayers pursuant to the Proposition 4 Gann Limit (1979) by creating and funding additional reserve funds for schools and social services.

The legislature and new governor continued the recent trend of focusing state budget appropriations on disadvantaged community water and wastewater systems. The FY 2019-20 budget allocated \$1 million General Fund to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for Interim Water Storage Tanks, Hauled Water, and Permanent Well Replacements/Repair, and \$2 million General Fund to cover planning costs for recovery from 2017 and 2018 wildfires. The budget also included \$10 million General Fund to provide emergency funding for water and wastewater service providers serving disadvantaged communities to (1) evaluate, address and repair the failure of critical components of a collection or treatment system; and (2) fund critical operation and maintenance

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(916) 558-1932 FAX

activities that are cost prohibitive considering the population and median household income of the community served by the system. The budget also provides a one-time \$2.5 million in General Fund monies to the State Water Board to continue funding replacement and filling of temporary water tanks for households that have lost their water supply due to a dry well, and a total of \$12.5 million to address safe and clean drinking water in the San Joaquin Valley.

In terms of water supply and management, the budget appropriates \$70 million in state general obligation bond proceeds toward projects identified in voluntary agreements, including habitat restoration and scientific research; \$9.25 million to accelerate improvements in forecasting atmospheric rivers, the sporadic storms that recently have accounted for up to half of California's total annual precipitation; and \$235 million to implement the Wildfire and Recovery Legislative Package, which includes increasing the pace and scale of enhancing forest and watershed health.

The budget also appropriates \$130 million to clean up drinking water in some parts of the state. The administration had initially pushed for a new tax to fund clean drinking water, including fees and taxes on nitrogen fertilizer, dairies and confined animal feeding operations, but that plan was rejected by the Senate and ultimately abandoned in the budget compromise. The majority of the money comes from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, while the remaining \$30 million comes from the General Fund.

## **Water Tax**

Governor Newsom's Department of Finance released a budget trailer bill in May that would create a Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, which would receive revenues from a tax on customers of urban retail water suppliers and taxes and fees on nitrogen fertilizer, dairies and confined animal feeding operations. Together, the fund would receive about \$130 million annually. The new trailer bill was similar to a budget trailer bill offered by the former Brown Administration and legislation authored by Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel). Reeb Government Relations, on behalf of its clients, opposed those particular proposals and has consistently opposed the imposition of a tax (fee or public goods charge) since 2005 (for example, SB 623 and SB 845 by Senator Monning during the 2017-18 Regular Session of the Legislature).

There was a flurry of legislative activity early in the year separate and apart from the Newsom Administration proposal. Assembly Member Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) introduced AB 134 to accomplish the same purposes as the budget trailer bill. Bloom chairs the budget subcommittee with jurisdiction over drinking water. Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella), who chairs the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, later amended his AB 217 to address the gap in safe drinking water funding. AB 217 would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury. Moneys in the fund would be available to the State Water Resources Control Board, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of providing a stable source of funding to secure access to safe drinking water for all Californians, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water service and infrastructure. This legislation served as a placeholder for the imposition of a tax on urban retail water customers. The March 19, 2019 version of the Garcia bill included the creation of a trust fund being proposed by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) as an alternative to the imposition of a tax on water.



In an effort to provide a better alternative to a water tax, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) sponsored, and Senator Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) introduced, Senate Bill 669 —The Safe Drinking Water Trust bill.

SB 669 would be funded with an infusion of General Fund dollars during a budget surplus year. The state would invest the principal, and the net income would provide the needed ongoing revenue stream for drinking water solutions in disadvantaged communities. The Districts joined the large coalition of supporters who believed the Trust was a better approach than a statewide water tax that would tax a resource that is essential to life and work against water affordability throughout the state.

The bill was last considered in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 16 where it was held in committee and under submission.

Finally, Senator Monning introduced a new bill—SB 200, that also would create a Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. The bill would authorize the State Water Board to provide for the deposit into the fund of federal contributions, voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, and bequests.

The Districts affirmed their opposition to a water tax and communicated their opposition directly to the Governor and its legislative delegation. The Districts also took an active role in supporting efforts by ACWA to pass SB 669 and oppose legislation that included a water tax. In their opposition to the water tax, the Districts clarified that they did not oppose the creation of a special fund to address the safe drinking water needs of communities served by public water systems that consistently fail to comply with safe drinking water laws and regulations, but rather the imposition of a water tax to pay for the needed capital facilities and operations and maintenance costs for these failing systems. Customers of the Districts would contribute significant monies each year to the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and receive no direct benefit in return. The loss of local water system revenue could negatively affect the Districts' ability to repair, rehabilitate and replace their own water system assets as well as to properly operate and maintain their water systems. The Districts, along with the ACWA coalition in opposition to a tax on water, argued that "with a record state budget surplus for the 2019-20 fiscal year, it is the perfect time to create and fund a Safe Drinking Water Trust as a durable funding solution."

Legislative review of the Governor's state budget occurred while the Legislature was considering the various legislative proposals, which complicated advocacy efforts. The Senate, under the leadership of President pro Tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), was the first to signal opposition to the imposition of a water tax. The Governor's budget trailer bill was rejected by Senate Budget Subcommittee #2 and instead, the Senate proposed to appropriate \$100 million from the General Fund to fund the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water program. This decision signaled the lack of a two-thirds majority in the Senate to approve a water tax. The Assembly, however, did not give up on the water tax and approved the Governor's budget trailer bill. The question of funding ended up in the two-house budget conference committee, where a compromise ultimately was reached on using proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to provide revenues annually to the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. SB 200 was amended following the June 27 enactment of the 2019-20 State Budget to provide the statutory framework for the expenditure of the drinking water fund.

In the first year, \$100 million of the funding will come from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and \$30 million from the General Fund. After the first year, SB 200 will provide that the

funding will be 5 percent of the GGRF continuously appropriated – capped at \$130 million per year. The agreement includes General Fund funding as a backstop if 5 percent of the GGRF is less than \$130 million in any year. The funding will sunset in 2030.

### **Districts Active on the Legislative Front**

The Districts actively monitored or engaged in direct lobbying on over 98 bills this year. The following highlights a handful of bills in which the Districts were active.

#### Accessory dwelling units: development fees

Several bills were introduced this year relating to the construction of accessory dwelling units following the enactment of similar laws over the past four years. ACWA and its members have engaged in hours of negotiations with authors and housing proponents and had previously on more than one occasion reached agreement as to the manner in which accessory dwelling units (ADUs) will be addressed by utility service providers. ACWA and Reeb Government Relations reached a compromise with ADU advocates that property-related fees and charges would not be imposed on a unit that is contained within the existing space of a single-family residence or accessory structure. However existing law allows a local agency to require a new or separate utility connection directly between an ADU and the utility where the ADU is not within the existing space of a single-family residence or accessory structure. Consistent with Section 66013 of the Government Code, the connection may be subject to a connection fee or capacity charge that shall be proportionate to the burden of the proposed accessory dwelling unit and reflect the reasonable cost of providing service, which reflects the requirements of Proposition 218.

Senate Bill 13, by Senator Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont), sought to eviscerate the compromise reached in 2017 by prohibiting a local agency, special district, or water corporation from considering the ADU to be a new residential use for utilities, including water and sewer service. The Districts opposed the measure reminding legislators that Proposition 218 prohibits a local agency from shifting costs that cannot be collected from ADUs to other customers and development projects. Stable and predictable revenues are relied on to build capacity in water and sewer systems and to operate, maintain, repair and replace water and sewer facilities. Relieving ADUs from paying their fair share of costs related to utility service will harm the financial position of local agency utility service providers.

The bill was amended on July 1 addressing the Districts concerns with the bill by restoring the authority of utilities to charge connection fees and capacity charges.

Governor Newsom signed SB 13 into law on October 9. (Chapter No. 653, Statutes of 2019)

#### Accessory dwelling units: area designation

The Planning and Zoning Law provides for the creation of accessory dwelling units by local ordinance, or, if a local agency has not adopted an ordinance, by ministerial approval, in accordance with specified standards and conditions. Existing law requires the ordinance to designate areas where accessory dwelling units may be permitted and authorizes the designated areas to be based on *criteria that includes, but is not limited to*, the adequacy of water and sewer services and the impact of accessory dwelling units on traffic flow and public safety.

AB 881, by Assembly Member Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) would instead require a local agency to designate these areas based on the adequacy of water and sewer services and the impact of accessory dwelling units on traffic flow and public safety by deleting the phrase "criteria that includes, but is not limited to". This legislation also clarifies the phrase "within the existing space of a single family residence or accessory structure" so that the ADU would be within an existing structure, including, but not limited to, the primary residence, a studio, garage, pool house, or other similar structure. Reeb Government Relations, in reviewing the legislation, noted that existing law authorized cities and counties to change land use zoning to accommodate ADUs and determine whether adequate water and sewer capacity was present to support the zoning change. The lobbying firm developed a solution to those localities in which a special district provides the water and sewer services. The Districts authorized a support if amended position on the bill if the bill was amended to include a sentence at the end of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 65852.2 of the Government Code to read:

*"A local agency that does not provide water or sewer services shall consult with the local service provider regarding adequacy of service before designating an area where accessory dwelling units may be permitted."*

The Districts understand the benefit zoning for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) may provide in the effort to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing. In general, however, water pipelines, tanks, pump stations, pressure reducing stations and appurtenances have been sized to handle the demand on the system based on existing areas zoned to allow single-family or multifamily use. Water system capacity is based on peak hour demand, the maximum daily demand plus fire flow, and storage tank refill, if required. The addition of a significant number of ADUs within an existing residential area could result in water system pressure loss and jeopardize the ability to fight structure fires.

The bill was amended on August 12 to include the language requested by the Districts. By adding this sentence to the bill, AB 881 ensures that cities and counties that do not provide water and wastewater services will have practical information when making ADU zoning designations.

Governor Newsom signed AB 881 into law on October 9. (Chapter No. 659, Statutes of 2019)

#### Public utilities: wildfires and employee protection

The California Constitution establishes the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) and authorizes the commission to exercise ratemaking and rulemaking authority over all public utilities under its jurisdiction, subject to control by the Legislature. The Public Utilities Act authorizes the commission to supervise and regulate every public utility and to do all things that are necessary and convenient in the exercise of such power and jurisdiction. The Public Utilities Act defines "public utility" to include every common carrier, toll bridge corporation, pipeline corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewer system corporation, and heat corporation, where the service is performed for, or the commodity is delivered to, the public or any portion thereof, and "water corporation" to include every corporation or person owning, controlling, operating, or managing any water system for compensation within this State.



AB 1054, by Assembly Member Chris Holden (D-Pasadena), which as introduced sought to add specific qualifications that must be possessed by the chief internal auditor of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) was gutted and amended on June 27 to expand the CPUC's jurisdiction over publicly owned water utilities and water districts. More specifically, Section 5, subdivision (f) of the June 27 amended bill version authorized the Wildfire Safety Division, which will be established within the CPUC, to *"review, as necessary, in coordination with the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board and necessary commission staff, safety requirements for infrastructure operated by telephone corporations, water corporations, local public owned water utilities, and water districts, and provide recommendations to the commission to address the dynamic risk of climate change to mitigate wildfire risk."*

The Districts quickly voiced their opposition to the inclusion of publicly owned water utilities and water districts into subdivision (f) of Section 5 of the bill as the Districts do not support giving the CPUC oversight authority over their safety requirements. The Districts argued that under current law local agencies are overseen by a directly elected board of directors who are accountable to their local taxpayers and ratepayers. Local agencies are not regulated by CPUC and AB 1056 should not alter existing law regarding this fundamental separation between the regulation of water corporations and local agencies.

The Districts removed their opposition to the bill based on the July 5, 2019 amended version which deleted from the bill references to local publicly owned water utilities and water districts.

The bill needed a two-thirds vote to pass. AB 1054 passed the Senate on July 8 with a 31-7 vote, and the Assembly on a 63-10 vote on July 11. Governor Newsom signed AB 1054 into law on July 12. (Chapter No. 79, Statutes of 2019)

#### California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019

Legislation that threatened water supply reliability for millions of Californians and jeopardized efforts to improve the environmental health of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds remained active in the final weeks of the legislative session.

SB 1, authored by Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), sought to enact state law to codify not only federal statutes and regulations, but individual permit conditions and decade old biological opinions governing water project operations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Opponents of the legislation, including Palmdale Water District, Puente Basin Water Agency, Rowland Water District, Valley County Water District, and Walnut Valley Water District, argued that SB 1, if enacted, would create chaos in California water management and could prevent the Newsom Administration from using the best available science to improve conditions for at-risk fish species in the Delta under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the California Endangered Species Act, and other state environmental laws.

The Districts were concerned about a provision in SB 1 that threatened progress to implement voluntary agreements to provide additional river flows and fund new habitat and ecosystem restoration efforts. The California Natural Resources Agency is leading the effort to negotiate voluntary agreements among water agencies, state and federal agencies, and environmental groups. The goal of these agreements is to improve habitat and flows for fish in the Delta while maintaining

water supply reliability for Southern California, the Bay Area, and Central Valley agriculture. The agreements are premised on using science to adaptively manage the watershed overtime, and require funds from the State Water Project and other water users to support the science and habitat activities. If successful, these agreements would be historic putting an end to conflict in the Delta and provide new funding and water to meet the watershed's environmental needs. The Districts joined other organizations and individual water districts across California in opposing SB 1 unless the provision of the bill was removed.

Despite opposition efforts, SB 1 cleared both houses of the legislature on the final night of the legislative session. The Districts and others asked the Governor to veto SB 1, and on September 27, Governor Newsom returned SB 1 to the Senate without his signature. In his veto message, the Governor stated:

*"This bill would enact the California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019 with the intent of ensuring that protections afforded under federal environmental and labor laws and regulations as of January 2017, could remain in place in the event of federal regulatory changes. California is a leader in the fight for resource, environmental, and worker protections. Since 2017, the federal government has repeatedly tried to override and invalidate those protections, and each time, the state has aggressively countered - taking immediate legal action and deploying every tool at the state's disposal to safeguard our natural resources, environmental protections and workers. No other state has fought harder to defeat Trump's environmental policies, and that will continue to be the case. While I disagree about the efficacy and necessity of Senate Bill 1, I look forward to working with the Legislature in our shared fight against the weakening of California's environmental and worker protections."*

## **The Challenge that Lies Ahead**

The nearly three-fourths majority held by the Democratic Party in the California Legislature has changed the political and policy dynamics in Sacramento. While it remains possible with a diligent effort to defeat contentious legislation, it falls to securing amendments more often than not to blunt the negative effects of legislation. Governor Newsom, a self-avowed progressive, demonstrated a willingness to push back against the Legislature on a number of bills this year, SB 1 being one such bill, and this provides some hope that common sense consideration and evaluation of the pros and cons of legislation may be expected in the Governor's office.

The Districts commit time and resources to policy engagement in Sacramento. Our firm believes the level of commitment is not only warranted, but essential to protecting the Districts, and their customers and taxpayers, against the whims of legislators and interest groups who believe in greater centralization of control over water supply and management. We will continue to work with State Water Contractors, Association of California Water Agencies and other state-level water resources organizations to amplify the interests and positions of the Districts. And, we will continue to coordinate our advocacy efforts in Sacramento with a complementary effort involving Districts' direct contact with their local members of the Legislature.

**P A L M D A L E   W A T E R   D I S T R I C T**  
**B O A R D   M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** August 17, 2020 **August 24, 2020**  
**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**  
**FROM:** Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager  
**RE:** ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.4 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION  
ON ADOPTION OF 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN. (GENERAL MANAGER  
LaMOREAUX / PERSONNEL COMMITTEE / RESOURCE AND  
FACILITIES COMMITTEE / FINANCE COMMITTEE)***

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**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Board approve the attached 2020 Strategic Plan Initiatives and Goals.

**Background:**

The Strategic Plan serves as a guide for staff to set goals and projects throughout the year to meet the District's mission of providing high quality water to current and future customers at a reasonable cost.

Dr. Bill Mathis, The Mathis Group, facilitated a Strategic Plan Special Meeting Workshop on July 28, 2020. Goals discussed at that meeting were reviewed with the Personnel, Resource and Facilities, and Finance Committees and refined by staff.

**Strategic Plan Initiative:**

This work is part of Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership.

**Budget:**

There is no impact to the budget from updating the Strategic Plan.

**Supporting Documents:**

- 2020 Strategic Plan Goals based on August 11, 2020 Committee Meetings

**2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**  
**Based on August 11, 2020 Committee Meetings**

**Strategic Initiative No. 1 – Water Resource Reliability**

*Resilience, Development, Partnership*

- Support and participate with local agencies in the development of projects and policies that improve water reliability
- Expand the recycled water distribution system for both public access and construction water
- Continue the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project to maximize state and federal funding opportunities
- Support projects and initiatives that increase the resilience of the State Water Project
- Expand access to available water supplies to increase drought resiliency, develop water storage projects, and improve the ability to capture groundwater, local surface water, and recycled water
- Update the 2010 Strategic Water Resources Plan and Water Supply Fee to ensure funding for needed projects
- Strengthen stakeholder relationships and implement Littlerock Dam and Reservoir sediment removal

## **Strategic Initiative No. 2 – Organizational Excellence**

### **Train, Perform, Reward**

- Offer competitive compensation and benefits package for employee recruitment and retention
- Focus Succession Planning Program on ensuring an overlap of training for key positions
- Continue providing transparency to our ratepayers
- Promote and support leadership training and professional development programs to enhance the District's customers' experience
- Ensure employees are trained on the Strategic Plan and the District's Values of Diversity, Integrity, Teamwork, and Passion
- Improve safety for Directors, employees, and customers
- Develop career paths at the District for interns and pursue state and federal funding for intern programs
- Involve employees in community engagement and professional platforms

### **Strategic Initiative No. 3 – Systems Efficiency**

#### **Independence, Technology, Research**

- Explore energy independence and evaluate the feasibility of energy options, including wind and solar
- Incorporate more energy efficient technologies into the District's infrastructure
- Advance new technologies to increase treatment efficiencies, including the use of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)
- Research state-of-the-art treatment techniques to help with systems efficiency and flexibility in using recycled water and surface water
- Enhance technologies to increase efficiencies
- Re-evaluate Lake Palmdale by-pass pipeline and pursue funding options
- Improve Palmdale Ditch to reduce water loss

## **Strategic Initiative No. 4 – Financial Health and Stability**

### **Strength, Consistency, Balance**

- Pursue grant funding for District projects and operations
- Maintain the five-year financial plan adopted as part of the 2019 Water Rate Study, including the five-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Build adequate reserve levels and achieve high-level bond rating
- Seek potential revenue sources from vacant District properties
- Monitor finances, operations, and projects affected by emergencies [JS1]
- Digitize and document departmental workflows

## **Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership**

### **Engage, Lead, Progress**

- Increase involvement with water, business, and community partnerships
- Provide opportunities for local businesses to contract with the District
- Expand the Greater Antelope Valley Water Emergency Coalition by continuing to collaborate with neighboring water agencies and moving to include more agencies outside of the Antelope Valley
- Develop working relationships and mutually beneficial projects with other water agencies in the District's state and federal representatives' districts
- Develop events or activities with lessees of District properties
- Host a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for a fully re-opened Littlerock Dam and Reservoir recreation area in 2024



**Strategic Initiative No. 6 – Customer Care, Advocacy and Outreach**  
*Promote, Educate, Support*

- Enhance customers' experience through communication and feedback
- Evaluate, develop, and market additional payment options
- Develop the District's Public Outreach Plan and increase public awareness of current programs and services
- Develop partnerships with various agencies to distribute information about resources available to the public
- Engage elected officials and the public on the importance of local, state, federal, and global water reliability issues
- Expand the District's social media platforms and find new avenues to share information and news
- Plan and convert to an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to increase customers' knowledge of water use
- Continue to promote and expand school water education programs

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE OF THE PALMDALE  
WATER DISTRICT, APRIL 23 2020:**

*A meeting of the Personnel Committee of the Palmdale Water District was held Thursday, April 23, 2020, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, California, in the Board Room of the District office. Chair Dizmang called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.*

**1) Roll Call.**

**Attendance:**

Committee:

Gloria Dizmang, Chair

(via teleconference)

Kathy Mac Laren, Committee

Member

(via teleconference)

**Others Present:**

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager

Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager

Jennifer Emery, Human Resources Director

Scott Rogers, Engineering/Grant Manager

Jim Stanton, Information Technology Manager

Chris Bligh, Facilities Manager

Danielle Henry, Management Analyst

1 member of the public

**2) Adoption of Agenda.**

It was moved by Committee Member Mac Laren, seconded by Chair Dizmang, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting to adopt the agenda, as written.

**3) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.**

There were no public comments for non-agenda items.

**4) Action Items: (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item as Each Item is Considered by the Committee Prior to Action Being Taken.)**

**4.1) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held February 6, 2020.**

It was moved by Committee Member Mac Laren, seconded by Chair Dizmang, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting to approve the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held February 6, 2020, as written.

**4.2) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Salary Ranges for Junior Engineer, Assistant Engineer, Associate Engineer, and Senior Engineer Positions in the Engineering Department. (No Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Emery)**

Human Resources Director Emery reviewed the salary ranges for the Junior Engineer, Assistant Engineer, Associate Engineer, and Senior Engineer positions, and after a brief discussion of succession planning, it was moved by Committee Member Mac Laren, seconded by Chair Dizmang, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting that the Committee concurs with staff's recommendation to approve salary ranges for the Junior Engineer, Associate Engineer, and Senior Engineer positions in the Engineering Department and that this item be presented to the full Board for consideration at the May 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

**4.3) Consideration and Possible Action on Revision to Organizational Structure Moving the SCADA Instrumentation Tech Positions from the Facilities Department to the Information Technology Department. (No Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Emery/Information Technology Manager Stanton)**

Information Technology Manager Stanton reviewed the recommendation to move the SCADA Instrumentation Tech positions from the Facilities Department to the Information Technology Department, and after a brief discussion of American Water Infrastructure Act recommendations and of succession planning, it was moved by Committee Member Mac Laren, seconded by Chair Dizmang, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting that the Committee concurs with staff's recommendation to revise the Organizational Structure moving the SCADA Instrumentation Tech Positions from the Facilities Department to the Information Technology Department and that this item be presented to the full Board for consideration at the May 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

**5) Reports.**

**5.1) Human Resources Director Emery:**

**a) Personnel Policy Effects of COVID-19 Event.**

Human Resources Director Emery stated that the District has implemented the provisions of the District's Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic Response Plan,

including closing the lobby and rotating staff working at home; that working at home was implemented quickly as the District was prepared for this option; that regular updates regarding the coronavirus and requirements are provided to staff via email; that personal protective equipment is being obtained as quickly as possible; and that the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic Response Plan will be presented to the full Board for consideration for future pandemic events followed by discussion of other sources for obtaining personal protective equipment.

**6) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**7) Date of Next Committee Meeting.**

There was no date set for the next Personnel Committee meeting.

**8) Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Personnel Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.



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Acting Chair

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE RESOURCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, JULY 8, 2020:**

*A meeting of the Resource and Facilities Committee of the Palmdale Water District was held Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, California, in the Board Room of the District office. Chair Mac Laren called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.*

### **1) Roll Call.**

#### **Attendance:**

Committee:

Kathy Mac Laren, Chair (via teleconf.)

Robert Alvarado, Committee

Member (via teleconf.)

#### **Others Present:**

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager (via teleconf.)

Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager (via teleconf.)

Mike Williams, Finance Manager (via teleconf.)

Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director (via teleconf.)

Scott Rogers, Engineering/Grant Manager (via teleconf.)

Peter Thompson II, Res. & Analytics Dir. (via teleconf.)

Claudia Bolanos, Res. & Analytics Spvrs. (via teleconf.)

Dawn Deans, Executive Assistant (via teleconf.)

0 members of the public

### **2) Adoption of Agenda.**

It was moved by Committee Member Alvarado, seconded by Chair Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting to adopt the agenda, as written.

### **3) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.**

There were no public comments for non-agenda items.

### **4) Action Items: (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item as Each Item is Considered by the Committee Prior to Action Being Taken.)**

#### **4.1) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held February 11, 2020.**

It was moved by Committee Member Alvarado, seconded by Chair Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting to approve the minutes of the Resource and Facilities Committee meeting held February 11, 2020, as written.

**4.2) Consideration and Possible Action on a Recommendation to Authorize Staff to Enter Into an Agreement With Kennedy-Jenks Consultants for the Preparation of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. (\$145,605.00 – Budgeted – Budget Item No. 1-02-5070-007 – Resource and Analytics Director Thompson II)**

Resource and Analytics Director Thompson II provided an overview of the proposal for the preparation of the District's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, and after a brief discussion, it was moved by Committee Member Alvarado, seconded by Chair Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting that the Committee concurs with staff's recommendation to authorize staff to enter into an Agreement with Kennedy-Jenks Consultants for the preparation of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan in the amount of \$145,605.00 and that this item be presented to the full Board for consideration at the July 13, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

**4.3) Consideration and Possible Action to Authorize Staff to Enter Into a Contract With Kyle Groundwater for the Well No. 36 Pre-Design Report. (\$13,994.00 – Budgeted – Budget Item No. 1-02-5070-007 – Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers)**

Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers reviewed the need for the pre-design report for Well No. 36, and after a brief discussion of the proposed well location, it was moved by Committee Member Alvarado, seconded by Chair Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to authorize staff to enter into a contract with Kyle Groundwater for the Well No. 36 Pre-Design Report in the amount of \$13,994.00:

Chair Mac Laren – aye  
Committee Member Alvarado - aye

**4.4) Consideration and Possible Action to Authorize Staff to Enter Into a Contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for a Surface Water Augmentation Feasibility Study. (\$13,015.00 – Budgeted – Budget Item No. 1-02-5070-007 – Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers)**

Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers provided an overview of surface water augmentation and how it can strengthen the District's Strategic Water Resources Plan, and after a brief discussion of this option, it was moved by Committee Member Alvarado, seconded by Chair Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to authorize staff to

enter into a contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for a Surface Water Augmentation Feasibility Study in the amount of \$13,015.00:

Chair Mac Laren – aye  
Committee Member Alvarado - aye

**4.5) Consideration and Possible Action to Authorize the General Manager to Execute Change Order No. 2 to the Contract with Stevens Construction for the Remodel of the District's Buildings. (Additional Costs Related to Changes in Scope of the Project – Budgeted – Work Order No. 20-613 – Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers)**

Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers provided an overview of the change orders for the contract with Stevens Construction, as well as the status on the completion of the remodel, and after a brief discussion, it was moved by Committee Member Alvarado, seconded by Chair Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Committee present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to authorize the General Manager to execute Change Order No. 2 to the contract with Stevens Construction for the remodel of the District's buildings:

Chair Mac Laren – aye  
Committee Member Alvarado - aye

**4.6) Discussion and Review of 2020 Planned Projects. (Assistant General Manager Ly)**

Assistant General Manager Ly stated that annually staff develops a list of projects; that 40% to 45% of 2020 projects totaling \$1.8 million have either been completed or started with reserves being carefully monitored; that two 2019 carryover water main replacement projects totaling \$1.2 million are also scheduled for 2020; and that no additional contracts will be entered into for the remainder of 2020 to ensure reserves remain at \$10 million at year-end.

He then stated that staff is focusing on the preparation of plans and internal design work for 2021 projects and that Facilities has completed most projects and is now working on internal maintenance projects with the meter replacement project scheduled for later this year.



Finance Manager Williams then informed the Committee of additional costs for the Upper Amargosa Recharge Project followed by discussion of the year-end balance and the Debt Service Coverage.

**5) Reports.**

**5.1) Resource and Analytics Director Thompson II:**

**a) 2020 State Water Project Allocation Use.**

Resource and Analytics Director Thompson II stated that the District's current State Water Project allocation is 20%; that 2019 carry-over water has been used; that all Butte lease water will be used along with Yuba Accord water; that water will be returned from AVEK through the 2011 water exchange; that water from Littlerock Reservoir has been a valuable resource; and that 2,000 acre feet of carry-over water will be available at year-end for 2021 followed by discussion of Palmdale Ditch water losses, maintenance, and potential grant funding for enclosing a portion of the Ditch.

**b) Water Conservation and Education Garden.**

He then provided an overview on the status of the Water Conservation and Education Garden, which has been re-designed due to underground utilities, and stated that a Request for Proposals will be issued for construction of the Garden.

**5.2) Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers:**

**a) Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project.**

Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers stated that staff is exploring all options to secure a location for sediment removal from Littlerock Reservoir, which will more than likely begin next year.

**b) Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project.**

He then stated that a contract has been approved for the drilling of a test well for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project; that permits are being obtained; and that an application for monitoring and extraction for this well has been submitted to the Antelope Valley Watermaster.

**5.3) Facilities Manager Bligh:**

**a) Water Truck.**

Assistant General Manager Ly stated that staff is researching options for replacing the District's water truck and is hopeful to obtain a used water truck under the budgeted price of \$65,000.00 followed by discussion of air quality assistance.

**6) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.**

Director Alvarado requested that "Status of Palmdale Ditch" be placed on a future agenda when significant work has been completed on the Ditch.

He then requested that future Committee agenda items include a statement on whether an item requires a "Committee Recommendation" or "Board Approval."

There were no further requests for future agenda items.

**7) Date of Next Committee Meeting.**

It was determined that the next Resource and Facilities Committee meeting will be scheduled as needed.

**8) Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Resource and Facilities Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

  
Chair

**P A L M D A L E   W A T E R   D I S T R I C T**  
**B O A R D   M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** August 19, 2020 **August 24, 2020**  
**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS **Board Meeting**  
**FROM:** Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager  
**RE:** ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.2.a – JULY 2020 GENERAL MANAGER REPORT***

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The following is the August 2020 report to the Board of activities through July 2020. It is organized to follow the District's six strategic initiatives and is intended to provide a general update on the month's activities. A summary of the initiatives follows with a strikethrough on completed projects. The updated 2020 Strategic Plan will be considered by the Board in August:



**Water Resource Reliability**

~~Complete the 2018 phase of the Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge Project~~  
Ensure Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA) to be fully operational by year 2020  
Adopt new state-of-the-art water treatment technologies  
Implement the Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication agreement  
~~Complete the grade-control structure for the Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project~~  
Continue the next phase towards the completion of Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project  
Identify and pursue opportunities to increase the reliability of water supply



**Organizational Excellence**

Offer competitive compensation and benefits package to promote employee retention  
Focus Succession Planning Program on ensuring an overlap of training for key positions  
Continue providing transparency to our ratepayers  
Promote and support leadership training and professional development programs to enhance the District's customers' experience



**Systems Efficiency**

~~Implement 2016 Water System Master Plan~~  
~~Develop a five-year Infrastructure Revitalization Plan to continue the reinvestment and preventative maintenance for aging infrastructure~~  
Explore energy independence  
Continue being the industry's leader on the use of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)  
Research and test new technologies to increase efficiencies  
Improve safety and training for Directors, employees, and customers  
~~Develop a crisis communications plan~~



### **Financial Health and Stability**

Pursue additional grant funding for all District projects  
Adopt a sustainable and balanced rate structure to meet short and long-term needs  
~~Create a five-year financial plan in conjunction with the 2019 Water Rate Plan~~  
Maintain adequate reserve levels, high-level bond rating, and financial stability



### **Regional Leadership**

Enhance relationships with Antelope Valley partnerships, including local water agencies, Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association and the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority  
Expand school water education programs  
Engage elected officials in water-related issues  
Continue offering career opportunities through the Internship Program  
Provide opportunities for local businesses to contract with the District



### **Customer Care, Advocacy and Outreach**

Increase Customer Care accessibility through communication and feedback to enhance customers' experience  
Evaluate, develop, and market additional payment options  
Be point of communication for customers' water-related public health concerns  
Develop the District's Public Outreach Plan  
~~Increase public awareness of the District's history and promote centennial anniversary~~

This report also includes charts that show the effects of the District's efforts in several areas. They are organized within each strategic initiative and include status of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) long-term conservation orders, 20 x 2020 status, the District's total per capita water use trends, 2019 final water production and customer use graph, 2020 actual water production and customer use graph, mainline leaks, and the water loss trends for both 12- and 24-month running averages.



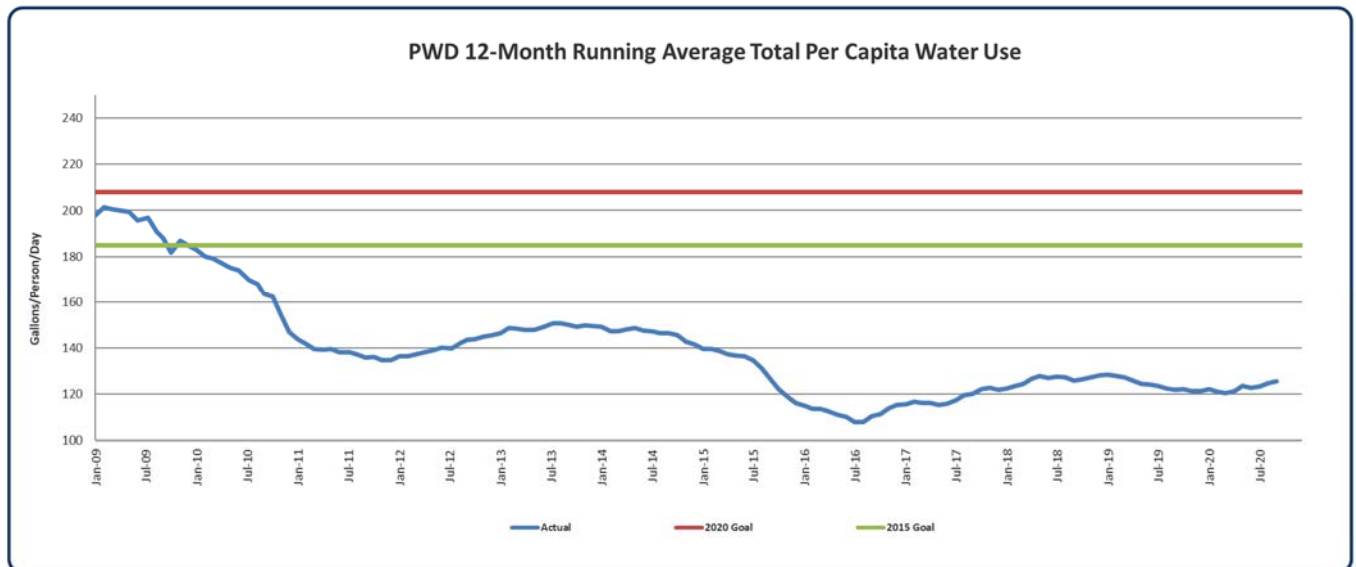
### **Water Resource Reliability**

This initiative includes conservation efforts, water supply projects, and water planning. Recent highlights are as follows:

### State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Activities

The 20 x 2020 per capita reduction goals passed by the legislature in 2009 with new long-term water budgeting requirements have now been replaced with new requirements and water agency water budgets. These follow through on the “Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life” plan. The District expects to easily comply with the new requirements as they are based on the same philosophy as the District water budget rate structure. More will be known as Kennedy/Jenks works with staff on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. Until these criteria are finalized, the customers’ performance is shown in this report using the 20 x 2020 requirements.

The District’s compliance with the former 20 x 2020 law is evident from the chart titled “PWD 12-Month Running Average Total Per Capita Water Use.”:



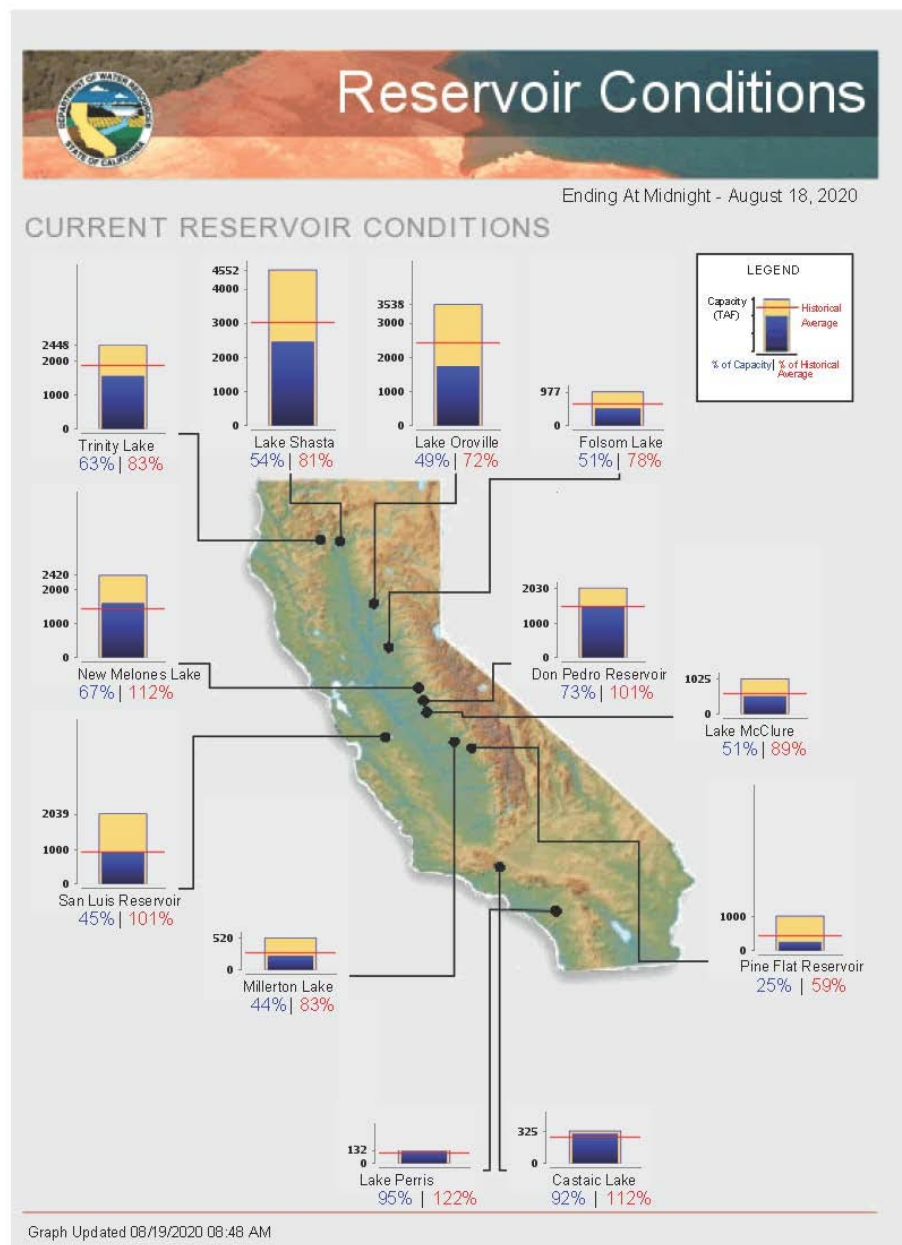
The District’s customers have cut their water use by **45.5%** from the baseline number of 231 established in the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan and met the 2020 Goal in early 2010. The current Total-GPCD is 126.

### Water Supply Information

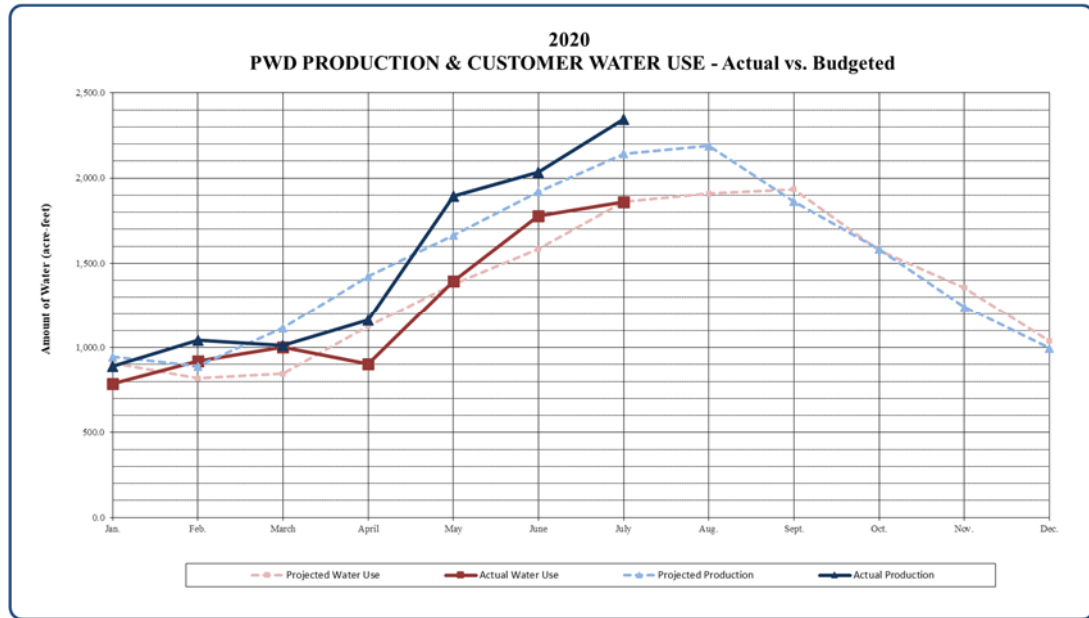
- The AV Adjudication is now entering its fifth year, and the reduction to the native safe yield is in its third year. The District’s native groundwater right is 2,769.63 AF. The District’s 2019 groundwater rights totaled 7,986.67 AF without the prior year’s Carryover Rights. The District’s 2020 groundwater rights are approximately 8,188 AF and 9,465.83 AF of Carryover production rights from 2019 for a total groundwater production right available to the District of 17,653.96 AF.

- The 2020 water resources plan is tentative at this point. Precipitation in the area that contributes to the State Water Project is currently at 63% of average and the SWP allocation is 20%. This provides the District approximately 6,260 AF, including the Butte County lease. At least 4,000 AF is anticipated from Littlerock Reservoir. The District will also receive other water including the Yuba Accord Water, water stored in Willow Springs Groundwater Bank, and carryover SWP from 2019. These efforts, along with the District's available groundwater rights, will lessen any needed conservation needed by our customers this year.

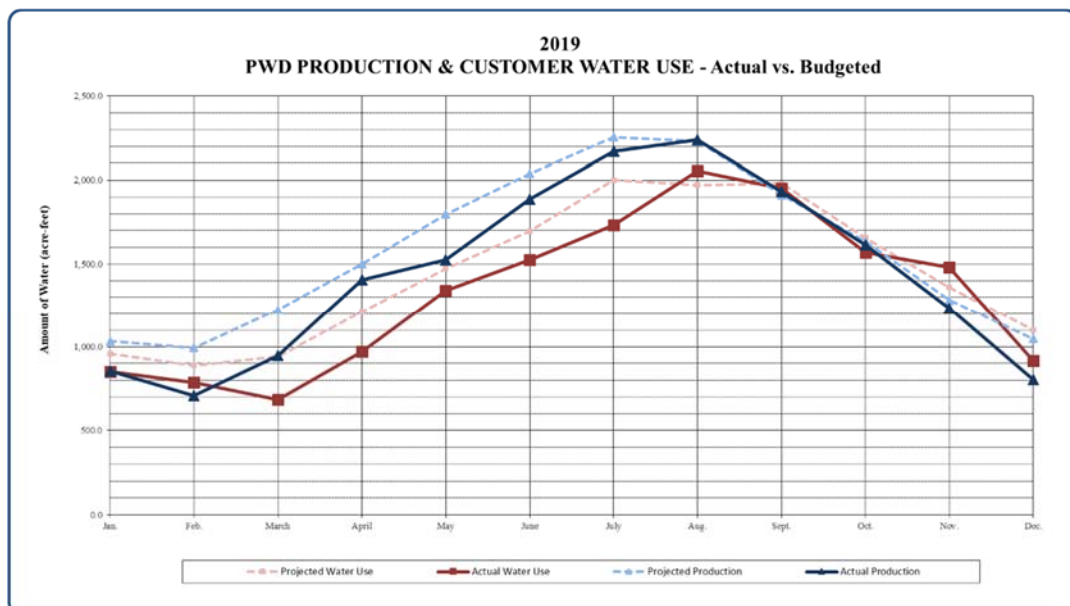
The 2019-2020 water year remains less than average. The current reservoir storage as of Tuesday, August 18, 2020.



- The following is the anticipated monthly water consumption and production for 2020 based on the prior five years of actual monthly information. The total consumption is based on the 2020 Budget amount of 16,341 AF. Actual consumption numbers through July 2020 is very slightly more than anticipated by 1.5% (123.7 AF/8,525 AF) and water production is also slightly more than anticipated by 2.8% (280.7 AF/10,102 AF). The following graph shows water use is continuing to increase for the year, though very close to projection totals.



- The following graph shows actual monthly amounts for 2019 for both production and consumption for comparison.





Other Items

- The Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was fully approved in 2017. All required permits are in place, and a construction contract for the Grade Control Structure was awarded in July 2018 to ASI Construction, LLC (ASI) of Colorado Springs. The work was completed in January 2020 and ASI has left the site.

A citizen's committee, Friends of Littlerock Dam (FOLD), was formed in the Littlerock, Pearblossom, and Juniper Hills area to find a way to reopen the Littlerock Reservoir Recreation area. They worked with the District and the USFS on this issue. The USFS has issued an eviction notice to the former operator living at the Reservoir in May 2019. This process is expected to be completed later this year.

Staff is working with the gravel quarry owners and City of Palmdale for the disposal of sediment from Littlerock Reservoir. These discussions have been hampered due to the COVID-19 event. A wet spring has also meant Littlerock Reservoir is still relatively full. These factors will cause the District to miss starting the sediment removal this year.

- The public review of the Draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) EIR for the Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project is complete. The Final EIR was certified by the Board on July 13, 2016, and the Notice of Determination was filed on July 14, 2016. The comments from the SWRCB Recycled Water Division on the Title 22 Engineering Report were addressed and returned for further review. Another set of comments was received in 2018 and information is being collected to address them.

The soil column tests were completed and reported on late in 2018. The District reviewed additional geotechnical work done to verify the proposed location is suitable. The result is a recommendation to drill an additional well to better understand the aquifer in the area. A contract was awarded by the Board in April. After obtaining permits, etc., the construction of the well will begin soon.

- The Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge Project is complete. One contract is for the California Aqueduct turnout and transmission water main. The other is for the recharge basins. They are higher than original estimates and will result in a request from the City of Palmdale to the District, LA County Waterworks, and AVEK for additional funding. The District is working with DWR to deliver water to the Project for recharge on a continuing basis.
- Delta Conveyance Facility (DCF): The State Water Contractors and the Department of Water Resources are continuing discussions about the Project's financing and operations. These discussions will result in a clearer picture of the effect on individual contractors.

Staff is directly involved in these discussions, the development of the Agreement in Principle, and will provide it to the Board for consideration later this year.



### **Organizational Excellence**

This initiative includes efforts to restructure staff duties and activities to more efficiently provide service to our customers. Recent highlights are as follows:

- The District and other members of the Public Water Agencies Group (PWAG) have hired and share the services of an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. This has already resulted in a successful training held at the District office. This approach also kept the District in a good position for compliance with the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 and responding to the current COVID-19 event.

The District met the deadline of March 31, 2020 to complete a security/vulnerability assessment under the AWIA. The District is now working with the consultant to update its overall Emergency Response Plan based on the assessment. This must be complete by October 2020.

- Training is an important part of the District's operations. There are several state and federal required trainings including confined space, harassment, and hazmat labeling. These are addressed through a combination of online training and classes. Many of the classes are provided through ACWA/JPIA at no cost. The District also opens these up for surrounding districts needing the same training. The District is recognized annually by JPIA for being willing to host these classes.

Nearly 80 percent of the District staff is required to have certifications or licenses issued by the State of California. Many of these have continuing education requirements which must be met by technical training. The District provides for this in several ways including hosting classes given by the California Rural Water Association, having a training budget for staff to attend conferences, and providing an education tuition allowance for each employee.

Additionally, the District provides educational sessions through the Employee Assistance Program twice a year on personal subjects such as work/life balance, financial health, and wellness. These are chosen by the staff through the Communication Committee. The District also provides professional training for its management staff.

- COVID-19 Pandemic Response

District staff initiated a draft Pandemic Response Plan on March 4, 2020 as the State of California and County of Los Angeles issued declarations of emergency. Over the next two weeks, many District events were canceled. These included the Water Ambassadors Academy third session and facility tour, Strategic Plan Workshop, Director Alvarado Coffee, and all-staff lunch and meeting. The District also reduced the lobby's capacity and eventually closed it to the public due to Los Angeles County health orders. The other options to conduct business with the District including using the website, calling Customer Care, using the automated phone system, and using remote payment sites were promoted on social media, the website, and radio spots. The District has also complied with social distancing regulations by updating the Pandemic Response Plan, rotating staff to work from home, staggering work hours, and providing non-medical face coverings for staff.

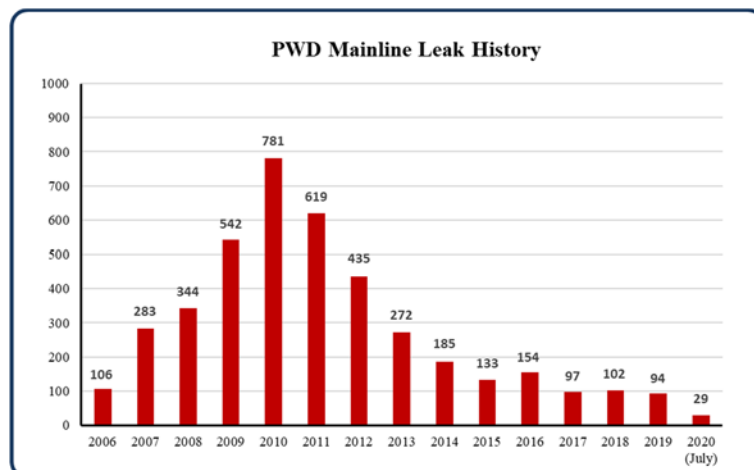
The Finance Department is continuing to monitor the effect of the State's moratorium on shutoffs due to nonpayment on cash flow. The effect is fluctuating somewhat but is remaining 5% or less below what is usually expected. Reminder notices were restarted in June and have helped stabilize the number of long-term outstanding accounts.



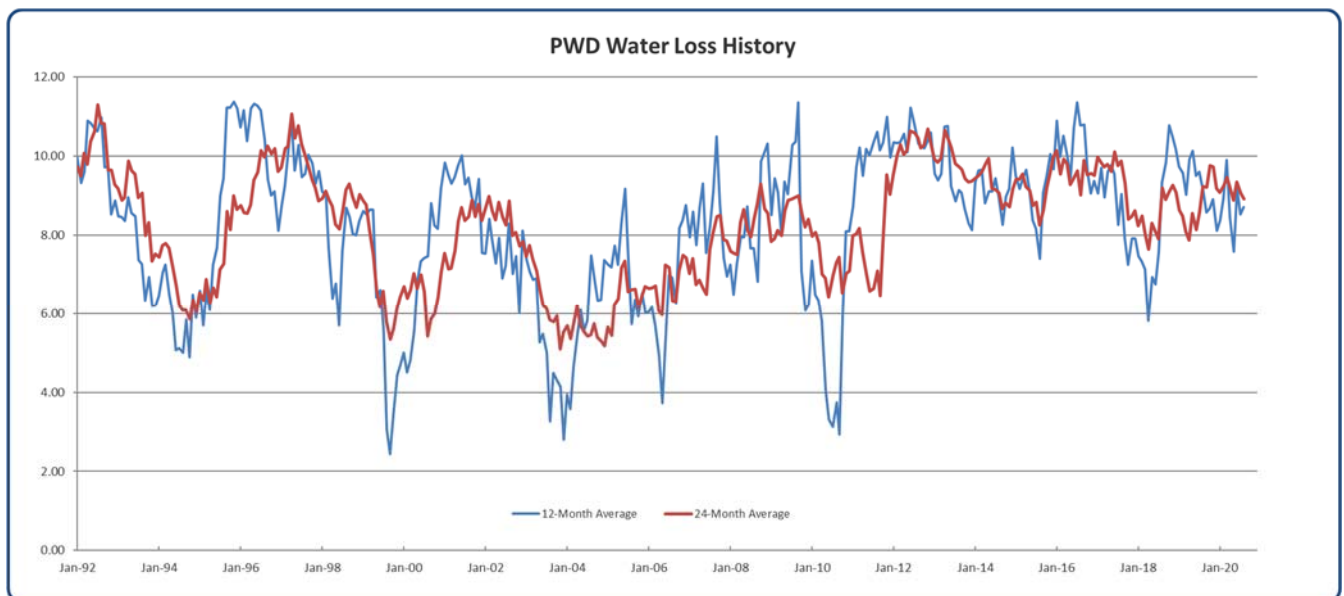
### **Systems Efficiency**

This initiative largely focuses on the state of the District's infrastructure. Recent highlights are as follows:

- The effects of the District's past efforts in replacing failing water mains and meters can be seen in the reduced number of mainline leaks. This is illustrated in the chart titled "Mainline Leak History." The mainline leaks through July 2020 total 29, and there were 42 service line leaks. This includes six additional mainline leaks in July.



- The District's staff is planning on replacing water meters in 2020. District staff has issued a request for proposals for meters and meter reading system(s) due to warranty issues being experienced with electronics on the current meter brand. Staff has received proposals and interviewed the manufacturers and vendors. A recommended course of action will be brought to the Board soon.
- The District advertised two water main replacement projects in December. One is in Avenue P near 25<sup>th</sup> Street East, and the other is in Avenue V-5 west of 47<sup>th</sup> Street East. These contracts were awarded by the Board in February. Work is complete on the Avenue V-5 project.
- The positive effect of both water main and water meter replacement programs is shown on the chart titled "PWD Water Loss History." The running average for water losses remains under 10%.



### **Financial Health and Stability**

- PWD and City of Palmdale staffs have worked together to obtain funding for the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA). Staff is considering a public bond issue for this project. Early discussions show this as a strong possibility to fund the work. PRWA is also trying to obtain completed booster station plans being held by Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40 to complete the Phase II design plans and financing.

The AV Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) also provides an avenue for State funding assistance. The Littlerock Sediment Removal and PRWA Phase II Projects are the highest rated and are set to receive nearly \$900,000 for each project in the current round of funding.

The City is holding internal discussions about the effect of COVID-19 on their finances and ability to commit to the project. Staff will be working with City staff to help resolve the concerns before a final decision is needed on the grant.

- The 2019 Water Rate Study and Proposition 218 process is now complete. The Proposition 218 public hearing was held on October 28, 2019 for the 8.1% annual revenue increase. The Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 19-15. This set the water rate structure and water rates for 2020-2024.

Resolution No. 19-15 also includes criteria to evaluate the District's financial condition each year. It gives the Board the ability to reduce the water rates if the District's financial position meets four (4) of the criteria in an annual review while preparing the following year's budget.

- The 2021 Budget preparation will begin in late August and will follow the approved 2019 Water Rate Plan.
- Water-Wise Landscape Conversion Program (Cash-for-Grass Program): The District received two \$75,000 Grants from the Bureau of Reclamation in 2017 to assist in funding the Program over the last few years.
- The District is seeking State and/or Federal assistance to provide water service to the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park on Sierra Highway. It has poor water quality from its well and several health violations.
- The District is seeking Federal assistance to enclose additional sections of the Palmdale Ditch. This will help reduce the loss of water being moved from Littlerock Dam and Reservoir to Palmdale Lake for treatment and use by our customers.



### **Regional Leadership**

This initiative includes efforts to involve the community, be involved in regional activities, and be a resource for other agencies in the area. Recent highlights are as follows:

- Activities of the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA), AV Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), and Antelope Valley State Water Contractors

Association have continued. The District has leadership positions in two of these organizations.

- The District staff continues to share the administration of the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board (AVWB) with AVEK and related meetings.
- District staff is active in the local chambers, Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance (GAVEA), regional human resources, and public information organizations.
- The 2020 “PWD Water Ambassador Academy” (WAA) began in March. However, the last session and the facilities tour were canceled due to the COVID-19 event. The last session was planned to include a brief presentation by the City of Palmdale. The District will also be included in the City’s program. The third session was held virtually on August 12, 2020. The facilities tour will be held in September.
- PRWA staff, District and City personnel recently met to look at activities for this year and what future planning should be done. This includes developing a logo and brand, a website, completing the Phase II contract documents, possibly updating the Master Plan, and developing a five-year strategic plan.
- Staff held a successful meeting with Congressman Garcia and his staff at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant in early July. He was very attentive and interested in the District’s operations and Federal needs.



### **Customer Care and Advocacy**

This initiative includes efforts to better serve our customers. Recent highlights are as follows:

- The ability to make payments at 7-Eleven and Family Dollar Store is continuing to grow due to the COVID-19 event.
- Customer participation in all electronic and remote payment methods has increased due to the COVID-19 event.
- Contracts for remodeling and re-equipping of the open area on both floors of the main office were awarded by the Board in April and are now complete. The lobby and Customer Care area are available for customer appointments.
- Customer Care staff has now successfully worked with customers from home for over three months.