

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 16, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Tom Hennig, General Manager
Subject: General Manager's Report

COVID-19 RESPONSE

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to unfold the District has responded to the pandemic in a number of ways. District offices continue to be closed to the public, in response to COVID-19 as a best practice. The latest Sacramento County Health directive issued April 15, 2021 has continued to place Sacramento County in the red tier and allows some indoor businesses to resume with modifications, and some water districts in the area have begun to reopen. We are waiting for confirmation that we are allowed to reopen, while we are determining best practices for returning to live Board and Committee meetings. We have the infrastructure in place to reopen our lobby to the public as soon as it is allowed.

We have made contact with the County, and we are still unable to hold public meetings. As the County moves to a less restrictive tier, we will coordinate with the Board on converting back to live meetings. There have been discussions related to continuing the Committee Meetings on Zoom going forward regardless of County guidelines. During the pandemic, we have seen greater public participation on the Committee Meetings via Zoom than before. This has improved our transparency which is something we would like to continue.

Under the recent changes in the vaccine protocols our utility workers are now eligible to receive the vaccine and have been encouraged to do so. We look forward to the time when all staff will be eligible.

LAGUNA JOAQUIN UPDATE

The RMA has begun treating Laguna Joaquin for midge flies on a prescriptive cycle with BTi bacteria this spring. They have also received and will soon install additional air diffusers/bubblers to improve on the basin's oxygen level, which, according to their research, is also expected to lessen the midge fly problem. The RMA GM has reached out to me to discuss how we can address maintaining the basin later in the summer. We are planning to analyze the material in the basin and determine the strategy and timing.

OUTREACH/ADVOCACY

CSD/MVA (Murieta Village) – The timing of potential roadwork within the Village has been discussed, including how we would coordinate the timing of work on the water delivery system with their schedule. The Village currently has no tentative dates for this roadwork. At this time, I will be recommending that we remove the replacement of the water pipes at the Village from an

active capital replacement project. When the management of the Village begins to prepare for major road repair, we will review our options and return to the Board with recommendations.

CSD/RMA– During the past month, I have met several times with the RMA GM on issues related to Laguna Joaquin and security. We continue to collaborate on various issues.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DROUGHT WATCH

Regional Water Authority sponsored a Regional Drought Coordination Planning web meeting on Wednesday, March 3. This meeting was attended by more than 50 water managers. At this point in time, we are confident the water supply coming down the Cosumnes will maintain sufficient flow to fill our three reservoirs this year.

Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) – I attended the regular meeting on April 14, 2021. This group continues to discuss their options for charging local agencies and groundwater users. This same discussion is taking place at the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District. Paul or I will continue to attend the meetings and report to the Board as these plans develop. There was a lengthy discussion related to consolidating SCGA with the Regional Water Authority. We will update this item as the plans progress.

Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) Board Meeting – I attended the regular meeting on April 14, 2021. This group continues to discuss their options for charging local agencies and groundwater users. This same discussion is taking place at the Sac Central Groundwater Authority. This group again spent a few minutes discussing the possibility of forming a JPA in the future that will allow for a different mechanism for charging fees to those parcels within their area of influence. Paul or I will continue to attend the meetings and report to the Board as these plans develop. There are two types of potential fees. Administrative and project related fees. There is a greater potential for residents to be charged a nominal fee to support the administrative functions of the District. The project related fees are likely to be charged to only groundwater users.

Regional Water Authority (RWA) Regular Board Meeting – Paul Siebensohn will be attending virtual meetings when scheduled.

OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS

Security Opinion Survey – We are in the planning stages of holding a Town-Hall meeting to discuss the overall plans for the survey later this year. At this point, the process of selecting working group members and the timing of the survey will become clearer. Tina Talamantes will discuss this project later in this meeting.

Activities related to the Mellow Roos Bond - CFD 2014-1 – While evaluating the receipts and payments related to this bond, we discovered issues with the management of the various accounts. District Finance staff is in the process of completing an audit of the entire CFD 2014-01/Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project. This work involves compiling data and documents

generated from 2013 to the current date. Meetings to begin to resolve these issues have not had the chance to begin due to staffing issues. Once they do, I will provide regular updates to the Finance Committee.

Joint Security Committee Meeting – We are working on scheduling the next meeting.

Reserve Study – We are mid-way through our review of the reserve study. We received a draft report in March and are working with the vendor to refine the list of assets, replacement costs, and the timing of when the purchases need to be made. This work will allow us to provide an estimated amount to be charged for water and sewer reserves in FY 2021/22 and the years ahead. An important aspect of the reserve study is the need to provide an influx of funds, special assessments, to fulfill some of the more urgent items. We are planning to meet this obligation as part of the transfer of retained revenues from the last few fiscal year budgets.

Prevailing Wage: Basics and Beyond – I attended this webinar on March 24 and 25, and learned the District is doing a good job with registering our projects as they progress.

General Staffing Update – Over the past two months, I have received five Public Records Act (PRA) requests. Three of these requests are overly broad and have required significant staff time to address. In one instance, I have requested the District's legal counsel to intervene to narrow the scope of the request. We are going to work on these requests as staffing and time become more available.

We are currently recruiting for the Security Supervisor, Accounting Supervisor and Controller positions. The Accounting Supervisor position has been open for over a month with only one viable candidate who has declined to accept our job offer. We are continuing to recruit to fill a Gate and Patrol Officer vacancy. We plan to discuss our ideas for the Accounting Supervisor and Controller positions at the Personnel Committee in May.

Conference/Education Opportunities:

California Special Districts Association (CSDA)

General Manager Leadership Summit	6/27-28/2021	Olympic Valley
Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase	8/30-9/2/2021	Monterey, CA
2021 Special District Leadership Academy	9/26/2021	Lake Tahoe, CA
Board Secretary/Clerk Conference	10/25-27/2021	Anaheim, CA

EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROMOTIONS, COMMENDATIONS, AND KUDOS:

Paula O’Keefe started her position as the Director of Administration.

Michelle Ammond for agreeing to take on the Interim Controller role...again.

Maimie Chyinski for taking on additional responsibilities, including a successful Payroll.