

Del Rey Community Services District
**Minutes of the
Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2024
7:00p.m.**

President Ramirez called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:10p.m.

Directors present: Daniel Ramirez, Joaquin Nunez, Stephanie Garza
Directors absent: Rolando Sanchez

A-2 The Board leads in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A-3 Report from Closed Session: Legal Counsel (LC) Linden explained during the closed session, the Board objected to the offer. Ramirez made the motion. Garza seconded. All in favor; three ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Garza. All Absent; one absent: Sanchez. Motion passed.

A-4 **Approval of Agenda:** Nunez made a motion to approve the agenda. Garza seconds the motion. All in favor; three ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Garza. All Absent; one absent: Sanchez. Motion passed.

B. SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS:

Public member Nikiko Masumoto came back to share an update on the Art Festival. She recognizes the last time she didn't bring any information in Spanish, so she brought some this time. She explains it is in regards to funds through the Fresno Arts Council. She is working with the community to apply for funds for the art festival in Del Rey. She translates in Spanish. Public member Joey Lopez gives an update about trunk or treat. He thanks Manrique for the generous donation. He asks for cake mixes or baked cake donations for the cake walk or gift cards for raffles. He got other people involved that want to help, and there are 12 trunks and 7 vendors so far. He expects it will get bigger as he knows people tend to procrastinate. POM donated their lights again. He asks if they are not busy on Halloween, he would love to see their faces out there, and believes the community would love to see them as well. SUSD does not have school that Friday, so it might run later. He passes out fliers to the board. Joey Lopez likes to host this for kids on Halloween to keep kids safe and help prevent accidents. DM translates for the public. CRLA Victoria asks about the call on the phone. DM Arias explains it was LC Linden explaining the closed session. She continues on in Spanish. DM Arias translates in English and explains CRLA will have a booth to help the community in front of the District Office and at the Post Office. CRLA Lety explains this is regarding the Regional Transportation Plan (COG) which is required by law that plans for the next 20 years what transportation will look like. It is to identify issues in the community and projects and would encourage everyone to do it. There is a map and you can identify what you would like such as street lights in certain locations. It's a plan in hopes to receive money to do it.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- C-1 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – August 2024, a Total Amount of \$141,620.89.
- C-2 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – September 13, 2024, a Total Amount of \$43,840.49.
- C-3 Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.

President Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. DM Arias translates the items in Spanish. Nunez made a motion to approve items C-1 to C-3. Garza seconds the motion. All in favor; three ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Garza. All Absent; one absent: Sanchez. Motion passed.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS (DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS):

D-1 Discussion/Direction on updating the policy for water and sewer connection fees. Arias brought this to the Board since the last time the connection fees were updated was 1990. He asks Angela Hall to take over and explain. She states the memo was revised from the one previously given. The new numbers will be \$4000 and \$12,000 respectively. The reasoning is explained in the memorandum. DM Arias translates for the public. Dictos explains the fees were waived in Mendota as they thought it was more important to build more houses. Ramirez asks for clarification. Hall states it pertains to connection fees for new houses essentially for developers. Hall states Del Rey could potentially build around 900 houses. These costs are to cover what it would be to build another well to support and provide water to these new houses. In order to be compliant with code, you need to meet peak hour demand. This is only up for discussion, nothing can be approved tonight. DM Arias translates for the public. Discussion. CRLA Leticia asks if the fees could be waived as Dictos mentioned. Arias explains Dictos brought something up that was approved in Mendota before, it is not a certain option for now.

D-2 Discussion/Direction to hire a new maintenance worker. Ramirez explains he would like to see this town look better. He understands before there used to be 5 employees and now they only have two and a half. He took his grandson to the park and the dirt and gravel looked rough. He saw Fowler and it looked nice. He would like to hire an employee strictly for the Park and to clean up the town. DM Arias explains anything above water, sewer and trash is beyond the District's jurisdiction. CRLA explains if the cleanup is not the responsibility of the District, then it essentially is not the responsibility to hire someone to do so as it does not have the funds. She suggests the Board try to set up a clean up day to encourage people to help keep the town clean and maybe set an example. Garza explains Joey Lopez did it before and had a pretty good turnout. Joey Lopez explains it is a lot, and he would like to see others step in and take over. DM Arias explains personally he would love to do it, but speaking from a Manager's point of view, financially the District cannot and is not responsible. Discussion. PM 1 explains one of the workers would work off work hours to keep the town clean. He was never paid or recognized for what he did so he stopped. Once he stopped, people realized what a difference it has made.

D-3 Discussion/Direction regarding quotes for sprinkler installation at District Office. This item was brought to the Board by Reyna before she resigned. He looked into quotes for sprinklers and to remove the three dead trees and replace grass. The estimate is about \$15,000. Discussion. CRLA Victoria suggests a drip system. DM Arias states he will look into it. JL asks if there are certain criteria. DM Arias explains they need to be insured and certified.

D-4 Discussion/Direction regarding quotes for new billing system. DM Arias called about five places. Everything was between \$6,000 and up. The issue at this time is the current billing system, UBMax, is closing in two weeks, so the District will be without one until they get a new one. Ramirez recommends keeping the one they have if it's cheaper and it works. Nunez asks if the current system will be compatible with the meters. DM Arias explains it will be. Nunez suggests keeping the system they have. DM Arias translates for the public. Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. No public comment.

D-5 Adopt a Resolution Requesting the Local Agency Formation Commission to take Proceedings for the Annexation of Approximately 77 Acres of Land to the District Service Area in Accordance with the 2024 Community Plan Update. DM Arias asks Hall to discuss the item. She explains this is a standard resolution LAFCO requires. There has not been an initial study or mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) as Fresno County has not yet provided it. She recommends tabling the item since it is not ready and revisit it when everything is ready to go. DM Arias translates for the public. CRLA Leticia asks if the fees will be waived. Hall explains she has never seen that done. Item tabled.

E. DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS/AGENDA ITEMS

Ramirez asks what the plan is to hire someone to take his position as they need to move on that since it is already the middle of October and he is leaving in January. Linden explains this should be something brought to the Board to discuss as an actual item in order to be cleared to move forward. DM Arias would like official direction and it needs to be agendized if they would like to put it out for bid. Nunez states he agrees as the time is getting near.

F. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

F-1 Report of District Manager (Report by Carlos Arias)

DM Arias reports that the annual Clean Up Day was a success. They couldn't have it at the park this year, so he asked POM if their lot could be used, but they denied. He asked CV Truss if they were willing, and they allowed it. He saw that residents enjoyed having it there. He reports that the gearbox broke. He sent it out to get fixed and will get an estimate tomorrow. Last time it was around \$7,500. There was a meeting with the County (CAC) and they talked about the extra money that is needed for the demolition of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was accepted by the meeting, but it needs to be approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 17, and after that, they will know if they get it or not. The recommendation is that they most likely will get it as they have the money. He explains that Biola, Firebaugh, and Caruthers don't qualify for 24-25 CDBG as they use the census and people from there were not filling it out. He encourages everyone to fill the Census and tell others to do so as well.

F-2 Report of District Counsel (Report by Michael Linden)

LC Linden states there is nothing to report.

F-3 Report of District Engineer (Report by AM Consulting)

Angela Hall, in place of Alfonso Manrique, gives updates on projects and reviews the report.

F-4 Report of District Accountant (Report by Paul Dictos)

Dictos reviews the financial statements for the month of September.

G. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Hernandez

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Del Rey Community Services District