

*Del Rey Community Services District*

**Minutes of the  
Board of Directors  
Regular Board Meeting  
June 17, 2021  
7:00p.m.**

Appointed Chair Director Ramirez called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:19p.m.

**Directors present:** Rumaldo Reyna, Daniel Ramirez, Rolando Sanchez

**Directors absent:** Stephanie Garza, Joaquin Nunez

A2 LC Chaffin leads in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A3 **Approval of Agenda:** Reyna requests to move item E-1 after E-6. Ramirez made a motion to approve Agenda with the item order adjustment. Roll Call. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Ramirez, Sanchez. All absent; two absent: Garza, Nunez. Motion passed.

**B. Public Comment (limit of three minutes):**

B-1 Consideration to Open Del Rey Senior Citizens' Center. (Martinez/Navarro-Reyna)

Catalina Reyna-Navarro brings to the board the desire to open the Senior Center by July 1<sup>st</sup>. There are five items requested (directed at DM Arias) to be fixed/addressed before reopening- 1) window (shattered last year), 2) bathrooms- water continuously running, 3) bright light outside (front and back), 4) check AC, and 5) asks board and DM Arias when the meetings will go live. Director Reyna states Governor stated everything should be reopening soon. LC Chaffin states reopening will be discussed later in item E-6. DM Arias explains the window has not been fixed yet because the center has not been open, but it will be fixed. The light and other expenses will be up to the board to decide, but other items will be checked.

**Unscheduled – Open to the public for discussion.**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

C-1 Approve Minutes of the May 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Reyna made motion to approve minutes of the May 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. Sanchez second the motion. Roll call. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Sanchez, Ramirez. All absent; two absent: Garza, Nunez. Motion passed.

**D. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

D-1 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – May 2021, a Total Amount of \$74,728.23.

D-2 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank –June 11, 2021, a Total Amount of \$23,043.18.

Reyna asked DM Arias if check 2613 for \$7,000 was cleared. DM Arias states it was written to California Water Services for \$6,748.44, but it has not cleared yet. Reyna states he wanted to make a note of that check. Reyna made motion to approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – May 2021, a Total Amount of \$74,728.23 and June 11, 2021, a Total Amount of \$23,043.18. Roll Call. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Sanchez, Ramirez. All absent; two absent: Garza, Nunez. Motion passed.

**E. PUBLIC HEARINGS (DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS):**

E-1 Reducing the District Manager's Spending Authority to \$500 or otherwise Adjusting Said Authority Amount. Reyna made a motion to table the item to the next meeting. Ramirez opened the item to the public for comments. No comments. Consensus to table item to the next meeting.

E-2 Direction and Authorization for District Manager to enter into a contract with Sequoia Pumping for use of wastewater services. DM Arias addresses board members' concerns on whether Sequoia Pumping utilizing the plant is affecting it in any way. He directs this to Steve Reyes from California Water Services. Reyes states there are no indications by sample results turned in weekly that there are any negative effects. The water being received is going into the domestic system. Based on results, the plant is well under limits and requirements for facility. In short, there are no negative effects on the plant. Reyna questions the violations since dumping. Reyes states the violations are based off low dissolved oxygen readings for specific pond recently rehabbed. Area where water received from Sequoia Pumping is on the domestic basin and has nothing to do with pond that has been giving low readings causing violations. Plant has domestic system, industrial basin, and emergency pond. The emergency pond did not have adequate oxygen/air supply for pond, and it was testing under 1 for dissolved oxygen level, which is a violation. For a long time, the pond reading was under 1. With the help of DM Arias,

the aerator was installed, and the oxygen levels are above the limit. Reyes wants to emphasize those low oxygen levels under the requirement that the State puts forth in the WDR has nothing to do with the domestic basin where Sequoia Pumping is dumping. Sanchez questions how the violations will affect the district- is it something that will cost the district by the end of the year or are they warnings that can be corrected before penalty? Reyes clarifies the State wants action or plan to correct the issue. In this case, the violations on the pond were addressed and the State was kept involved in the plan of action to get an aerator to resolve the issue. Since the violations were addressed, there will not be any penalties or fines issued. Discussion. Ramirez questions the state of the plant if Sequoia Pumping continues to dump there. Reyes states the plant will stay in good condition. Ramirez asks if the plant needs more or better aerators. Reyes states the aerators now are sufficient, may need one to sustain it in the future, but as of now, it is sufficient. Discussion. Reyes points out there is a layout at the plant of sample points and numbers/directions of ponds. DM Arias questions the state of the plant- is it better or worse than before? Reyes states it has improved compared to before. Before could not get the ponds to perc. Now, with receiving sufficient funds, corrections were made to fix that. He believes the ability to use ponds is a milestone for Del Rey. Listed improvements that have been made with sufficient funds. Discussion. Ramirez requested a list of what CWS needs to get fixed to get in contract with Sequoia Pumping and make everything beneficial for the future. Reyes states he will make a maintenance list in order of priority. Director Ramirez opens this item to the public for comments. Public member Olga Silva questions how long Sequoia Pumping has been dumping and how long it has been tested to get results of impact. Reyes clarifies it has been going on and tested for months. Ramirez states it is crucial to enter into a contract since the district's main revenue is from Sequoia Pumping and lawsuit. Sanchez made a motion to approve the direction for DM Arias to work with Aleshire & Wynder to negotiate a contract with Sequoia Pumping and come back with contract for final approval by the Board. Reyna second the motion. Roll Call. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Sanchez, Ramirez. All absent; two absent: Garza, Nunez. Motion passed.

E-3 Consideration to getting into a Contract with AM Consulting Engineers to Become an Interim or Permanent District Engineer. DM Arias explains Manrique is very familiar with the district's projects and his qualifications and rates are in the agenda packets. Reyes states Manrique is very knowledgeable and up to date with programs to wastewater facilities, perfectly capable of working with Del Rey, and believes it would be wise to bring him on board. Discussion. LC Chaffin advises if board wants to go through RFP process, to at least, appoint an interim engineer in order for the district not to be without an engineer. Discussion. Reitz gives his recommendation for Manrique, and states he is very competent and his rates are very good. Discussion. Ramirez opens this item to the public for comments. Public member Catalina Reyna-Navarro states her opinion by saying that although she trusts Mark Reitz's suggestion, she agrees with Reyna to review options and interview three people before making final selection. Public member Olga Silva states if Mark Reitz recommends Manrique, then the board should not waste time or money taking bids, and the district should go with AM Consulting. Reyna made a motion to approve the appointment of an interim engineer and authorize the District Manager to enter into an interim contract with AM Consulting in order to make payments at current rates. Roll Call. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Sanchez, Ramirez. All absent; two absent: Garza, Nunez. Motion passed. Alfonso Manrique thanks board and looks forward to working with the district.

E-4 Direction and Authorization for District Manager to lease the 10 acres on American Pond and 18 acres on the vine to POM Wonderful to plant alfalfa. DM Arias approached by POM Wonderful about usage of the land. They are willing to lease to plant alfalfa and bring water to waste-water plant. Believes it will be a good idea and would like the approval of the board. This will bring revenue (about \$8,000/year), but more importantly it will help with the maintenance in that area. Sanchez states this will minimize the dumping of trash in that area. Reyna points out the revenue would be beneficial to pay \$2500 tax. Discussion. Ramirez opens to the public for comment. Discussion. LC Chaffin clarifies the request by DM Arias and the motion. Reyna made a motion to approve authorization for the district manager to negotiate a contract with POM Wonderful and return with a draft agreement for final approval by the board. Sanchez second the motion. Roll Call. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Sanchez, Ramirez. All absent; two absent: Garza, Nunez. Motion passed.

E-5 Consideration to Open Hall for Rental. DM Arias brings this item to the board because members of the community have been asking to rent the hall. LC Chaffin discusses the Governor's recent lifts on restrictions. Discussion. Legal to open hall with present rules. Discussion. Advises DM Arias authorization to open the hall and make adjustments as regulations adjust. Ramirez opens to the public for comment. No public comment. Roll Call. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Sanchez, Ramirez. All absent; two absent: Garza, Nunez. Motion passed.

E-6 Consideration to Open American Legion Hall to have July 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting in person. Reyna brought this item to the board because members of the community continue to ask when they will be able to go to the meetings. LC Chaffin states the only issue is it is mandatory to make it possible (until September 30) to have it in-person and online. From experience, the district currently does not have the equipment to do so. Sanchez asks DM Arias to get a quote on equipment needed to do both. DM Arias states if the board is inclined to do so, he will get a quote. LC Chaffin advises setting cap on amount to spend now, so he can get the equipment as soon as possible. Discussion. Ramirez states this item should be brought back to the next board

meeting for full board approval and does not believe this expense should be made with restrictions being lifted. LC Chaffin advises it might be worth considering for more vulnerable staff/public who will not feel comfortable attending in person even as restrictions begin to lift. Public member Olga Silva states it might be an unnecessary expenditure because there will not be a great response on ZOOM and points out how many members of the public are present currently. Director Reyna states they still need to keep the whole community in consideration. Reyna made a motion to approve \$1500 cap to get equipment with the direction of an excess of \$1500 to bring back to the next meeting for board to approve. Sanchez second the motion. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Sanchez, Ramirez. All absent; two absent: Garza, Nunez. Motion passed.

E-7 Board Members Code of Conduct. Sanchez communicated this meeting was a perfect example of how the board can work together to get things done and accomplished for the district. Reyna apologized for conduct at the last meeting. Ramirez accepted apology. Ramirez opens to the public for comment. Public member Olga Silva applauded the board for the way the meeting was conducted. Public member Veronica Ramirez noticed big difference, which was nice to see, and appreciated the board for working as a team to do better for the town.

#### **F. DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS/AGENDA ITEMS**

Reyna asked DM Arias about recently discussed consideration for benchwork. DM Arias explained he has been approached by many members of the community to have somewhere to sit to enjoy the murals and scenery downtown, and he states if the board is inclined to allow Reyna to make benches for the district, it would be a good idea. Discussion. Sanchez states as long as everyone knows and understands what Reyna is doing (helping the community), he has no issue with it. Ramirez advises Reyna to get with DM Arias to discuss the project and do it the safe and legal way. Ramirez suggests artwork to cover basketball court area. DM Arias states he will ask the Boys and Girls Club to do the project. Reyna suggests bringing the two BBQ pits at the plant to utilize them at the park. Ramirez, Arias, and Sanchez agree with the idea. Ramirez brings up the dented basketball hoops. DM Arias states the necessity to change the lights and replace the basketball hoops. Topics on building benches, moving and using BBQ pits, and basketball hoop and light repair agreed on and noted to add to the next agenda.

#### **G. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

##### **G-1 Report of District Engineer (Report by AECOM)**

Mark Reitz states the first item is the continuation of Wells 4 and 5 and the rehab of the new pumps. They should be delivered and installed within the next 30 days and hopefully operational by the end of June or mid-July. Pump 5 tested and performed well producing 700 gallons per minute with the new 25 horsepower motor. Well 4 test-pumped and produced 1000 gal/minute with clear water and no sand. DM Arias was helpful getting it organized and done safely. New pump being sized to deliver flow rate at about 65 psi discharge and will have new 100 horsepower motor. Meanwhile, district is relying on Pumps 6 and 7 until new pumps installed. Valves need to be replaced and will be paid for under TCP funds. Item 2, State funding for TCP Well Head Treatment- the State is willing to offer the district a grant for the TCP Well Head Treatment Capital Cost. Combining grant with new water meters project- single funding agreement. Want updated cost estimates on both grants to finalize paperwork and get it to district. Only part that is a loan- portion of water meters for commercial and industrial. District already did a rate increase to pay back that part of the loan from these customers. Grant funding for TCP Project is going to be about \$5 million. District needs to keep track of all the money, including settlement money, to make sure it is used wisely. Meters Project is about \$900,000- included is new computers to do the readings. Third item, Fresno County Authority wants to move ahead and develop property west of school. Private engineer working with county staff to workout LAIFCO approvals for district change. Alfonso Manrique met with POM Wonderful to initiate the use of leasing the land with the board's approval. Stated this is his last engineer report as District Engineer.

##### **G-2 Report of District Manager (Report by Carlos Arias)**

DM Arias reports breakdown in one of the blowers at the domestic plant. Informs the board it was sent to repair, and it will be installed tomorrow. Plans on applying for a grant under Proposition 68 for Parks and Waterboard Act of 2018. With the grant, hopes to put asphalt around the park that started off with dirt (but now has lights and benches that Rumaldo added). The grant would allocate (based on per capita) \$179,000 for Del Rey to use. POM Wonderful is interested in leasing 28 acres which would bring in about \$8,000/year. Mark and Alfonso discussed the productive meeting, will continue to work to get it, and he thinks it is something that can be accomplished.

##### **G-3 Report of District Counsel (Report by Shannon Chaffin)**

LC Chaffin states monitoring executive orders, legal orders and restrictions that have been coming into place and how it effects employees, meetings, and everything else. Governor new executive orders came out recently. Remains hopeful to step down and back from emergency efforts put forward from legal perspective; we have additional flexibility on that now. President Biden signed in new holiday- Juneteenth- which is for federal employees, and it does not affect district staff. LC Chaffin thanks and applauds Mark Reitz for work and service to the district.

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

Did not report.

G-5 Other

Steve Reyes from California Water Services states he is happy with the way items are being taken care of and the way it is going on in the plant. He will get together with Operators to discuss maintenance issues and put together a list (in order of priority) of maintenance issues. He will put a request for CWS to get a quote for a timer for the new aerator installed, in order to help conserve power. He will get items submitted to DM Arias.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments.

**I. CLOSED SESSION:**

Reyna suggested tabling the item to the next meeting to allow full board to participate. DM Arias agreed. Consensus to table item to the next meeting.

**J. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:14p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Eileen Hernandez*

Eileen Hernandez  
Del Rey Community Services District