

EXHIBIT "A"

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 11, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Reinhart on October 11, 2021 in person at the District's headquarters located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California. The meeting was also broadcast via Webex as a convenience to the public.

Directors Present: LaMar, Withers, Swan, McLaughlin, and Reinhart.

Directors Absent: None.

Also Present: General Manager Cook, Executive Director of Technical Services Burton, Executive Director of Operations Chambers, Executive Director of Finance and Administration Clary, Director of Treasury and Risk Management Jacobson, Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst, Director of Water Quality and Regulatory Compliance Colston, Director of Water Resources Sanchez, Director of Human Resources Mitcham, Director of Strategic Communications and Advocacy/Deputy General Counsel Compton, Secretary Bonkowski, General Counsel Collins, and other staff.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED: None.

PRESENTATION

"WE'LL HELP YOU THROUGH THIS: TRANSITIONING BACK TO NORMAL AS THE MORATORIUM ENDS"

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Director of Strategic Communications and Advocacy/Deputy General Counsel Compton reviewed the programs to assist with COVID-19 implementation and guidelines, the current situation, and next steps.

Following discussion, Director LaMar said that this item was reviewed by the Water Resources Policy and Communications Committee, and complimented staff on their efforts.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On MOTION by Withers, seconded by LaMar and unanimously carried, CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 5 through 8 WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

5. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: That the minutes of the September 27, 2021, Regular Board meeting be approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

6. RATIFY/APPROVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Recommendation: That the Board ratify/approve the meetings and events for Steven LaMar, Karen McLaughlin, Peer Swan, and John Withers as described.

7. 2021 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

Recommendation: Receive and file.

8. BACKHOES PURCHASE CONTRACT AWARD

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Coastline Equipment Company in the amount of \$251,047 for the purchase of two new and unused backhoe loaders.

ACTION CALENDAR

FORMAT OF FUTURE IRWD BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING COVID-19

Director of Strategic Communications and Advocacy/Deputy General Counsel Compton reported that from March 17, 2020, until September 30, 2021, local agencies could hold meetings of its governing boards and their standing committees (i.e., its legislative bodies) via entirely virtual or telephonic meetings in accordance with executive orders issued by Governor Newsom waiving certain provisions of the Brown Act. On October 1, 2021, these waivers expired. Ms. Compton said that in September 2021, AB 361 was enacted and provided that as of October 1, 2021, a local agency may conduct entirely remote virtual / teleconference meetings if the legislative body of that local agency finds that the Governor has declared a state of emergency, and either state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing or the legislative body determines that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. AB 361 also puts additional requirements on these meetings while waiving some of the Brown Act's rules for teleconference meetings.

Ms. Compton said that with the expiration of the executive orders and the new law under AB 361, there are now two options for the format of future IRWD Board and standing committee meetings during COVID-19. She said that the Board may continue its traditional in-person meetings under the pre-COVID-19 processes outlined in the Brown Act, or the meetings may be conducted via teleconference following the restrictions and rules outlined in AB 361. She said that staff recommends the Board affirm that meetings of the full Board and the standing Board committees continue to be held as in-person meetings operating pursuant to the provisions of the Brown Act. Additionally, she said that staff recommends the District continue to broadcast its meeting via Webex for observational purposes. This will allow members of the public to observe the meetings remotely, as a courtesy.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Board confirmed that its meetings, and the meetings of its standing committees, continue to be held as in-person meetings operating pursuant to the provisions of the Brown Act and not under the provisions of AB 361 at this time.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

General Manager Cook reported that there was one new COVID-19 case reported this morning with an individual who was previously vaccinated.

Mr. Cook reported that approximately 4,000 customers have overdue balances with a current outstanding debt of \$3 million.

Mr. Cook said that staff is in contact with Sea and Sage Audubon relative to assisting with the cleanup of birds being affected by the recent oil spill, and it appears that the oil company is paying for everything currently. He said that staff will continue to be in contact with Sea and Sage in case future assistance is needed.

He reminded the Board of open enrollment for insurance this month.

In response to Director Swan's inquiry, General Manager Cook provided the Board with the current plan for employees to return to work full time in the office.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Mr. Cook said that he spoke with Consultant Newell and all is going well in Santiago Canyon, and noted tree removals in that area due to insect infestations. It was also noted that IRWD's contractor will be working in Williams Canyon as a County permit was just issued for a pipeline restoration project which will include riprap to stabilize an area by the creek.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director LaMar reported on his attendance at an OCWD Federal and Legislative briefing, an OCWD webinar regarding groundwater contamination, a WACO meeting, a California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance planning conference, an MWRP virtual community tour, an OCWD Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting, and an ACWA Regions 6 and 7 San Joaquin Valley Water Forum.

Director McLaughlin reported on her attendance at an OCWD Federal and Legislative briefing, an OCWD webinar regarding groundwater, a WACO meeting, an OCWD groundwater replenishment system virtual tour, and a tour of MWRP with General Manager Cook.

Director Swan reported on his attendance at a MWDOC Water Policy Forum, a MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee meeting, a meeting with UCI staff, a Newport Chambers meeting, a Southern California Dialogue Committee meeting, and a MWDOC Board meeting. In response to his inquiry relative to the status of the Biosolids facility, General Manager Cook said that staff will provide an update at the time when staff submits the Notice of Completion for Board approval.

Director Withers reported on his attendance at an OCWD webinar regarding groundwater, and a reception in Fullerton for MWD’s newly appointed General Adel Hagekhalil. He further reported on upcoming meetings he will be attending including a lunch meeting with Mr. Paul Hernandez of the Irvine Company, and a OCWD / MWDOC Water Summit.

Director Reinhart reported on his attendance at a MWDOC Board Workshop with MWD Directors.

General Manager Cook asked that the Board meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Jonnathan “Jonny” Monroy, who passed unexpectedly over the weekend. Mr. Cook said that Jonny joined IRWD in October 2017, after having worked as a foreman for the electrical subcontractor constructing the IRWD Biosolids Dewatering and Energy Recovery Facilities. Mr. Cook said that given his familiarity with IRWD and the facilities under construction, Jonny was able to “hit the ground running” and immediately become a valuable addition to the Electrical / Instrumentation Team. He said that beyond using his deep knowledge of the biosolids facilities to keep things running, Jonny quickly learned the operations of IRWD’s many other complex facilities. Jonny’s expertise was recognized recently when he was promoted to Senior Electrical Technician, and to say that Jonny’s performance exceeded expectations was no exaggeration – in his most recent performance review he earned an “exceeds expectations” rating. He further said that Jonny’s passing is a terrible loss for IRWD, and especially for those of us who knew and worked with Jonny.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Reinhart adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m. in memory of Jonny Monroy.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 25th day of October 2021.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

Secretary IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Claire Hervey Collins, General Counsel
Hanson Bridgett LLP