

## EXHIBIT "A"

### MINUTES OF ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING – February 5, 2021

The adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by President Reinhart on February 5, 2021 via teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 due to COVID-19. Members of the public did not attend this meeting in person.

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

Directors Absent: None.

Also Present: General Manager Cook, Executive Director of Technical Services Burton, Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst, Executive Director of Finance and Administration Clary, Director of Treasury and Risk Management Jacobson, Executive Director of Operations Chambers, Director of Recycling Operations Zepeda, Director of Information Services Malone, Director of Water Resources Sanchez, Director of Maintenance Mykitta, Government Relations Officer/Deputy General Counsel Compton, Secretary Bonkowski, General Counsel Collins, Consultant Brenda Deeley, and members of staff and the public.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED: None.

### SYPHON RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE, BUDGET INCREASE, AND CONSULTANT SELECTION

General Manager Cook provided an introduction to the presentation regarding project, noting that staff analyzed the project to determine that it is cost effective, helps achieve IRWD's goals, and helps maintain IRWD's leadership position in the water industry in the future.

Principal Engineer Akiyoshi reported that since 2017, work has proceeded on several fronts analyzing the Syphon Reservoir project that resulted in updated information for the Syphon Reservoir Expansion Analysis. Mr. Akiyoshi reviewed the key evaluation components, introduced the seasonal storage alternatives, a Green Acres Project (GAP) expansion alternative, a financial analysis of both the Syphon Reservoir and GAP expansion projects, and reviewed impacts of seasonal storage on imported water purchases and groundwater pumping.

Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst said that comments received during the CEQA NOP process led IRWD to conduct research and continue discussions with Orange County Water District (OCWD) executive staff regarding sending excess recycled water and receiving revenue from OCWD for sending excess recycled water through the GAP system. Scenarios included GWRS shortages, supplying GAP customers with IRWD recycled water, and water quality problems with OC SAN's secondary effluent. He said that multiple scenarios were explored, and reviewed the conclusions and observations with the Board.

Mr. Akiyoshi reviewed IRWD's goals and target activities' unquantified benefits, noting that the Syphon Reservoir made financial sense against the alternative of the GAP expansion as it would expand the use of recycled water while reducing the use of imported water for non-potable

purposes. The Syphon Reservoir could also become a source of water for IRWD's future potable reuse opportunities and provide other regional benefits.

General Manager Cook summarized the benefits of the Syphon project, noting that it is the most cost-effective option, increases IRWD's independence from imported water purchases, optimizes the use of recycled water for IRWD, and minimizes sewage to OC SAN and ocean discharges. He said that operationally it would be a beneficial use of recycled water, biosolids, and seasonal storage.

Senior Engineer Toland reported on the consultant selection and said that staff issued a request for proposal for engineering design services to AECOM, Black & Veatch, GEI, and Stantec. Mr. Toland said that staff received outstanding proposals, but AECOM's approach to completing the project exceeded those presented by the other firms. He said that AECOM outlined a focused and detailed work plan for completing the design services and presented innovative approaches to enhancing and improving project design concepts. He said that AECOM's proposed project management team has extensive experience working together, and both have managed previous projects for IRWD and other dam and reservoir projects. He further said that this management team recently delivered the design and construction of Santa Margarita Water District's Trampas Canyon Reservoir and Dam, which like Syphon Reservoir, is a 5,000-acre-foot recycled water storage reservoir.

IRWD's consultant, Mr. Brenda Deeley, provided a summary of the public outreach objectives and strategies. She said that over 40 presentations / briefings / notifications were held with members of the Irvine City Council, Irvine Unified School District, the Orange County Supervisor, state legislators, Congressional delegation, schools, homeowner associations, residents and many others.

Mr. Toland reviewed the CEQA highlights to date, a mitigation update and summary.

Director Withers reported that this item was reviewed by the Engineering and Operations Committee on December 8, 2020 and that he recommended moving forward with this project. Director Swan raised his concerns over this project, asked questions of staff, and said he would be voting no on this item. Following discussion, on MOTION by Withers, seconded by LaMar, and carried by the following roll call vote, LaMar, McLaughlin, Withers, and Reinhart voting aye, and Swan voting no (4-1 vote), **THE BOARD AUTHORIZED A BUDGET INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71,000,000, FROM \$75,000,000 TO \$146,000,000, APPROVED AN EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$139,650,000, AND AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,747,749 WITH AECOM FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SYPHON RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENT, PROJECT 03808.** It is to be noted that during the vote, Director McLaughlin had technical difficulties, but provided an affirmative vote using a hand signal of thumbs up. IRWD's legal counsel affirmed that this was an acceptable indication of an affirmative vote.

#### DRAFT IRWD 2021 GOALS AND TARGET ACTIVITIES

General Manager Cook reported that the foundational documents, the IRWD Mission, Vision and Values Statement and the IRWD Strategic Objectives are provided in the agenda package and asked if the Board wished to discuss or make recommendations for refining these documents. Following Director LaMar's comments, General Manager Cook said that he will

add an item to the Strategic Objectives relative to Climate Resiliency. Mr. Cook reviewed the 2021 Goals and Target Activities list and said that the changes were noted in a track change format. Following discussion on Item No. 3, "Optimize use of Irvine Lake as a water resource facility for IRWD and its current and future partners," Director Withers left the meeting at 2:56 p.m. Input from the Board was provided to staff for incorporation into the 2021 Goals and Target Activities list.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments, President Reinhart adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021.

---

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

---

Secretary IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

---

Claire Hervey Collins, General Counsel  
Hanson Bridgett LLP

Note: This page is intentionally left blank.