

**CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 4, 2021**

**MINUTES**

***CALL TO ORDER***

President Borba called to order a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Contra Costa Water District (District or CCWD) at 6:32 p.m., at 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, the regular meeting place of the Board. Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders, the public was able to participate in the meeting both in-person at the Board Room and through the teleconference.

***SAFETY BRIEFING***

The safety protocols completed by the Board and staff participating in-person were provided.

***ROLL CALL***

Directors Present:	Lisa M. Borba, President Ernesto A. Avila, Vice President John A. Burgh Connstance Holdaway Antonio Martinez
Directors Absent:	None
General Manager:	Stephen J. Welch
Legal Counsel:	Douglas E. Coty
District Secretary	Mary A. Neher
Executive Management Analyst	Shelly Wise

***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

Director Holdaway led the pledge of allegiance.

***ADOPTION OF AGENDA***

The Board Future Services Calendar, Agenda Item No. 1.a, was amended to include additional meetings scheduled since the agenda was posted and distributed. The Board adopted the agenda by rule.

***PUBLIC COMMENT (Please observe a three-minute time limit)***

President Borba asked for public comment. There were none.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approve Directors' Services/Business and Travel Expenses
  - a. Future Services – August 2021
2. Approval of July 7, 2021 meeting minutes.
3. Approve the warrant register dated August 5, 2021.
4. Authorize execution of a non-standard agreement with Contra Costa County for the relocation of District pipeline facilities as part of the County's Marsh Creek Road Bridge Relocation Project in an amount not to exceed \$550,200.

President Borba asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Calendar to be separately considered. There were no items removed. There were no Board or public comments on the consent calendar.

**MOTION:** Holdaway/Martinez to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved by roll-call vote (Ayes: Avila, Borba, Burgh, Holdaway, Martinez; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None).

**ACTION**

5. Appoint Veronica Sepulveda as District Secretary and authorize the General Manager to execute a Confidential Agreement effective August 10, 2021.

General Manager Welch provided an overview of the interview process for the District Secretary position and stated the contract's effective date was changed from August 10, 2021 to August 9, 2021.

President Borba asked for Board comments. Board members provided individual comments welcoming Veronica Sepulveda as the new District Secretary and expressed their anticipation for working together. President Borba asked for public comment. There were none.

**MOTION:** Burgh/Avila to move approval of the appointment of Veronica Sepulveda as District Secretary effective August 9, 2021. The motion was approved by roll-call vote (Ayes: Avila, Borba, Burgh, Holdaway, Martinez; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None).

6. Water Treatment Chemical – Additional Supplier
  - a. Authorize the addition of Chemtrade Solutions, LLC as an additional FY22 chemical supplier at the unit cost of \$0.165 per dry pound; and
  - b. Authorize an increase in the FY22 authority for water treatment chemicals in the amount of \$141,700, for a revised total not to exceed \$3,522,331.

General Manager Welch explained the current chemical supplier Thatcher Company of California has had difficulties meeting delivery schedules, resulting in a shortage of supplies and materials, specifically Aluminum Sulfate (alum). To avoid the continued shortage, an additional vendor is proposed to ensure the alum supply.

President Borba asked for Board comments. Vice President Avila reported that chemical shortages were a common trend experienced by other California water agencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice President Avila expressed concern for the continued shortage and recommended staff discuss revising the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to enhance onsite storage of chemicals. General Manager Welch responded that the issue would be

reviewed at the next Operations and Engineering Committee meeting. President Borba asked for public comment. There were none.

**MOTION:** Holdaway/Burgh to authorize the addition of Chemtrade Solutions, LLC as an additional FY22 chemical supplier at the unit cost of \$0.165 per dry pound and authorize an increase in the FY22 authority for water treatment in the amount of \$141,700, for a revised total not to exceed \$3,522,331. The motion was approved by roll-call vote (Ayes: Avila, Borba, Burgh, Holdaway, Martinez; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None).

7. Authorize execution of an agreement with Con-Quest Contractors, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for FY22 pipeline construction and repair services, with District options for continued services in amounts not to exceed \$1,500,000 for FY23 and \$1,500,000 for FY24.

General Manager Welch provided an overview highlighting the cost efficiencies provided by the construction services contract process. Through a competitive proposal process, Con-Quest Contractors was selected as the most responsive contractor, who has proven their efficiency through past projects.

President Borba asked for Board comments. There were none. President Borba asked for public comment. There were none.

**MOTION:** Avila/Martinez to execute an agreement with Con-Quest Contractors, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for FY22 pipeline construction and repair services, with District options for continued services in amounts not to exceed \$1,500,000 for FY23 and \$1,500,000 for FY24. The motion was approved by roll-call vote (Ayes: Avila, Borba, Burgh, Holdaway, Martinez; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None).

#### **DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

8. Receive update on legislative affairs.

Director of Public Affairs Jennifer Allen reported that State legislators will return from recess on August 16. Fiscal committee discussions must be completed by August 27 and bills need to be submitted to the Governor by September 10. Prior to the State recess, legislators passed approximately 50 budget trailer bills, including AB 148 that involves the establishment of a Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program. Staff will update the Board on the progress of AB 148. In addition, the Governor signed SB 427, which increases the caps on fines for water theft and goes into effect in January 2022.

Federal bill H.R. 3293 that would provide a federal low-income assistance program was folded into a larger transportation infrastructure bill H.R. 3684, which was not passed by the Senate. Staff will continue to monitor and provide updates on H.R. 3684 and the progress of the Bipartisan infrastructure package which includes \$50 billion for water infrastructure and \$50 billion for lead pipe replacements. In addition, the energy and water appropriation bill, which includes money for water storage, continues to move forward. Staff will return with an update on available funding for water storage projects including the Los Vaqueros Expansion.

President Borba asked for Board comments. There were none. President Borba asked for public comment. There were none.

#### **REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION**

9. Schedule Future Meeting Dates and Times  
There were no meetings added to the calendar.

**REPORTS**

10. General Manager

General Manager Welch reported an increase of 12 new COVID-19 cases within the District, (total 30 positive cases to date.) Precautions such as wearing masks and social distancing will continue to be required, in addition meetings will return to Teams or Zoom. General Manager Welch stated the spread of COVID-19 is becoming a potential risk to operations and indicated a potential implementation of mandatory testing for unvaccinated employees and possibly mandatory vaccines. General Manager Welch will continue to work with the Management Team and other water agencies to develop best practices.

Director Burgh asked if Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) regulations prevent employers from releasing information regarding the percentage of vaccinated employees. General Manager Welch responded that mandatory reporting has not been required but may be considered. Vice President Avila provided additional information on HIPPA regulations.

11. Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel Coty announced that Morgan Biggerstaff would provide vacation desk coverage from August 5 through August 17.

12. Board Members

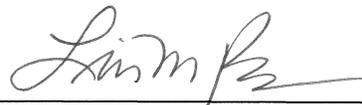
Director Burgh provided information regarding a building dedication event to former CCWD Director Steve Weir.

Vice President Avila expressed concern for the challenges arising regarding mandatory testing and vaccinations for employees and acknowledged the necessity for the safety of employees and District operations. Vice President Avila reported attendance to Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 5 Board meeting on July 27; ACWA Board meeting on July 30; and ACWA Federal Affairs meeting on August 3 and provided a discussion recap for each meeting.

Director Holdaway announced completion of the bar exam and thanked the Board Members and staff for their support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:15 p.m. President Borba adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 commencing at 6:30 p.m. and held via teleconference.



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Lisa M. Borba, President

Attest:



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Veronica Sepulveda, District Secretary