



**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES
September 9, 2020**

MISSION STATEMENT: Our Mission is to provide our customers and future generations with reliable, safe and high quality water at an equitable price; to create and maintain outstanding service and community relations; to manage and protect the environmental health of the aquifers and watersheds; and to ensure the fiscal vitality of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District.

Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Convene Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Director Farris, Dir. Fultz, Dir. Henry, Dir. Moran and President Swan were present for the meeting.

Staff: R. Rogers-District Manager, G. Nicholls-Dist. Counsel, J. Furtado-Director of Operations, N. Gillespie-Water Treatment & System Supervisor, S. Hill-Director of Finance & Business Services, C. Blanchard-Environmental Planner, H. Hossack-Dist. Secretary

2. Unfinished Business:

a. UPDATE REGARDING STATE OF EMERGENCY: CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRES

R. Rogers introduced this item and described the District's response to the state of emergency. The entire SLVWD was evacuated. This meeting is the 5th emergency meeting to inform the Board and public of the status of the District and efforts to provide water to assist in the suppression of the fire and the residents. 7.5 miles of pipe were destroyed in the fire.

N. Gillespie explained that some of the service areas depressurized due to the fires. Depressurization can cause contaminants to enter the water system. We learned from fires in the past that organic chemical contamination can affect fire damaged water systems. The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water required SLVWD to issue *Do Not Drink/Do Not Boil* advisory notices to affected areas. The District has begun sampling the water to test for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Most of the samples have come back negative and some of the DND/DNB advisories have been lifted. The Riverside Grove area sample taken on 9.4.20 tested positive for benzene. The District is working to get this cleaned up.

We believe that the contamination is contained in the Riverside Grove area.

R. Rogers said that the District and the County of Santa Cruz are providing potable drinking water to the area at the SLVWD Operations Building in Boulder Creek. The tanks that were burned had been turned off in anticipation of the fire reaching them and therefore stopped the possible contamination. Water is being provided from other parts of the District. Over 50% of the water storage in the District was destroyed at the Lyon surface water treatment plant. Repairs are underway.

J. Furtado reported on the Emergency Repairs and the Tracking Schedule.

R. Rogers reported on the Recovery/Replacement Costs. FEMA and State OES made a preliminary assessment of the damages and they added up to \$11,217,000.

C. Blanchard reported on the watershed. 1,620 acres of the Ben Lomond Mountain Watershed burned. CalFire's Watershed Emergency Response Team toured the area and will be able to get funding for erosion control and watershed restoration. Panorama, our consultant for the Fire Management Plan, has switched gears and is now working on post-fire recovery. We have also started working with CFIF on a grant for a forest management and restoration plan.

R. Rogers explained the water supply system.

S. Hill said that the District has \$3 million in reserves to help finance normal operations and emergency repairs. She is working with FEMA and OES for emergency funding, and other financial institutions for bridge loans until FEMA funds are paid. We'll be working with the insurance companies for facility's needs. Late fees have been suspended, if your home was destroyed we can suspend billing for up to 3 years. The accounts are being reviewed to potentially be written off against surplus funds from the FY20-21 rate assistance program. Customers will continue to receive regular bills.

N. Gillespie said that the District posted all VOC lab reports that have been received. He summarized the information.

B. Fultz said that he thinks it phenomenal that staff shut down and isolated areas in anticipation of contamination. He questioned if Bennett Creek was under the DND/DNB and if a notice went out to that area.

N. Gillespie said that the homes were notified directly.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding Bennett Creek testing and how long it will take.

L. Farris questioned the lowering of chlorine levels.

N. Gillespie responded that does happen but they try to keep the levels where they should be.

R. Moran asked about the expectations of conservation.

J. Furtado said that we are able to keep people in water and the tanks are filling up.

R. Moran is in favor of the water station providing water.

L. Henry commented that on the night of the evacuation there was a line break on Zayante School Road and Rick, James and other staff showed up with shovels. We have a great staff. They are on the front line with the firefighters keeping water running. Thank you, to all of the District staff.

Rob questioned if we are testing SVOCs, and if not, why not?

N. Gillespie said that the EPA method we are using, 524.2, has over 84 VOCs and they are the lead indicators for any contamination from fire related impacts.

B. Marian, Boulder Creek, asked if we can recommend a lab where we can have our own SVOC testing.

N. Gillespie said any ELAP certified lab can do it.

G. Nicholls said that the District cannot endorse or recommend any particular vendor.

T. To said that the County website has a list of labs for water testing.

B. Fultz questioned if we are in touch with the CalFire and fire departments regarding the firefighting strategy for inside the containment area.

R. Rogers responded said they are out looking for hotspots and receiving calls from people pointing out hotspots. This fire won't be out until we get some substantial rainfall.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding continual water sampling.

3. New Business:

a. DECLARATIONS OF EMERGENCY AND MAJOR DISASTER AND FEMA FUNDING FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

G. Nicholls presented a PowerPoint on Basics of FEMA Public Assistance Funding. This is a high level overview of the FEMA Public Assistance Program.

Brennan Robins, Staff Assistant to Congresswoman Eshoo, said that he is listening and taking notes for her.

Congresswoman Eshoo is committed to you getting funding. He was taking notes so that she can help out in getting you everything you need.

L. Farris as a Board we have approved emergency funding twice now. Is there anything else we can do tonight to help with disaster relief?

R. Rogers said that he has exceeded the amount authorized so far and will need to come back to the Board for additional funds. He thanked Dir. Farris for his input from an engineering aspect.

S. Swan asked is there anything that is needed tonight.

G. Nicholls said that it is not on the agenda tonight but it can be on a future meeting.

R. Rogers said that we have brought on mostly local people for assistance.

L. Farris asked if a letter from Pres. Swan for authorization of funds with approval of the Board.

G. Nicholls said she would the Board to authorize staff to work with Pres. Swan on any request letters government representatives that may be necessary to try to move the process of FEMA funding along. There's nothing to present tonight.

B. Fultz said he would like to make a case to replace pipes with something other than HDPE and to have FEMA approve that.

R. Rogers responded that FEMA looks a lot of things, value engineering is one. Is it less expensive to replace than it is to bury. Or maybe we make defensible space. HDPE is a resilient product for everything but fire.

R. Moran said that he toured the devastated area and his heart is broken for people who have lost homes. This community is coming together.

J. Cucchiara, Brookdale, questioned how the District knows that that was fail proof.

R. Rogers responded that on the Hwy. 9 corridor, we traveled with CalFire and the amount of flow and pressure in the hydrants, some tanks had SCADA, we did visual checks to insure that we maintained water supply. In some areas we valved off.

J. Cucchiara continued with his questions.

G. Nicholls pointed out that we moved on from the prior agenda item.

S. Swan said N. Gillespie went into some detail regarding water quality and testing that will go on for quite some time.

R. Rogers said that most of the system that we lifted the DND/DNB order was not impacted by fire.

G. Nicholls proposed a motion to authorize staff to work with the Board president on any correspondence that may be appropriate to communicate with the District's elected representatives regarding FEMA public assistance needs and for the president to sign any such correspondence on behalf of the Board and the District.

L. Farris so moved on G. Nicholl's proposed motion. The motion was seconded.

All present voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Pres. Swan thanked the staff for an excellent and comprehensive overview. He extended his appreciation as well as the Board's and the Valley's appreciation with the staff and all of the employees of the water district. He thanked all of the attendees.

4. Adjournment 5:48 p.m.