



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER
DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 13, 2023

Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., SLVWD Conference Room, 12788 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, and via videoconference and teleconference.

1. Convene Meeting: 6:07 p.m.
Roll Call

Board Members Present:
Mark Smolley, President
Jeff Hill, Vice President
Jayme Ackemann, Director
Bob Fultz, Director
Gail Mahood, Director

Staff Present:
Rick Rogers, District Manager
Kendra Reed, Director of Finance & Business Services
Holly Hossack, District Secretary

2. Additions and Deletions: None

3. Oral Communications:

L. Farris, Felton, referred to the Consumer Confidence Report and noted a discrepancy in the Lead and Copper.

B. Holloway, Boulder Creek, suggested a bond would help with money for the District it is the fairest charge to the public. He also noted that the Fish Ladder is an unfunded mandate.

4. New Business:

a. 2023 CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CSDA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Pres. Smolley introduced this item and started the discussion with the Board regarding the candidates.

A motion was made and seconded to vote for Vince Ferrante.

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

b. SLVWD WORKSHOP - RATE STUDY/COST OF SERVICE KICK-OFF MEETING

K. Reed introduced this item and introduced Melissa Elliott, Theresa Jurotich, and Lindsay Roth with Raftelis, presenters for the Rate Study/Cost of Service.

Presentation by Raftelis.

Discussion by the Board regarding:

- Outreach is very important
- Additional meetings with the public
- When will information on alternative scenarios be available?
August/September timeframe
- Capital analysis
- Financial Plan comes first, followed by the cost of service, and rates structures
- Rate authorization is the Board telling staff what is going on the Prop 218 information
- The District can hold as many public meetings as they want
- The schedule is anticipated and flexible
- Workshops need to come after the rates are announced
- Focus on unbundling the rates/where is the money going
- Transparency regarding where the money is going/Restricted fund
- Financial Plan - basis for a 5 yr. budget/forecasting
- Financial sustainability/rates are defensible
- Different rate structure comparison; tiered and fixed
- Tiered rates/how are costs determined/demand analysis (peak service)
- Identify subgroups for outreach
- Conservation
- Sustainability
- Modeling for financial plans for use in budgeting
- Bonds

Time limits will start at 3 minutes.

Public Comment Period

B. Holloway, Boulder Creek, said he looked at Raftelis past work. He brought up elevation charges. He reminded the Board that the District receives tax money so we don't need as much fixed rate money as Santa Cruz does.

J. Mosher, Felton, wants to move to tiered rates based on use. The needs of low and fixed income residents. You need to get out and talk to folks. Operating and Capital costs.

B. Fultz said that the Board President has the authority to extend the amount of time that each member of the public has to speak. President Smolley acknowledged that he is aware of that but would prefer to stay with the 3 minutes and allow an additional turn to speak.

L. Farris, Ben Lomond, is concerned that the date for the rate increase vote will be during the winter holidays. He questioned the benchmark data, how do we compare with other Districts in how we spend the money. He questioned if it is a concern that we are in the process of hiring a new general manager.

C. Dzendzel said that she would like to hear more from J. Mosher and B. Holloway.

Discussion by the Board regarding:

- More time for the public to speak
- The study design is not necessarily what we are going to use
- The new GM will be happy that they don't have to deal with this process

B. Holloway, spoke again. Seasonal rates, don't work very well in his opinion. He spoke about the pipe and well in his neighborhood for fire protection. He doesn't want confusing line items on every single bill.


J. Mosher, spoke again. The operating capital item should have an estimate for repair, replacement, etc. impact from disasters on the operating budget. Compare with districts that are more like us than Santa Cruz. Give the public information on what the District is thinking about doing and the option to respond.

Discussion by the Board regarding:

- Low income assistance could come out of the property taxes
- Property tax money needed for Capital Improvement
- Comparisons to other Districts should not be the usual suspects. We are mountainous, spread out, and the most expensive homes in California. Utilities are unique, comparisons are not always needed or necessary in a rate study.

5. Adjournment: 7:56 p.m.

Minutes approved: August 3, 2023


Holly B. Hossack, District Secretary