



**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
AGENDA  
October 29, 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.

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

There will not be a physical location for this meeting. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 this meeting will be conducted by video/teleconference. The meeting access information is as follows:

To join the meeting click the link below, or type it into your web browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86211914549>

Dial:

+1 301 715 8592  
+1 312 626 6799  
+1 346 248 7799  
+1 669 900 6833  
+1 929 436 2866  
+1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 862 1191 4549

*Agenda documents are available on the District website at [www.slvwd.com](http://www.slvwd.com) subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.*

**AGENDA**

1. Convene Meeting/Roll Call

2. New Business:

- a. COMMUNITY POWER RESILIENCY ALLOCATION TO SPECIAL DISTRICTS PROGRAM - REPRESENTATIVE AUTHORIZATION  
Discussion and possible action by the Board regarding appointing a representative from the District to be the signatory and point of contact for Community Power Resiliency Allocation.

- b. **LANDSLIDE AND DEBRIS FLOW HAZARD CONDITIONS**  
Discussion and possible action by the Board regarding landslide and debris flow hazard conditions now threatening the San Lorenzo Valley, caused by the recent CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire.

### 3. Adjournment

**Certification of Posting**

I hereby certify that on October 28, 2020, I posted a copy of the foregoing agenda in the outside display case at the District Office, 13060 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, CA, 24 hours in advance of the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District (Government Code Section 54956).

Executed at Boulder Creek, California on October 28, 2020.

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Holly Hossack, District Secretary  
San Lorenzo Valley Water District

## MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: District Manager

PREPARED BY: Environmental Planner

SUBJECT: Cal OES's Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program

DATE: October 29, 2020

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review this memo and approve the attached resolution on appointing a District representative to be the signatory and point of contact for the Cal OES Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program.

### Background

The District is currently seeking to submit an application for the Cal OES Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program. The Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program purpose is to support California special districts with additional preparedness measures in response to power outage events.

A District representative needs to be assigned by the Board to be the signatory and point of contact. Cal OES needs documentation, in the form of a resolution or letter, from the Board of Directors before completing the application process.

The District Manager has been chosen as the District signatory and will direct communications with Cal OES to the District's Environmental Planner.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review this memo and approve the attached resolution.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

None

**SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 5 (20-21)**

**Appointing a District Point of Contact and Signatory for Cal  
OES’s Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special  
Districts Program**

**WHEREAS**, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District (District) is seeking funding and assistance from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) under the terms of the Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program purpose is to support California special districts with additional preparedness measures in response to power outage events; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to apply for Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program requires documentation showing that the District has appointed a representative to serve as the point of contact and signatory for applications and agreements; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District that the Board hereby authorizes and directs the District Manager, Rick Rogers, to serve as the District’s point of contact and signatory for Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts Program applications, agreements, and any related documents.

\* \* \* \* \*

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, on the 4th day of June 2020, by the following vote of the members thereof:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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Holly Hossack, District Secretary  
San Lorenzo Valley Water District

## MEMO

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: District Manager  
SUBJECT: Landslide and Debris Flow Hazard Conditions Now Threatening the San Lorenzo Valley, Caused by the CZU Wildfire.  
DATE: October 29, 2020

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review this memo and provide comments in regards to Landslide and Debris Flow Hazard Conditions in the Harmon Creek Watershed.

### BACKGROUND:

The CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire started as a series of lightning fires on August 16, 2020, across western Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. The fire was active for more than a month and burned 86,500 acres with 1,450 structures destroyed and one fatality. This includes approximately 1,600 acres of watershed land owned by the District that supplies about half of the water supply to the San Lorenzo Valley.

Large areas of watershed land were burned by the CZU Wildfire resulting in the possibility of landslide and debris flow hazard conditions during the upcoming rainy season. The District has been working with the help of emergency contractors to mitigate hazards, including identification and removal of fire-damaged trees posing hazards on District property.

The District also has been coordinating with numerous other agencies engaged in post-disaster emergency efforts within the San Lorenzo Valley. Such agencies include the County of Santa Cruz, CALFIRE, CalOES, the California Department of Conservation, FEMA, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service among others.

Two of these agencies, CALFIRE and the California Department of Conservation, recently released a report entitled "Watershed Emergency Response Team Evaluation: CZU LIGHTING COMPLEX". A copy of this WERT report is available at the following link:

<https://doc.box.com/s/2ukka3q9ev5akbq2fz6k0ec3gz7fe3oy>

On October 21, 2020, the District's Board of Directors reviewed a memo from the District Manager outlining the WERT report and discussed conditions outlined in the Harmon Creek Watershed (attached).

The WERT report further states starting on page 40:

***“Based on our limited field reconnaissance a properly designed and located deflection structure may reduce the potential for avulsion from the current channel on an unnamed watercourse immediately upslope of Boulder Creek Elementary School and the adjoining residential neighborhood (VAR 61). A figure showing the location of the area is shown in Figure 17.”***

*“ . . . The actual debris flow pathways are highly uncertain and were difficult to predict during this rapid evaluation. Deflection structures may prove effective in reducing the chance for avulsion in other areas where the potential for post-fire debris flow and flooding impacts were observed. For these reasons, the report recommends further observations and determinations be made by a State-Certified Professional Geologist (PG) and Professional Engineer (PE).”*

The District continues to be engaged in ongoing discussions with County representatives with direct post-fire knowledge of the Harmon Creek watershed and the WERT report. The District believes the County could help facilitate a design for a deflection structure given its familiarity with the watershed, and its technical resources such as professional geologists (PGs) and engineers (PEs), and importantly—the County’s ability to reach out to State and/or federal agencies with emergency construction capabilities well beyond those of the District on its own.

The Board directed Staff to continue pursuing County and State assistance considering mitigation measures for Harmon Creek and report back to the Board.

On October 28, 2020, Santa Cruz County Fifth District Supervisor Bruce McPherson hosted a meeting specifically to address recommendations in the WERT report. Attending the meeting were the authors of the WERT Report, several members from CalOES, Department of Conservation, CalFire, County Flood Control, County Public Works Director, and representatives of the District, a total of 19 participants.

### ***Summary of Meeting (from Supervisor McPherson Office)***

*The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the SLVWD questions regarding the WERT Report relative to mitigating debris flow, specifically in Harmon Gulch.*

*As described by various State representatives on the call, the purpose of the WERT Report was to provide data and a rapid assessment of conditions after the CZU Lightning Incident and not meant to be interpreted as a comprehensive list of recommendations. WERT Reports focus on life/safety and provide data to the local community to use, analyze, and develop their own local emergency response plans and projects. It was affirmed that public and private property owners are responsible for debris flow mitigation on their property and whether or not to do mitigation.*

*Relative to Harmon Gulch, there was consensus among meeting attendees that it could be useful for the SLVWD to clean up “choke spots” identified in the WERT Report which may help with small or medium size debris flows. There was further consensus that mitigation measures would not protect property and life/safety in the event of a major storm, so educating the community regarding the urgency to evacuate when notified would continue to be very important. Lastly, it was affirmed that the use of “K rails” was not advisable as they could become projectiles during a major debris flow event.*

*SLVWD representatives expressed a desire to do basic “choke spot” clean up as was specifically identified in the meeting and preferred to do so with the proper permits. To that end, it was agreed that Rick Rogers would receive contact information as follows:*

- *From Patricia Nelson and Ramzi Ibrahim of CalOES, the contacts to get an emergency permit to comply with the Clean Water Act and Fish/Wildlife regulations.*
- *From Kent Edler of County Public Works, information regarding the process to inform Fish/Wildlife about completing an emergency project without obtaining a permit because of the urgent need.*

*Other follow-up discussed:*

- *In addition to the major communication program the County is coordinating to inform the community regarding debris flow and evacuation plans, the McPherson office will reach out to Boulder Creek Elementary School, the Boulder Creek Cemetery, and the Boulder Creek Business Association below Harmon Gulch.*
- *Moving forward, a unified message regarding the urgency to evacuate when notified will be consistent from all cooperating agencies.*

#### SUMMARY:

The District is moving forward obtaining emergency permits to remove choke-points identified in the WERT report above the Cemetery in Harmon Creek. As soon as permits are obtained contract labor will be used to facilitate removing the choke-points in which is estimated to be a 3-day project.

Additionally, the District will continue communicating with the public about the hazards associated with possible landslide and debris flows, and update its internal response plans for the protection of public water facilities in the event of an emergency. The work in Harmon Creek will not alleviate the need to evacuate as directed by the County, and residents must be informed and prepared for winter rains.