

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was called to order by President Reinhart at 5:03 p.m. on September 23, 2024 at the District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

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

Directors Absent: None.

Oral and Written Communications: None.

Items too late to be agendaized: None.

Also Present: General Manager Cook, Executive Director of Technical Services Burton, Executive Director of Operations Chambers, Executive Director of Finance Adly, Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst, Director of Human Resources Mitcham, Director of Water Quality and Regulatory Compliance Colston, Director of Recycling Operations Zepeda, Director of Water Resources Sanchez, Director of Information Technology Kaneshiro, Director of Strategic Communications and Advocacy/Deputy General Counsel Compton, General Counsel Collins, Secretary Swan, Consultant Newell, Environmental Compliance Analyst Uk, and members of the staff and public.

PRESENTATIONS – PROCLAMATION

Staff prepared a Proclamation for Carl Spangenberg, for 38 years of service as an IRWD employee. Mr. Spangenberg was absent for the presentation, but well wishes were given from the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 10 was moved to the Action Calendar at the request of Director Swan. On MOTION by LaMar, seconded by McLaughlin and unanimously carried, CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 5 THROUGH 9 AND 11 WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

5. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: That the minutes of the August 26, 2024 Regular Board meeting be approved as presented.

6. AUGUST 2024 TREASURY REPORT

Recommendation: That the Board receive and file the Treasurer's Investment Summary Report, the Summary of Fixed and Variable Rate Debt, and the Disclosure Report of Reimbursements to Board members and staff, approve the August 2024 Summary of Payroll ACH payments in the total amount of \$2,564,721, and approve the August 2024 accounts payable disbursement summary of warrants 444222 through 444857, Workers' Compensation distributions, ACH payments, virtual card payments, wire transfers, payroll withholding distributions, and voided checks in the total amount of \$27,838,557.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

7. 2024 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

Recommendation: Receive and file.

8. SILVERADO CANYON ROAD BRIDGE 174 WATER PIPELINE IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET INCREASE AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD

Recommendation: That the Board authorize a budget increase in the amount of \$435,100, from \$504,900 to \$940,000, for Project 11588, and authorize the General Manager to execute a construction contract with Ferreira Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$472,000 for the Silverado Canyon Bridge 174 Pipeline Improvements, Project 11588.

9. SERRANO CREEK RAW WATER PIPELINE REPLACEMENT FINAL ACCEPTANCE

Recommendation: That the Board accept construction of the Serrano Creek Raw Water Pipeline Replacement; authorize the General Manager to file a Notice of Completion; and authorize the payment of the retention 35 days after the date of recording the Notice of Completion for Project 12423.

11. CONTROL SYSTEM PROGRAMMING SERVICES FOR THE MICHELSON WATER RECYCLING PLANT TERTIARY FILTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT CONSULTANT SELECTION

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with W.M. Lyles Co. in the amount of \$326,800 for control system programming services for the Michelson Water Recycling Tertiary Filter Improvements, Project 07892.

ACTION CALENDAR

10. TECHNOLOGY DRIVE AND ADA DRIVE RECYCLED WATER PIPELINE REPLACEMENT BUDGET ADDITION AND CONSULTANT SELECTION

Director Swan inquired as to why the asbestos cement pipe requires replacement at Technology Drive since it is approximately forty years old. Executive Director of Technical Services Burton explained that IRWD has experienced several leaks on these pipe segments, and IRWD retained HDR to complete a forensic analysis of the pipe and soil samples, which determined that the chemical balance of IRWD's recycled water created conditions corrosive to the pipe in certain areas of the distribution system. General Manager Cook confirmed that the chemistry of the District's recycled water was corrected many years ago, but that the damage was done.

Director McLaughlin reported that this item was reviewed and discussed at the Engineering and Operations Committee, and that Committee supports the staff recommendation.

On MOTION by LaMar, seconded by McLaughlin and unanimously carried, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE ADDITION OF PROJECT 12979, TECHNOLOGY DRIVE AND ADA DRIVE RECYCLED WATER PIPELINE REPLACEMENT, TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 CAPITAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,819,000, AND AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

ACTION CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

WITH MKN AND ASSOCIATES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$327,709 FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE TECHNOLOGY DRIVE AND ADA DRIVE RECYCLED WATER PIPELINE REPLACEMENT, PROJECT 12979.

12. ON-CALL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT SELECTIONS

Environmental Compliance Analyst Uk provided a summary of how IRWD complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the process that staff utilized to solicit proposals for on-call consulting services for CEQA/NEPA services and on-call biological monitoring and permitting services.

Director McLaughlin reported that this item was reviewed and discussed at the Engineering and Operations Committee, and that Committee was comfortable with the selection process and supports the staff recommendation.

On MOTION by McLaughlin, seconded by Withers and unanimously carried, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH ESA, PSOMAS, AND RINCON TO PROVIDE ON-CALL CEQA / NEPA SERVICES, FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, FOR NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNTS OF \$300,000 EACH AND WITH HARMSWORTH ASSOCIATES, PSOMAS, AND ESA TO PROVIDE ON-CALL MONITORING AND PERMITTING SERVICES, FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, FOR NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNTS OF \$300,000 EACH.

13. SEWER SIPHON IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II VARIANCE AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD

Executive Director of Technical Services Burton provided an overview of the Sewer Siphon Improvements. Mr. Burton outlined that the improvement construction work for the District's four most critical siphons of the nineteen total District siphons were completed as Phase I. Woodard & Curran provided the engineering services during construction and based on the quality of service delivered during Phase I, IRWD requested a proposal from them to provide engineering services during construction for Phase II, which will consist of the next seven siphons. Staff found the Woodard & Curran proposal to be reasonable.

Mr. Burton further reported that staff advertised the project for construction bids and received three responses out of the 18 pipeline contractors solicited. Mike Prlich and Sons, Inc.'s bid was responsive and was the low bidder.

Director McLaughlin stated that the variance was reviewed at the Engineering and Operations Committee, and the Committee supports the variance with Woodard & Curran.

On MOTION by McLaughlin, seconded by Withers, and carried unanimously, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE VARIANCE NO. 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$214,777 WITH WOODARD & CURRAN TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES DURING CONSTRUCTION, AND AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH MIKE PRLICH AND SONS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,434,855.67 FOR THE SEWER SIPHON IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II, PROJECT 11841.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. General Manager's Report

General Manager Cook stated that in May 2024, he informed the Board that he had engaged with the County of Orange regarding some damage to the levee along the San Diego Creek adjacent to the Michelson Water Recycling Plant. The County quickly agreed that the damage needed to be repaired and would address the issue following the nesting season. IRWD was expecting the County to begin its repair work last week, but the County was struggling to obtain permits to begin the repair. At the encouragement of IRWD, the County will be accelerating the levee repairs as an emergency. Concurrently, IRWD will proceed with the repair work needed to protect the South Sewer Siphon as it passes under San Diego Creek on an emergency basis. The sewer pipe has become exposed, so IRWD will implement interim protections while the County comes up with a more permanent fix to the lowered creek bed. Due to the urgency to address the repairs, staff plans to complete the design and construction of the repairs in advance of the next rainy season. Mr. Cook also stated that he would keep the Board advised on the progress of the work.

Mr. Cook also shared that the IRWD and California Coastkeeper Alliance co-sponsored bill, AB 1827 was signed by the Governor over the weekend.

Mr. Cook invited the members of the Board to attend the annual IRWD Health Fair on Wednesday, September 25 at Sand Canyon.

15. Receive oral update(s) from District liaison(s) regarding communities within IRWD's service area and interests.

Mr. Newell reported that the canyons are doing well – the Airport Fire was within 2.5 miles of the canyons. There were a lot of water tenders going back and forth to assist and thanked the District for the support during the fire.

16. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports

Director McLaughlin reported on her participation in the monthly WACO meeting.

Director Withers reported on his attendance at the ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting; the monthly WACO meeting; the NWRI Board of Directors meeting; the WaterReuse 2024 California Annual Conference; and the City of Irvine's Great Park-Heart of the Park Showcase.

Director Swan reported on his participation in the monthly Southern California Water Dialogue Steering Committee meeting; the MWDOC Workshop Board Meeting with MWD Directors; the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce's September Wake Up! Newport featuring the Orange County Sanitation District Update with General Manager Robert Thompson; the WACO monthly meeting; the MWDOC Administration and Finance Committee; the WACO Planning Committee meeting; the MWDOC Board of Directors meeting; and the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee meeting.

Director LaMar reported on his attendance at the Natural Community Coalition Board meeting; the ACWA Executive Committee meeting; and the ACWA Board of Directors' Meeting. He also mentioned that the water industry has suffered a great loss with the passings of three fantastic individuals: Bob Bein; Dr. Elizabeth Brown; and Betty Boatman.

OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

President Reinhart reported on his participation in the MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee meeting; the MWDOC Workshop Board meeting with MWD Directors; the OCWD Board meeting; the OCWD Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting; the WACO monthly meeting; the MWDOC Administration and Finance Committee meeting; the OCWD Water Issues Committee meeting; the OCWD Administration and Finance Committee meeting; the WateReuse 2024 California Annual Conference; the MWDOC Board of Directors meeting; and the OCWD Board of Directors meeting.

17. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Reinhart adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 28th day of October 2024.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

Secretary, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Claire Hervey Collins, General Counsel
Hanson Bridgett LLP