



Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

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**Carmichael Water District
7837 Fair Oaks Boulevard
Carmichael, CA 95608**

MINUTES

The Carmichael Water District Board of Directors met in Regular Session this 17th day of September at 6:00 p.m. in person and via teleconference.

ATTENDANCE:

Directors: **Ronald Davis, Mark Emmerson, Ron Greenwood, Jeff Nelson, Paul Selsky**

Staff: **Cathy Lee, Gaby Padilla, Debbie Martin**

Public: Two (2) Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER: President Selsky called the meeting to order at: 6:02 p.m.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS: No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Public Comment

Mr. Christian commented that he attended the Dinner in the Park hosted by Carmichael Recreation and Parks District and Carmichael Parks Foundation. He mentioned that he spoke to attendees about funding and starting a program where middle to high school students could potentially tour the water treatment plant as part of their curriculum. He then read the attached letter that he provided to the Board.

Directors commented that they are a part of the Kiwanis club whose main focus is helping students and he is optimistic that they will be willing to put money behind this tour.

Directors commented that they think the tours are extremely valuable and informational.

Directors commented that they think the tours are extremely valuable and informational. Directors commented that they think this is a great idea and the District has been looking at developing a new communications position and this position would be nicely tied to this type of outreach for the ratepayers. They also mentioned that they have been trying to find ways to reach out to the STEM students to sell them on this wonderful opportunity to work in the water business.

Directors commented that they believe that once this gets going they could possibly find some kind of grant funding for education through some water program.

Directors asked staff to consider this proposal and get back to the Board with any information they may have

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2 Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – August 20, 2024

2. Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting - 3. Paid Expenditure Report – August 2024

Final Expenditure Report – August 2024 Directors commented that the format to this report keeps getting better and better and thanked staff.

4 Budget to Actual Report – July 2021

4. Budget to Actual Report – July 2024

5. Directors Expenses and Reimbursements

M/S Greenwood / Davis to approve the consent calendar

ACTION ITEMS**6. Reclassification of the Inventory Specialist Position to Business Operations Specialist**

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve:

1. the job description and salary range of the Business Operations Specialist position,
2. the reclassification of the Inventory Specialist position to Business Operations Specialist,
3. the position be funded in FY 2024-2025 and future budgets, and
4. the General Manager to advertise the position for recruitment and to negotiate with and appoint the most qualified and suitable candidate for the position.

Directors inquired if this new position would also assume some of the responsibilities of the Public Information Officer. The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that this position will not assume the responsibilities of the Public Information Officer and that they are still trying to develop that. They also mentioned that they know that the Board is looking to get a Public Information Officer/ Communications person to do outreach and to get to know our customers better but this position is completely separate from the Business Operations Specialist.

Directors inquired about the pay scale and if it was in line with what the current Inventory Specialist position. The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that it is not because the current Inventory Specialist position is a lower level position and this new position is more in line with the Accountant and Billing Supervisor position.

Directors inquired if the Inventory Specialist position was currently filled.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that the Inventory Specialist is currently vacant due to medical considerations of the prior employee.

Directors inquired if this position is going to be helping with finance/accounting and someone who can drive a forklift. The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that driving a forklift is not too hard and they get this training on site.

The Finance Manager informed the Board of Directors that they will not be doing accounting functions but rather more warehouse and inventory control. This person would procure and inventory parts, manage the flow of those parts in and out of the warehouse, and receive the goods when they come in and that is where the forklift comes in.

Directors inquired about when the Board can expect to talk to the General Manager about setting up the communications position.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that they would love to start that conversation and are currently moving things around within the staff's workloads. With the approval of this new position it will free up some staffing time to be able to work on other projects. They mentioned that the communications position is not a full-time position because in the past the Public Information Officer was not doing communications full-time. They are also looking into possibly using a consulting firm for the outreach portion, similar to the current I.T. management.

Directors inquired about who this position be reporting to.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that this position will be reporting to the Finance Manager and in the future if the District has a need to hire another person they could be reporting to the Engineering Manager.

Directors commented that this position is looking for a person with a lot of different skills and if staff has someone in mind already.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that this is why the job description is a little broad. The job advertisement will have information that this position will be focused on purchasing and procurement realm. They also mentioned that they do not have someone in mind yet.

Directors commented that they think the District is going to have a hard time finding someone.

Directors inquired about how this new pay scale will impact the budget.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that the overall impact is \$33,530 and since the position is vacant right now and because they normally budget a little bit more, there is enough funding to cover this increase.

Directors commented that this positions seems to be like a facilitator and it goes across every department and they do not think that this person should be under just Finance.

The Finance Manager informed the Board of Directors that this position is under Finance because of the recording of inventory piece that does impact the financials but there is a good portion of job duties that is outside of Finance.

Directors inquired if this had to be approved tonight or if it can wait another month just so they can understand the position a little more.

The Finance Manager informed the Board of Directors that not making the decision tonight is completely up to the Board but they are short staffed and accounting is managing the duties of this position at a minimal level. So they could wait but at the same time no because staff is burdened by the extra workload and certain aspects are not getting done. The General Manager commented that it's been months with this position being vacant and a lot of work has been piling up.

Directors commented that this new position is unfocused and that Finance really needs help and they would have focused on that rather than trying to add on all these other things and they would encourage staff to highlight what they really need and just add additional skill that are desirable.

The Finance Manager informed the Board of Directors that in the new job description under Finance Department it highlights what the District really needs and is looking to fill those sections.

Directors commented that they would like to hear back on how the search is going.

M/S Selsky / Davis to approve staff's recommendation.

Mark Emmerson	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Jeff Nelson	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Ronald Davis	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Ron Greenwood	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Paul Selsky	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Board Totals:	Ayes:	5	Nays:	0	Absent:	0	Abstain:		0
Passed Unanimously:									

7. Budget Adjustment – Destruction of Dewey Well

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize a new capital improvement project (CIP) for Dewey Well Destruction and approve a budget adjustment to move \$250,000 from the Claremont/Coda Pipeline project to fund the new CIP for Dewey Well Destruction.

Directors inquired as to why the table says the total of the budget is \$4,000,000 but it only adds up to \$2,500,000. The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that the \$4,000,000 is a mistake and it should read \$2,500,000.

Directors inquired as to which project was going first, Claremont or Dewey well.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that the Claremont project is underway and the design is 60 percent completed.

The Finance Manager informed the Board of Directors that this is because they need a line item in the CIP for the Dewey Well Destruction to be transparent in the budget.

M/S Nelson / Greenwood to approve staff's recommendation.

Mark Emmerson	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Jeff Nelson	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Ronald Davis	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Ron Greenwood	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Paul Selsky	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Board Totals:	Ayes:	5	Nays:	0	Absent:	0	Abstain:		0
Passed Unanimously:									

8. Recommendation for California Oregon Transmission Project - Transmission Capacity Sale

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors eliminate Option #4. Although the true reason that the District originally invested in the COTP is unknown, maintenance and operation costs for the COTP have significantly increased since then, which the District would be responsible for paying should we retain ownership. Therefore, after evaluating the offer of \$150,000, Staff recommends that the Board of Directors choose Option #3 and authorize the General Manager to conduct the sale of the 1 MW of transmission capacity for the amount offered to either the City of Roseville or the TID.

Directors inquired if San Juan Water District agree to sell theirs.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that they did and they actually have it in their Board packet for approval at their Board meeting this week.

Directors commented that they are disappointed in SMUD in not allowing us to wheel that power for the water treatment plant. What they did was purchase the power from us at wholesale price and then sell it back to us at triple rate during peak hours.

Directors commented that the Districts liability by owning this is .06 percent but the fires caused by power lines are billions of dollars in damages. It has made insurance triple in price but the insurance only covers up to \$500,000,000.

Directors thanked Director Nelson and Greenwood and all the staff for working on this investment but they all agreed that it is time to let go of the investment due to the liability.

M/S Davis / Nelson to approve staff's recommendation.

Mark Emmerson	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Jeff Nelson	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Ronald Davis	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Ron Greenwood	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Paul Selsky	Aye	✓	Nay		Absent		Abstain		
Board Totals:	Ayes:	5	Nays:	0	Absent:	0	Abstain:		0
Motion Carried:									
		✓							

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**9. Sacramento Regional Water Bank – Previously Banked Water**

Directors inquired if Placer County water purveyors believe that the only way to have water accounted for is by actually pumping it into the ground.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that is there was not an accounting framework and most of the water agencies in Placer County did not use wells nor did they invest into the groundwater in the past. That is one of the reasons why they think everyone should start at a zero balance. Some also think that only actively injected water should be counted as banked water.

Directors inquired if that meant that using surface water in lieu of groundwater is not considered banking water.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that is one option that is being discussed another option is that there will be a new accounting framework that will consider the in lieu groundwater but it will use a different formula.

Directors commented that they believe that if they are going to account for some of the banked water than they should account for all of it.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that the way SGA did the original accounting framework it did not account for any loses.

Directors commented that an old American Statesmen once said that "a penny saved is a penny earned" and the District has saved that water so we earned it. The District has invested money and time, has accounted for this water, and has registered with the state, so they don't see how anyone can take that water away. They also mentioned that there are other water districts that have more banked water than CWD and they think we should all get together and discuss the outcomes for the water bank so there is more of a united front.

Directors inquired about what San Juan Water District (SJWD) and Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) is advocating for and if the other water district with banked water are willing to help us.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that SJWD and SSWD are wanting to account for all the banked water. The issue is that there are so many water districts that are solely on surface water and now they want to go back and redo the accounting to reflect that they have also banked groundwater.

Directors inquired if almost all the banked water belongs to just four water districts.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that this was correct, SSWD has about 61 percent, CWD has about 18 percent, City of Sacramento has about 17 percent, and Cal American has about 4 percent.

Directors commented that they could see why other water districts are upset.

The General Manager commented that this is also why other water districts, who use surface water, want to have some of the ownership of the groundwater.

Directors commented that SGA formed an Ad Hoc committee on this in order to form a recommendation to the full SGA Board on how to settle this matter. Jim Peifer recommended that these meetings not be public and the attorney agreed. Although the meetings are not public they are open to hearing anyone from the public on this matter. This committee has only had one meeting and it was just to introduce everyone.

Directors commented that they are glad that everyone, who is concerned, is getting together to discuss the issue and that they are looking forward to hear from this committee.

Directors commented that they heard from Trevor Joseph that the people from the Department of Water Resources recognize the in lieu recharged water while the people from the State Water Resources Control Board are skeptical that this is banked water.

Directors commented that they think CWD should look into talking to a lawyer that will be representing CWD's interests which is hopefully in cooperation with the other water districts that have a stake in this matter.

Mr. Hanscom inquired if the people who think it should be zeroed out had the opportunity to take part in this in the past.

Directors informed Mr. Hanscom that if they would have had groundwater wells they would have been able to participate.

Mr. Hanscom commented that the participants, in good faith, followed the rules and did what they were supposed to do. But the people who did not participate did not take advantage of this and now want water. He mentioned that he believes the people who did participate in the past should remain with their percentage of water because we put money into the effort and filed all the paperwork. The people who have no stake in this at all should start at zero then moving forward; if everyone participates and follows the rules they get banked water from then on.

Directors commented that CWD has invested 20 million dollars into the water treatment plant and other infrastructures in order to have in lieu water in the water bank so why should we get penalized for what other Districts could have and should have done.

10. SCADA Project Update, September 2024

Directors inquired if there was a reason to be consistent with what other water districts are using.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that VTSCADA is already being used at several water districts but a lot of districts use Wonderware but when it comes to the data it is easily converted into an excel spreadsheet.

11. Flume & DWR Project Participation

Directors commented that they have seen this flume device at ACWA and that they are a company from San Luis Obispo.

Directors inquired about how much this would cost a home owner to install this on their own.

The General Manager informed the Board of Directors that they do not know but they will get the cost for that.

Directors commented that they think this is a good idea and they are glad that staff is looking into this.

12. ACWA – Legislative Advisory

No comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**13. Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) Board Meeting**

Director Selsky Reports Out.

Director Selsky reported that there has not been a regular SGA Board meeting since the last CWD Board meeting and the next meeting is in October.

14. Regional Water Authority Executive Committee and Regular Meeting

Director Greenwood Reports Out.

Director Greenwood presented his written report that he submitted and that is in the Board packet.

15. Other Committee Report

Directors Report Out.

Director Nelson reported

STAFF REPORTS:**16. General Manager and District Activity Report – August 2024**

Discussed with the Board.

17. Director's Expense Reimbursement Summary – August 2024

No comments.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION:

18. Director's Written and/or Oral Reports

Director Greenwood

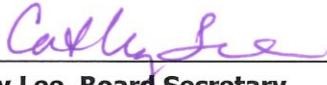
1. ACWA Summer Regulatory Meetings
 - a. First meeting was about the Kings Water Alliance
 - i. They talked about battling groundwater pollution in the Kings County area and that they found in certain areas the water was not safe enough to drink.
 - b. Second meeting was about the fire impacts on three northern California Watersheds
 - i. They studied the effects on post fire water quality in three areas, the fire in the Bear Watershed, the Jones fire in the Rush Creek and the south Yuba River Watershed, and the North Complex fire in the Plymouth National Forest.
 - ii. They found that the biggest problem they had was the fire retardants because they were the lead contributors to increasing the levels of nitrates, phosphorus, iron, and aluminum.
 - c. Third Meeting was the ACWA Energy Committee
 - i. There was a report on the grid status and certain hydro issues.

Director Nelson

1. Carmichael Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee Meeting
 - a. Many representative were present and a person from the Sacramento Tax Payers Association was also present.
 - b. Director Nelson brought up the subject of Prop 4 and it's clear that it is a compromise of many different things that everything is watered down.
 - c. He also learned that there is an election at Del Paso Manor Water District and three Board Members are trying to displace three current members that want to merge with SSWD. They also put together a flyer that was passed out.

ADJOURNMENT: President Selsky adjourned the meeting at: **8:08 p.m.**


Paul Selsky, Board President


Cathy Lee, Board Secretary

Attachment 1

PROSPECTUS FOR FUNDING

GUIDED WATER TREATMENT FACILITY SCHOOL TOURS

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE: Develop a program designed as a guided tour of Carmichael's Water Treatment Facility. The tours would primarily be focused on middle school and high school students who are interested in science, technology and regional and environmental issues. The scheduled tours would be focused on; Giving a rudimentary introduction as to what the facility does and how it operates. Teaching its methods of pumping, filtration and conditioning of water before it leaves the facility. Also, the volume of water it takes to meet the needs of the community. How it monitors and maintains the pressures that are required to send water through the piping system. And, why water is necessary to any society to maintain stability and quality of life. And, allows it to thrive. Lastly, how the facility interacts and protects the American River's ecology and environment as it draws water from the river.

BACKGROUND: The need behind this is simple, to expose and hopefully create interest in students to the engineering and technologies required to provide water to a community. Students in the middle and upper school levels are limited in exposure to these types of specialized sciences because most of their learning happens in schools. Therefore, a tour of the facility will "bring to life" and give a firsthand tangible understanding of what happens prior to water coming from the tap and what it takes to get it there. Exposure to these types of sciences can only enhance what students are taught in schools and hopefully ignite a desire to further studies in engineering, science and physics.

REQUIREMENTS OF CWD: Provide staffing for and facilitate a 1-2 hour long onsite guided tour from each local middle and high school in Carmichael once a year. More than one tour from each school may be required depending on size of school and interest.

PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME: Would need the board of directors to; 1. Direct staff to develop a tour designed around middle to upper grade school students. 2. Direct staff to identify funding required and manpower needed to facilitate the tours. 3. Transportation funding required to bus students back and forth with school staff in attendance. (This will have to be done by the school system.) 4. Would need a liaison from the district to introduce the program to the school faculties. 5. Identify any potential areas in the facility that may be dangerous and install methods to control. 6. Ask the CWD board to fund this project and authorize provisions to it as necessary.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: Locally there are four(?) middle and high schools in the Carmichael district. If this program is successful availability to other schools that show interest should be considered.

RESULTS TO DATE: The Carmichael Parks Foundation has shown interest in this proposal and are interested in participating however they can and where it makes sense. Sue Boucher is meeting with her board tonight and will introduce the possibility of this being enacted and how it can help with their foundation's goals. A member of the local school board has shown interest and will introduce discussions of funding for transportation.

FUNDING FROM LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES: If funding programs are in place and available to offset cost to the CWD bill payers they should be utilized.



Middle School Student Survey Summary Carmichael Parks Foundation



Survey results regarding student interests in potential recreation and park programs will inform discussions around future offerings. The survey was conducted in January 2024 at John Barrett and Will Rogers Middle Schools and was voluntary on the part of the students after viewing a short introductory video.

Response Rates. Over 550 students at the two schools participated, 44% of those enrolled, offering reliable results for the Foundation and Carmichael Recreation and Park District staff.

Findings

Participation by time of day. A third to half of students indicated interest in participating in activities offered at the school *after school* or *anytime*. Interest in *before school* activities was minimal at both schools.

Participation by activity type. More than half of respondents at both schools indicated interest in team sports. A third of students indicated interest in other outdoor activities, science/technology, and the arts across the schools.

When asked what activity(ies) students would participate in, a number of team sports, art activities, and science/technology were mentioned by students.

Participation beyond school days. Interest in activities offered on weekends or during school breaks varied by type. A significant number of students indicated that cost might be a factor affecting their participation.

Next steps. Results are being used to identify ways to provide more recreation activities to students in grades six through eight in the Carmichael Recreation and Park district.