

LAMONT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday August 24, 2015 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Location:
District Office
8624 Segrue Road
Lamont CA, 93241

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Board President Prado called to order the regularboard meeting at 6:00pm on Monday, August 24, 2015 at the office of the Lamont Public Utility District. All Board Memberswere present. Staff present included General Manager/District Secretary Nick Turner, District CounselAlan Peake, District Engineer JT Gardiner and District Interpreter Mario Sanchez.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by President Prado

3. Board Member announcements

Director Gonzalez stated that he suggests that the District Engineer’s agenda item be placed at the top of the agenda so that he can leave the meeting after his items. He requests that this be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

4. Public Comment

Miguel Sanchez Jr. – Directed his question to Director Hernandez stating that at the last meeting, she asked what the minimum fees was that could be charged to Mr. Sanchez for a violation of an ordinance. He asked if she had come up with anything. Director Hernandez stated no comment. Mr. Sanchez Jr. asked how many years Director Hernandez has been on the Board. Director Hernandez stated four years. Miguel Sanchez Jr. stated after four years, she doesn’t know what Ordinance Mr. Sanchez violated. Director Hernandez stated no comment.

Dolores Huerta – She stated that it is her understanding that there was a violation on the property that Mr. Sanchez owns, that it was not properly authorization by the Board, that a pipeline was installed in which the District incurred a lot of expenses. Director Prado stated that Mr. Sanchez did not follow the ordinance. She stated that Mr. Sanchez did not have authority from the Board for construction. She stated that she will discuss the pipeline during Agenda Item B.

Mr. Prado – He asked when the Board is going to solve the problem of the manager approving budgets without Board approval and in the end, the community ends up paying. The McKee project costs that District \$226,000 benefited only one business and the community is going to pay for it. He asked why the attorney did not take care of this. Does he represent the community or special interests.

Petra Villanueva – She stated that she has been attending these meetings for two years. She stated that she has had freedom of expression. She stated that at the last meeting, she says she felt harassed because she was told that she came here to say things that were not true. She stated that she will not allow anyone to violate here civil rights or to question my freedom of

expression. She stated that she will be filing a complaint with the County and the State because this can't continue. There is only one person harassing, chasing and intimidating our community. Director Gonzalez asked who she is talking about. Petra stated that she is talking about Mr. Sanchez and nobody is going to violate her civil rights.

Jose Mireles – Stated that he has been coming to the meetings for years. He stated that the Board fights like cats and dogs that don't seem to agree. He sees that the Board always has a problem with Mr. Sanchez. He asked what the Board has to say about the \$200,000 that is missing. He stated that nobody talks about it. They just want to talk about Mr. Sanchez. This is money that should be here in the community. He stated that he wants an answer about the \$200,000. Director Prado stated that this matter is currently under investigation. At this point, there is no information to share. When the investigation is complete, Staff and the Board will explain the case to the community. Mr. Mireles stated that this has happened in other communities and nothing was done about it.

Danny Cortez – Asked the General Manager if he found a policy regarding the Transmission Main Policy Statement or does one still exist for the District. The General Manager stated no. Mr. Cortez asked if Director Prado where she looked to find out information about this policy statement. Director Prado stated that this will be discussed on the agenda. Mr. Cortez directs another comment to a lady settings in the audience stating that when you live in the community you have every right to question everything that goes on, and when you don't live here, you don't. He stated that this is his personal opinion.

Raquel Sanchez – Asked what is legal counsel's job. She asked if it is his job to interrupt and ask question because this runs in to the speakers two minutes. Director Prado stated that she has specifically asked for legal counsel's help in controlling the meetings. She stated that every time, Mr. Sanchez family comes to the meetings and tries to disturb the meetings. She stated that she asked legal counsel to help conduct the meeting.

Vicki – Asked if the Board could to get water directly to the Weedpatch park. She stated that currently water comes from Grimmway. This water is not safe for the kids. The General Manager stated that he will look into this.

5. Staff Reports

A. District Counsel – Nothing Reported

District Counsel stated that at the last meeting Staff went over with the Board how public commit shall be run to have smoother running meetings. He stated that he specifically asked the President Prado if he could assist her during the meeting and she indicated yes. He stated that the District shall be fair to everyone, that each person can come up to speak one time for two minutes and that the Board does not have to respond. This is public comment. He also stated that it is not up to other in the audience to engage in discussion with the Board because they are not agenda items.

B. District Engineer –Nothing Reported

C. General Manager

- i. Water Use Restrictions - The General Manager reported that water use in July 2015 decreased by 31% as compared to July 2013. The District has met its conservation standard set by the State of 28% minimum reduction for the 3rd month in row.
- ii. CEC funding for Solar - The California Energy Commission has deemed the District application for funding for the installation of solar acceptable. The District is 1st in the queue for funding. The only remaining documentation required by the funding agency is the environmental document which is on the agenda tonight.
- iii. Job Postings for Utility District II and Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor (CPO) - The District is accepting applications for the Utility Worker II and Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor position thru September 11th. These positions have been advertised in Bakersfield Californian and on CSDA's website.

6. Consent Agenda

The General Manager stated that bank reconciliation for Bank of the West account ending in 697 for June 2015, which was excluded from the consent agenda from last month due to an unresolved problem, was included in this month's consent agenda for approval.

Director Prado requested the meeting minutes for the July 27, 2015 Board Meeting be pulled for a revision. She stated that she wants it reflected in the meeting minutes that Director Gonzalez refused to participate in the discussion on the agenda item addressing a possible agreement for payment of fees for 9001 Weedpatch Hwy.

Director Sanchez requested that the billing from Innovative Ag Services indicate the budget amount and amount received to date, similar to AECOM's billings.

Director Sanchez stated that there appears to be a double payment to County Fair Market, check # 8182, and requested that Staff look into this item.

Motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda except Item #6.B.i.

First Motion—Director Cruz

Second Motion—Director Hernandez

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5–0

7. Regular Agenda

A. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration and possible purchase of GapVax vacuuming and jetting truck; **General Manager, Nick Turner**

The General Manager reported that in April 2015, the Board adopted an updated purchasing policy allowing the District to purchase a vacuum and jetting truck using a Cooperative Purchasing/Intergovernmental Agreement. In May 2015, the Board selected GapVax as its vacuum and jetting truck supplier. Since that time, Staff has worked with Jose Martin from Plumbers Depot to review two possible intergovernmental agency agreements or other public agency bids for the purchase of a vacuuming and jetting truck.

The two agencies included the City of Escondido and the City of Los Angeles. Due to the age of the bids received, legal counsel has expressed concern with piggybacking off either one. Alternatively, the District could participate in a cooperative purchasing program such as the Houston–Galveston Area Council (HGAC). HGAC is a regional planning commission and political subdivision of the State of Texas and is authorized to contract with eligible entities to perform governmental functions and services including the purchase of goods and services. There are many public agencies in California that participate in HGAC. HGAC is a cooperative purchasing program in which the District could enter into an agreement with for the purchase of a vacuuming and jetting truck. Equipment suppliers that participate in HGAC, such as GapVax, provide updated competitive pricing to HGAC on an annual basis.

The General Manager introduced Juan Martin from Plumbers Depot who was present to discuss the two trucks and HGAC.

Staff recommends purchasing a vacuuming and jetting truck through HGAC. This would require the District enter into an agreement with HGAC, which has no cost associated with it.

Director Cruz expressed his preference in purchasing the new vacuuming and jetting truck in lieu of having to publically bid the used demo truck. Director stated that he agreed with Mr. Cruz, that he preferred the new unit over the demo unit.

The General Manager clarified that the prices indicated in the agenda packet for the purchase of a vacuuming and jetting truck do not include taxes.

Staff proposed to bring back to the Board an official purchase order from HGAC.

Motion to enter into an agreement with Houston–Galveston Area Council for the purchase of a vacuuming and jetting truck

First Motion–Director Cruz

Second Motion–Director Hernandez

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5–0

- B. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration and possible approval of agreement for payment of connection and capacity fees for the development located at 9001 Weedpatch Hwy; **General Manager, Nick Turner**

Director Sanchez abstains from the discussion as a Board Member because he is part of the Sanchez Family Trust.

The General Manager updated the Board on this item, stating that on Friday August 21st, Mr. Sanchez delivered a cashier’s check in the amount of \$55,966.32 to the District. He stated that the cashier’s check has not yet deposited and he wanted to make sure that the Board did not want or need some sort of action regarding this item before being deposited.

Miguel Sanchez Jr. ask Director Cruz if the committee came up with a recommendation for the Board on this matter. Director Cruz stated that his question would be explained during Board discussion.

Danny Cortez stated now that Mr. Sanchez has already paid his fees, is the Board going to charge 10% interest. Director Gonzalez stated that as far as he is concerned, it is paid for. Mr. Cortez stated if the Board is going to charge 10%, he asks 10% of what because the business hasn't started yet. There are no people and no stores so what is being used. He stated that Mr. Sanchez has done a lot for this community, even out of his own pocket. He recommended taking Mr. Sanchez' payment. His character is worth more than just a pipe.

Jesus Ramirez stated that the Board wanted to get paid by Mr. Sanchez and they were paid. He stated that Leticia and Maria are after Mr. Sanchez and to just leave it alone, leave him alone. He asked is this a personal thing or does the Board just want to be paid and what else does the Board want. He stated that if the Board keeps fighting like this, the community will know that there are personal problems between the Board Members. He stated leave it along and think of the community. He stated that the Board was chosen to be on the Board to work for the community, not to be fighting. He stated, stop the fighting and do what is best for the community, we need sidewalks and lighting. Work for the community. Director Cruz asked Mr. Ramirez what he paid; Did he paid 10% interest on his property. Mr. Ramirez stated that he doesn't owe anyone. He stated that he thinks he paid interest. Mr. Cruz asked if Mr. Ramirez paid 10% interest. Mr. Ramirez stated that he can't remember. Mr. Cruz stated that Mr. Ramirez did pay 10% because he was a Board Member then. Director Gonzalez asked if the construction was new or was it existing. Mr. Ramirez stated that 6 months after he bought the property, the District went after him. He stated he had to pay \$11,000 plus interest on a property. Someone asked Mr. Ramirez if everything was legal. Mr. Ramirez stated that when he signed the escrow papers, he thought everything was legal.

Dolores Huerta stated that she has worked on a lot of water issues in the community. She understands that the General Manager was given a check for \$55,000 and she believe that some things were done not the way they should have been done. There was work done in the amount of \$200,000 and the work was performed by Mr. Sanchez/ brother. She stated that he is paying the \$55,000 but not paying for the \$200,000. If the Board is going to get him a break, who is going to paying for the \$200,000.

Alexis Sanchez asked District Counsel if the public is allowed to ask questions after the proposals are provided by the Board. District Counsel stated that this is her time to ask questions or make comments. Ms. Sanchez stated that she is not ready to ask her questions until after she hears the Board discussion. District Counsel reiterated that this is the item for questions and comments from the public. Following public comment, there is time for Board discussion unless the Board decides to allow public comment after the Board discussion.

Miguel Sanchez responds to Ms. Huerta's comment regarding her assumption that the pipeline was built to provide service to his business, for the benefit of only his project for \$200,000. Mr. Sanchez stated that Ms. Huerta is misinformed and that she has no clue of what she is talking about. He stated that the pipeline was installed by the District because the District needed the pipeline, not because it was installed to benefit his project. He stated that this is all in the minutes. He stated that if Ms. Huerta has any questions about his project that he is more than willing to meet with her to discuss his project.

Veronica stated that after this meeting, she hoped that the Board could set aside all the personal things that are going on and focus on other things like Weedpatch which really has problems.

President Prado stated that Director Gonzalez was elected by the community and this item has been discussed for a long time. She stated that it is brought back because the District needs a solution. She stated that she doesn't understand why he doesn't want to discuss this item. She stated that she wants to hear what the entire Board thinks about this item. Director Gonzalez stated that it is fine for him because Mr. Sanchez already paid. He stated take the money and let it go.

Director Hernandez asked Mr. Sanchez if he thinks that if fair that he should pay the 10% interest as other residents have done. She stated that he has already received the benefit of the pipeline installed by the District. She stated that the only one that benefitted from the pipeline was 9001 Weedpatch Hwy. She stated that this Board has been harassed by Mr. Sanchez' family, accusations about not being transparent, accusing the lawyer that he does want the Board to tell the truth. She stated that for these reasons, she requests that the minutes reflect that if anything happens to her or her family that Mr. Sanchez would be the first one investigated. She stated that as representatives of the community, they are just following the law. She stated that she follows the recommendation of 10% interest according to what is allowed by the law. She stated that she is waiting for a letter from the lawyer stating that she can't legal charge Mr. Sanchez for the pipeline when his business was the only beneficiary.

District Counsel stated that the topic of whether or not Mr. Sanchez as the developer of his property is required to pay for the pipeline keeps being brought up. He stated that there is no obligation to the District that he participate in the building of the pipeline. He stated that Mr. Sanchez was not on the Board at the time the discussion was made. The legal counsel that handled the litigation over the pipeline came to the conclusion that there is no basis for suing Mr. Sanchez.

Mr. Sanchez asked Director Hernandez to site to ordinance the he has violated. He stated the she needs to be well informed. He stated that 10% is in Ordinance 50 and applies to residences and illegal connections. He stated that he has never been connected to the District and he has never used any of the District's services.

President Prado asked legal counsel what is the 10% that can legally be charged. Director Counsel states that the 10% is what can be charged under State law. The District's resolution requiring the payment of fees at the time the construction is started. He stated that it has been the Board position for a number of years that there is an invalid Will-Serve Letter and Mr. Sanchez' position is that it is a valid conditional Will-Serve Letter which doesn't require payment of fees until he connects to the District. He stated that the General Manager has received a cashier's check from Mr. Sanchez and is waiting for direction from the Board on how to proceed.

President Prado recommends a motion to accept the check and implement 10% interest on the fees from the start of construction. The reason for the 10% is because illegal construction in the past has paid interest.

Director Gonzalez stated that he will abstain from the decision.

Director Cruz stated that the interest should start from when the County signed off on the grading inspection.

Director Cruz and Prado consider not accepting the check until the 10% interest is paid.

District Counsel stated the acceptance of the fees would typically be referred to as a nondiscretionary act, meaning the Board doesn't have discretion to turn those down. The check is already in hand and there is no policy in place.

District Cruz and Prado suggest accepting the check and work on the fees.

Motion to authorize the General Manager to deposit the check received from Mr. Sanchez for 9001 Weedpatch Hwy in the amount of \$55,966.32 with the understanding that receipt of this check by the District does not preclude the District from seeking any cost, interest or damages due to the Developer's delay in paying the fees.

First Motion—Director Cruz

Second Motion—Director Hernandez

Approved. Vote 4–0, 1-abstained

- C. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration and possible approval of the submittal of the Application/Report of Waste Discharge update to the RWQCB in accordance with the Cease and Desist Order R5-2012-0044, Provision 3(b); **District Engineer, JT Gardiner**

The District Engineer explained that this submittal is in accordance with Plan B and the provision to be able to discharge effluent on the 160 acres. This is last item being required by the RWQCB to gain approval to discharge effluent to this land. He stated that the RWQCB will issue new Waste Discharge Requirements based on the report.

Director Sanchez asked whether or not effluent would be used on the 160 acres. The District Engineer stated that Recology could use effluent.

Motion to approval of the submittal of the Application/Report of Waste Discharge update to the RWQCB in accordance with the Cease and Desist Order R5-2012-0044, Provision 3(b)

First Motion—Director Cruz

Second Motion—Director Sanchez

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5–0

- D. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration and possible approval of CEQA document for the installation of a Solar PV System at the wastewater treatment plant; **District Engineer, JT Gardiner**

The District Engineer explained that the issue before the Board is the submittal of the CEQA document to the State Clearing House to move forward with the installation of the Solar PV System at the WWTP. AECOM has prepared a Negative Declaration in accordance with the CEQA.

Director Sanchez asked the District Engineer to explain the State's process for review of the CEQA document. The District Engineer explained that following Board approval, the CEQA document will be submitted to the State Clearinghouse for review by all applicable State and Local agencies. Any comments received will be reviewed and responded to accordingly. Upon completion of the required review period, the CEQA document will be brought before the Board for adoption of the 'finding of the CEQA document' and to issue a 'Notice of Determination' that will be filed with the County.

Motion to approve the submittal of the CEQA document for the installation of a Solar PV System at the wastewater treatment plant to the appropriate State Clearinghouse for review and comment

First Motion—Director Sanchez

Second Motion—Director Cruz

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5-0

- E. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration and possible approval of changing banking institutions to Wells Fargo and adoption of Resolution No 433 designating authorized signers at Wells Fargo Bank; **General Manager, Nick Turner**

The General Manager explained that the District currently banks with Bank of the West and pays approximately \$1,200 per month in bank fees. For nearly 2 years now, Staff has worked with Bank of the West in an attempt to get the fees reduced, but has been unsuccessful. Staff has obtained a proposal from Wells Fargo Bank to provide banking services for the District. The services proposed by Wells Fargo Bank are equivalent to those provided by Bank of the West with significantly reduced fees. Should the District maintain a total balance of all of its accounts above \$2.7M, the bank fees at Wells Fargo Bank are estimated to be \$0.00/month. If the District's total balance drops to \$1.5M, the service credits will drop and therefore the bank fees are estimated at \$400/month. In either case, banking fees at Wells Fargo Bank are approx. 1/3 or less of those charged to the District by Bank of the West. Wells Fargo Bank has confirmed that the proposed bank fees are not introductory fees and will remain in effect for at least three (3) years and are renewable. The Wells Fargo Bank representative stated that no bank fees will be charged to the District for the first three (3) months. Staff recommended that the Board approve a change in banking institutions from Bank of the West to Wells Fargo Bank to reduce banking fees and to hopefully receive improved customer service. The recommended change will result in an annual reduction in banking fees ranging anywhere from approx. \$9,600 to \$12,480 depending to the District's total balance of all accounts.

Staff also recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. 433 designating authorized signers on behalf of the District at Wells Fargo Bank.

Director Sanchez stated that he has addressed this issue several times. The District was paying approximately \$1,200 or \$14,000 per year or \$140,000 in fees over the past 10 years. He stated that one of the reasons the Board was elected was to review each expense and provide the oversight that the community wants and expects. No one has ever said anything about this \$140,000 that the District paid in bank fees.

Motion to approve the changing of banking institutions to Wells Fargo Bank and the adoption of Resolution No 433 designating the authorized signers at Wells Fargo Bank

First Motion–Director Cruz

Second Motion–Director Hernandez

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5-0

F. Report and Possible Minute Action: Clarification regarding compensating Board Members for attending committee meetings; **Board President Prado**

Director Prado stated that she requested this item because two months back District Legal Counsel provided a memo regarding not accepting compensation for committee meetings. The reason she stated that she wanted the Board to take action on this item is because the community came to her stating that one Board Member told this member of the community that the Board Members are illegally taking money from the District and that this Board Member wants this money paid back to the District. She stated in 2008, the Board approved payments for committee meetings.

Director Gonzalez stated that Legal Counsel provided the document stating that if the meetings are not in compliance with the Brown Act, the Board should not be getting the money. He stated that it is his opinion that if the Board has been paid for those meetings, it needs to be returned to the District. He stated that this is the community's money.

President Prado asked Director Gonzalez if he wanted all past Board Members to return the money. Director Gonzalez stated just the current Board Members.

President Prado stated that when she started coming to these meetings, no one ever told her that receiving the \$50 was illegal. She stated in 2008, legal counsel recommended the payment to the Board Members. She then questioned how the Board Members can be accused that it is illegal.

Director Cruz stated that he was not present in 2008 when the Board voted in favor to compensate Board Members for attending committee meetings.

District Counsel clarified that a Board Member can get compensated for attending a committee meeting. In fact, compensation can be up to \$100. He stated that in order for it to be considered a service day, the committee meeting needs to be held in accordance with the Brown Act. In other words, there needs to be an agenda and it must be posted and the public is allowed to participate.

Director Sanchez stated that he had noticed around his third meeting that Board Members were compensated for committee meetings. He stated that he explained that it was a

violation of the Brown Act because there needs to be quorum, post an agenda and then hold the committee meeting with 3, 5, 4, or 6 people and then you are allowed to receive compensation. Two members is not an agenda.

Legal Counsel clarified Director Sanchez' statement that the Board doesn't need to have a majority of the Board present to have a committee meeting. He explained that a committee can be just two Board Members, it just has to be posted and held in accordance with the Brown Act.

Motion to approve continuing to have committee meetings when needed and conducting those meetings subject to the Brown Act.

First Motion—Director Sanchez

Second Motion—Director Gonzalez

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5-0

- G. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration and possible approval of a scope and budget received from McFaddin Endangered Species Assessments to perform "census trapping" of Tipton Kangaroo Rats as required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on District parcel APN 185-350-55 prior to beginning construction on Plan B for effluent disposal in the amount of \$7,812; **General Manager, Nick Turner**

The General Manager stated that on March 30, 2015, the Board approved the execution of an agreement with McFadden Endangered Species Assessments (MESA) to perform the necessary preconstruction biological survey activities on the District's 160 acres of fallow ground, which will be converted to viable farmland as part of the District's 'Plan B' for effluent disposal. Included in that scope of services provided by MESA back in March 2015, but not yet approved by the Board of Directors, is a task item to perform 'census trapping' of endangered species, if determined necessary by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). According to recent conversations with CDFW, census trapping is required to estimate the quantity of Tipton Kangaroo Rats that may be present on the property. Once the trapping has been performed and MESA has provided CDFW with their estimate of the population, CDFW will determine what action(s), if any, related to the presence of the endangered species are required of the District prior to disturbing the ground. Possible actions could range from trapping and relocating the Tipton Kangaroo Rats to the approval of 'take'. McFadden Endangered Species Assessments proposed fee to complete the 'census trapping', as submitted to the District in March, 2015, is \$7,812. Staff recommended approving the budget to perform census trapping and authorizing MESA to begin work.

Director Sanchez asked what is the proposed time frame for the trapping and if Tipton Kangaroo Rats are found how does that effect the District moving forward with Plan B. The General Manager explained that both CDFW and the District's biologist are confident that Tipton Kangaroo Rats are present and this is the reason the census trapping is being required. The General Manager stated that the trapping is a four day long process. He stated that getting a response from CDFW is the unknown. MESA anticipates receiving direction from CDFW within 30 days.

Motion to scope and budget received from McFaddin Endangered Species Assessments to perform “census trapping” of Tipton Kangaroo Rats as required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on District parcel APN 185-350-55

First Motion–Director Cruz

Second Motion–Director Hernandez

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5-0

H. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration and possible approval of a temporary assignment for the Water System Supervisor; **General Manager, Nick Turner**

The General Manager stated that the District has recently had two employees leave the District, one of which was the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor. As a result, the District only has one employee, Rolando Marquez, which possess the required Grade II Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certification, or is currently certified to operate the WWTP. Therefore, Mr. Marquez has been temporarily designated as the Certified Plant Operator (CPO) at the Regional Water Quality Control level. The District will be operating under both Mr. Marquez' water system and wastewater system certifications, therefore doubling his responsibility and work load. Staff is recommending that Mr. Marquez be temporarily compensated for this increased duties via a 10% temporary salary increase. The increase would only remain in place until a replacement is hired, which is anticipated to take one to three months depending on how quickly the new hire can begin work. The District is currently accepting applications for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor position. Once a Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor is hired, he or she will be designated as the CPO.

Director Sanchez asked what the total amount of the increased pay? The General Manager stated \$625/month pretax.

Director Prado stated that this is a good idea.

Motion to approve of a temporary assignment for the Water System Supervisor including a 10% pay increase until the WWTP Supervisor position is permanently filled.

First Motion–Director Cruz

Second Motion–Director Hernandez

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5-0

I. Information Only: Update from Community Water Center regarding water projects and upcoming opportunities; **General Manager, Nick Turner**

Ryan Jensen and Gerardo Tinoco from Community Water Center were present to discuss water projects and upcoming opportunities.

Mr. Jensen explained that Community Water Center is hosting a drinking water workshop in Lamont at the David Head Center on Saturday, September 12th, 9:30am to 12:30pm. He requests an RSVP.

No motion. Information Only.

- J. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration and possible approval of Board requested District staffing reorganization; **Director Sanchez**

Director Sanchez stated that he would like to know what the recommendation is of the administration in regard to hiring a CPA/HR. He stated that we approved the job description and asked when are we going to move forward by hiring the qualify personnel for the District to do the accounting.

The General Manager stated that he has not had the time over the last month or two to make any progress on this item and primarily due to the annual budget and now the audit.

The General Manager suggested setting up a committee meeting to discuss this item.

Director Prado supported the idea suggesting that Director Cruz and she be the committee members, to look at the options and see what other Districts are doing.

Director Sanchez recommends moving forward to hopefully hire a qualified person for the job. The District cannot afford to continue to pay so much money only because he don't have the right and qualified personnel for doing the job that the District requires.

Director Gonzalez stated the Mr. Sanchez is right.

Director Sanchez requested that Staff bring back to the Board a salary range for this new a CPA/HR position so that the Board has a salary to base their decision on.

The Board discussed who should be on the committee. The Board opted to discuss this item as a regular agenda item at a board meeting.

No Motion

- K. Report and Possible Minute Action: Authorization for Board President to execute the *Request for Obligation of Funds* and *Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions* for the Fairfax Road Emergency Water Supply Project; **General Manager, Nick Turner**

The General Manager stated that Staff received an email late Wednesday, August 19, 2015, from USDA confirming that USDA had reviewed and approved the grant application submitted by the District for the Fairfax Road Emergency Water Supply Project. Before drafting the official funding agreement, USDA is requesting that the District sign and return several documents accepting the grant funding at a preliminary level. The official funding agreement will be brought before the Board for review and approval once it is received.

Motion to authorize for Board President to execute the *Request for Obligation of Funds* and *Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions* documents for the Fairfax Road Emergency Water Supply Project

First Motion–Director Sanchez

Second Motion–Director Cruz

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5-0

Report on Closed Session

A. Potential initiation of litigation; Government Code §54956.9 (d)1

Information was provided and by unanimous consent, direction was given.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Director Cruz and seconded by Director Gonzalez to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lamont Public Utility District, held on Monday, August 24, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Approved. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

ATTEST:

x 

Leticia Prado, Board President
Lamont Public Utility District

x 

Nicholas Turner, Board Secretary/General Manager
Lamont Public Utility District