

# LAMONT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Location:

District Office

8624 Segreue Road

Lamont CA, 93241

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

- a. Board President Jose Cruz called to order the regular board meeting at 6:02 pm on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at the office of the Lamont Public Utility District. All five board members were present upon the swearing in of Timoteo Javier Prado as a Board appointee. Staff present included General Manager/District Secretary Scott Taylor and District counsel Doug Gosling.

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by President Cruz.

## 3. Board Member Announcements - None

## 4. Public Comment –

- a. Jose Gonzalez – Lamont Chamber of Commerce & Southeast Research Committee for School Unification
  - i. Spoke on behalf of a group interested in unifying Lamont and Vineland School Districts.
  - ii. Provided information regarding the desire to unify school district in order to obtain a high school in Lamont.
  - iii. Informed the Board that a resolution is necessary from a government agency to facilitate the potential unification.
  - iv. Requested support and a future resolution from the LPUD Board for unification and ultimately a high school in Lamont.
  - v. Mr. Gonzalez also announced a Back to School drive where the Chamber of Commerce is collecting and distributing school supplies to the children in the area.
- b. An unidentified woman spoke in support of the unification and in support of LPUD providing the resolution.
- c. Deanna Mireles – Spoke in support of the unification and high school. Requested LPUD Board support.
- d. Leticia Prado –
  - i. Ms. Prado stated she appreciated the Board translating her resignation letter from Spanish to English. Further Prado agreed and confessed she was part of the corruption she alleged in her letter of resignation while she was on the Board.
  - ii. Prado stated she can accept she is corrupt and that Director Sanchez's brother paid to have a water line installed. Stated the only one that benefitted from the water line is Director

Sanchez. Ms. Prado continued to comment about a 10% late fee that has already litigated and ruled on by the Kern County Superior Court.

- iii. Ms. Prado stated she has documents and proof of the corruption allegations she stated in her letter of resignation from the Board.
- iv. Ms. Prado further commented the unification of school districts and for transparency in decision making.

e. Director Sanchez –

- i. Director Sanchez stated the letter of resignation was translated because it has legal precedents and ramifications. Dir. Sanchez stated he has never opposed the translation of a document.
- ii. Director Sanchez commented that Ms. Prado does not understand how the District works. He stated all documents are public information and are available to the public.
- iii. Director Sanchez stated corruption occurred when Ms. Prado was a director prior to Sanchez being elected to the Board. He stated Ms. Prado opposed forensic audits.
- iv. Director Sanchez stated Ms. Prado lacks credibility and responsibility.
- v. Director Sanchez stated Ms. Prado resigned from LPUD because of a conflict of interest in sitting on two boards as incompatible offices, not because of false allegations of corruption.

f. Maria Hernandez –

- i. Ms. Hernandez stated the pipe was for Dir. Sanchez's business.
- ii. Ms. Hernandez stated Dir. Sanchez was wrong about the court case.

g. Stanley McFarland –

- i. Commented about the reconnection fee due to water disconnection for non-payment.
- ii. Stated he was in the hospital during that time and was not able to make the payment.
- iii. Mr. McFarland stated his water is back on but he did not like the reconnection fee.
- iv. Board suggested Mr. McFarland contact District staff to discuss the matter.

h. Ms. Rodriguez –

- i. Ms. Rodriguez spoke in support of unifying school districts and establishing a high school within Lamont.

i. Robert Uransi –

- i. Mr. Uransi commented that the area of Lamont should incorporate into a city before seeking a high school. He further stated that the issue of unification and a high school has nothing to do with the water district. He said schools are not part of water or sewer and LPUD should not be involved in that process.

j. Jesus Oroso –

- i. Mr. Oroso commented on the increased water rates. He stated salaries are lower in Lamont and thus the water should be less.

- k. Director Gonzalez – Commented that rates increased due to increased regulations by the State of California and the increased costs of treating water.

- l. Gregoria Elante - Commented in support of the construction of a Lamont High School.
- m. Annabelle Rubio –
  - i. Commented that Lamont PUD has its own business which is water, not schools or educating children.
  - ii. Ms. Rubio spoke against LPUD involvement in unification or a high school.
- n. Director Javier Prado – Commented that the issue of high schools is for school districts not for water districts. He stated that the community should replace their school board members if they are not building a high school, but a high school is not part of a water district operation.
- o. Director Sanchez – explained the increased State regulations, the rate study and that LPUD only charges what it takes to comply with laws and operate the District.
- p. Maria Hernandez – requested copy of Ms. Prado’s English translated resignation letter.
  - i. Director Alonso commented on SB 200 offering grant funds to disadvantaged communities.

#### **5. Staff Announcements – Information Only**

- a. GM Taylor commented on District seeking a grant for sludge removal at the waste water plant. Process is on-going.
- b. GM Taylor informed the Board that the new District vehicles were obtained and placed into service.
- c. District Counsel commented on continued work on SGMA related matters.

#### **6. Consent Agenda**

- a. Director Sanchez motioned for approval of consent calendar as presented. Seconded by Director Alonso. Approved 5-0.

#### **7. Regular Agenda**

##### **A. Board Authorized General Manager to Enter into MOU with Kern River GSA.**

- i. General Manager provided information to Board regarding the progress of joining a pre-established ground water sustainability agency as required by SGMA regulations. Board previously informed and approved the joining of Kern River Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“KRGSA”). KRGSA approved acceptance of LPUD. MOU is the final document that finalizes the joining of LPUD to KRGSA.
- ii. Board members made inquiries and provided comments of understanding and necessity to execute MOU.
- iii. Director Gonzalez motioned to authorize General Manager to execute MOU with KRGSA. Seconded by Director Sanchez. Approved 5-0.

##### **B. Board Signing of Signature Cards for Transition to Citizens Business Bank.**

- i. General Manager provided information regarding the requirement for the Board to provide information necessary to begin the transition process to Citizens Business Bank.
- ii. Board members were required to fill out particular bank required forms.
- iii. Director Sanchez motioned to complete the forms to begin the transition process. Seconded by Director Alonso. Approved 5-0.

C. Discussion and Review of LPUD Proposed Vehicle Maintenance Program.

- i. General Manager provided information regarding the implementation and review of a draft formalized vehicle maintenance program to protect and preserve the newly purchased District vehicles.
- ii. Board members made inquiries and comments regarding the program.
- iii. Board requested this item be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion.
- iv. No action required from Board.

D. Information Provided to the Board Regarding the Status of the Temporary TCP Treatment Systems for the District.

- i. General Manager provided information regarding the status of the temporary TCP treatment systems previously approved by the Board. General Manager stated the systems are currently being built and the District anticipates delivery and installation in February 2020.
- ii. General Manager also provided information relative to the site improvement bid process that will occur prior to taking delivery of the systems.
- iii. Board members made brief inquiries and commented they were pleased to know LPUD will be in compliance with TCP in a timely manner.
- iv. No action required from Board.

E. Information Provided to the Board Regarding the Status of Completion of Harassment and Ethics Training.

- i. General Manager reminded the Board of the requirement to participate in harassment and ethics training.
- ii. General Manager requested the Board to provide him with copies of the certificates upon completion of the training.
- iii. No action required from Board.

2. Closed Session Report Out

- A. No reportable items from closed session.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Director Sanchez and seconded by Director Alonso to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lamont Public Utility District, held on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 8:55pm. Approved. 5-0.

ATTEST:

X Jose Cruz  
Jose Cruz, President of the Board

X Scott Taylor  
Scott Taylor, Secretary/General Manager