

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 8, 2019

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President LaMar on August 8, 2019 at the Irvine Ranch Water District's Operations Center, 3512 Michelson, Irvine, California.

Directors Present: Reinhart, Matheis, Withers, and LaMar.

Directors Absent: Swan.

Also Present: General Manager Cook, Executive Director of Finance and Administration Clary, Executive Director of Technical Services Burton, Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst, Executive Director of Operations Chambers, Director of Public Affairs Beeman, Director of Human Resources Roney, General Counsel Collins, Director of Water Operations Zepeda, Director of Water Quality and Regulatory Compliance Colston, Director of Water Operations Roberts, Director of Treasury and Risk Management Jacobson, Director of Water Resources Sanchez, Director of Maintenance Mykitta, Director of Administration Services Mossbarger, Secretary Bonkowski, Principle Engineer Mori, members of Fiona Hutton and Associates, and Mr. Richard Bernard of Fairbank, Maslin, Metz and Associates.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

General Manager Cook reviewed the agenda items.

REVIEW OF UPDATED 2019 IRWD GOALS AND TARGET ACTIVITIES LIST

General Manager Cook reported that the foundational documents, the IRWD Mission, Vision and Values Statement and the IRWD Strategic Objectives are provided in the agenda package and asked if the Board wished to discuss or make recommendations for refining these documents. The Board had no changes or recommendations. Mr. Cook reviewed the 2019 Goals and Target Activities list and said that the changes were noted in a track change format. Following discussion on several items, President LaMar thanked staff for all of their efforts on these projects.

SYPHON RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PUBLIC OUTREACH

Director of Public Affairs Beeman reported that in January 2018, the IRWD Board of Directors approved a Professional Services Agreement with Fiona Hutton and Associates (FHA) to develop and implement a public outreach program for the proposed Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project. Ms. Beeman said that a customer survey and several focus groups were completed that gauged customers' perception, awareness, and views on recycled water and the project. Mr. Richard Bernard of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz and Associates (FM3) presented the findings from the customer survey and focus groups. Representatives from FHA then reviewed the outreach activities to date, and community outreach training and preparations.

NEW WATER QUALITY REGULATIONS – POLY- AND PER-FLUORINATED ALKYL SUBSTANCES

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Jim Colston reviewed the new water quality regulations due to the presence of poly- and per-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment. Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) have announced important planned regulatory actions including the process for developing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and other important regulatory thresholds. Mr. Colston reviewed: 1) technical background explaining what PFAS are and where they are found; 2) details about the statewide investigation by DDW; 3) impacts from PFAS to the Orange County Groundwater Producers; 4) treatment solutions; 5) public outreach; 6) legislative and regulatory actions; and 7) regional solutions and next steps.

Mr. Colston said that in March 2019 DDW initiated a statewide investigation of PFAS in drinking water including the identification of sources. Orange County Water District, on behalf of the Orange County Groundwater Producers, began testing of drinking water wells throughout the basin that DDW had identified as known or suspected to contain PFAS. Nine of the Producers, including IRWD, have wells with detectable levels of PFAS. He said that of the 51 tested wells, two of the wells exceed the response level of 70 ppt. He said that if DDW-proposed response levels are adopted, 71 of 200 wells in Orange County would exceed the level which would equate to a loss of 100,000 acre-feet, and cost \$50 million in imported water annually. He said that wellhead treatment costs are estimated at \$200 million. He further reviewed the OCWD response.

Principle Engineer Mori reviewed the treatment solutions and Director Beeman reviewed IRWD's public outreach on this issue with the most important message being that IRWD's drinking water does not contain PFAS.

CLOSED SESSION

Legal Counsel Collins said that a Closed Session would be held as follows:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). (One (1) potential case.)

OPEN SESSION

Following the Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened with Directors Withers, LaMar, Matheis and Reinhart present. Legal Counsel Collins stated that there were no actions taken in closed session that are required to be reported out under the provisions of the Brown Act.

IRWD EMERGENCY POWER CAPABILITIES

Mr. Rick Mykitta reported that IRWD's existing emergency generation systems are designed to provide back-up power during short-term (i.e., 24 hour maximum) power outages. During extended outages (up to three days), the ability to provide services becomes more dependent on resources beyond the District's capabilities. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Mykitta reviewed assumptions for an extended outage scenario where in order to continue services critical for human health and safety (specifically, potable water treatment / deliveries and sewage

collection / treatment) during an extended power outage, IRWD will need to rely substantially on the following: 1) Orange County Sanitation District's (OCSD) system to accept diverted sewage flows; 2) imported potable water supply from Metropolitan Water District; 3) diesel fuel supplies in storage; 4) natural gas from Southern California Gas Company; and 5) conservation efforts by IRWD customers. He said that to sustain the generation of electricity by IRWD emergency generators, a sufficient supply of fuel must be available to maintain uninterrupted service during extended power outages. Currently, the District has adequate diesel fuel storage capabilities to support operations for approximately 24 hours after which time fuel supplies must be replenished. An extended outage caused by an earthquake may also damage major transportation routes. He said to ensure the uninterrupted operation of IRWD facilities during long-term power outages, staff recommends: 1) developing a plan to sustain IRWD operations for three days; 2) performing an engineering evaluation; and 3) including project(s) in the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Capital Budget. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to develop a plan to sustain IRWD operations for the targeted extended outage period under the assumed conditions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President LaMar adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 26th day of August, 2019.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

Secretary IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Claire Hervey Collins, Legal Counsel
Lewis Brisbois