



**MINUTES
JOINT REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE AND
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018
8:30 AM**

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Lisa Herman	Committee Chairman
Carol Lee Brady	Committee Member
Angel Garcia	Committee Member
Danny Martin	Committee Alternate
Bennett Drake	President (Absent)
Bill Wilson	Sr. Vice President
William Plummer	Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:

General Manager Jeff Armstrong, Assistant General Manager-CFO/Treasurer Rick Aragon, Assistant General Manager-Engineering & Operations Eva Plajzer, Director of Administration Jason Martin, Director of Human Resources Eileen Dienzo, Chief Engineer Andrew Webster, Water Operations Manager Rich Ottolini, Public Affairs Manager Meggan Valencia, Water Resource Manager Jeff Kirshberg, Deputy District Secretary/Administrative Services Supervisor Denise Todd, Public Information Specialist Grace Cardenas, Senior Water Resources Planner Justin Haessly, and Sr. Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary Milin Ream.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Herman entertained a motion to approve the Agenda of the regular meeting of the Planning and Administration Committee of the Rancho California Water District of March 15, 2018, as presented.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Brady and seconded by Chairman Herman to approve the agenda as presented, and it carried as follows:

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Carol Lee Brady, Committee Member
SECONDER: Lisa Herman, Committee Chairman
AYES: Lisa Herman, Carol Lee Brady, Angel Garcia

PUBLIC COMMENT

An opportunity was given for any person to address the Planning and Administration Committee (Committee) upon any subject not identified on the Agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Rancho California Water District. For items not listed on the agenda, the Brown Act imposes limitations on what the Committee may do during public comment. As to matters on the Agenda, persons will be given an opportunity to address the Committee when the matter is considered.

There was no public comment.

Item 1. Consider Revisions to CropSWAP Program Framework

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Senior Water Resources Planner Justin Haessly addressed the Planning and Administration Committee (Committee), to report on staff's recommended modifications to Rancho California Water District's (RCWD/District) CropSWAP Program (Program).

Mr. Haessly reported that in the past, RCWD forwent revisions in order to focus on Program marketing efforts. He shared that over the course of the last few months, staff has marketed the Program with the most recent efforts focused as follows:

- Completed a Video Advertisement;
- Collaborated with Local Realtors;
- Targeted Recently Purchased Agriculture Properties; and
- Developed an Updated Brochure.

Continuing, Mr. Haessly conveyed that despite staff's marketing efforts, the Program is still lacking participation due to the strict eligibility requirements. He advised that the main reasons for customer ineligibility is history of water usage and converted area size requirements.

With regard to timing requirements, Mr. Haessly explained that the District is approximately one-third of the way finished with completing the Program, as per the terms of the Grant Agreements it executed with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Department of Water Resources. Since it appears that Program participation has not increased despite aggressive marketing, Mr. Haessly reported that staff recommends modifying the Program as follows:

- Property Requirements: Reduction of crop requirement conversion from three acres to two acres.
- Existing Crop: Modifying the requirement for sites to have been irrigated substantially during the 12 months prior application submittal to provide more flexibility in approving crop replacement projects.

At this time, discussion ensued between the Committee and staff regarding farrow land and irrigation, savings on different crop conversions, participation agreement commitments, and USBR follow-up reporting.

MOTION: Director Brady moved staff's recommendation to the Board of Directors to consider modifications to RCWD's Program framework related to customer eligibility requirements and further directed staff to develop and incorporate "Guidelines" for program flexibility and dealing with applications on a case-by-case basis. Director Garcia seconded the motion, and it carried as follows:

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Carol Lee Brady, Committee Member

SECONDER: Angel Garcia, Committee Member

AYES: Lisa Herman, Carol Lee Brady, Angel Garcia

Item 2. Update on Conservation Efforts

Addressing the Planning and Administration Committee (Committee), Senior Water Resources Planner Justin Haessly provided a brief update on Rancho California Water District's (District) current efforts with the Turf Replacement Program (Program).

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Haessly briefly highlighted progress on the Program in relation to both completed projects and those currently in progress.

Continuing, Mr. Haessly illustrated some photos of some completed Turf Replacement Program projects at the Paloma Del Sol and Colony Homeowners' Associations, and shared the following:

- Measured Water Savings
 - 50-70 acre-feet per year
 - \$750-\$1,000 per acre-feet (20 Year Project Life)
- Immeasurable Benefits
 - Multiplier Effect (demonstrates ideas/water savings for others to do the same)

There being no further comments or questions, Chairman Herman moved on to the next order of business.

Item 3. Update on Outreach and Educational Efforts

Presented for the Planning and Administration Committee's (Committee) information was a written report, submitted by Public Affairs Manager Meggan Valencia, regarding status updates on Rancho California Water District's (RCWD/District) outreach and educational programs.

Providing a verbal update, Ms. Valencia briefly discussed staff's efforts in relation to: the Agricultural (Ag) Water Summit, impending Ag/Farm Managers' meeting, emergency response/public relations drill with the City of Temecula and neighboring

agencies, and continual endeavors in messaging and education outreach concerning water conservation issues.

Following review, Chairman Herman moved on to the next order of business.

Item 4. Update on State Legislative and Federal Lobbying Activities

Addressing the Planning and Administration Committee (Committee), Public Affairs Manager Meggan Valencia provided a brief verbal update on her recent attendance at the Association of California Water Agencies Legislative Symposium and meetings with local constituents regarding state legislation and federal lobbying activities.

Not included in the written report, Ms. Valencia briefly discussed the upcoming State of the City Address titled "Temecula Safe," as well as provide an update regarding the Water Tax (Monning).

Following review and discussion, Chairman Herman moved on to the next order of business.

Item 5. Presentation on Human Resources Activities

Submitted for the Planning and Administration Committee's (Committee) review and information was Rancho California Water District's (District) Human Resources Activities report for the period of February 9, 2018 through March 8, 2018 issued by Director of Human Resources Eileen Dienzo.

There being no comments or questions from the Committee, Chairman Herman proceeded to adjournment.

Item 6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.