

RANCHO MURIETA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
June 27, 2007 – 8:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Board President Wayne Kuntz called the special meeting of the Board of Directors of Rancho Murieta Community Services District to order at 8:30 a.m. in the District Board Room, 15160 Jackson Road, Rancho Murieta. Directors present were Wayne Kuntz, Bobbi Belton, Bob Kjome and Gerry Pasek. Also present were Ed Crouse, General Manager; Greg Remson, Security Chief; Les Tyler, Director of Administration; Paul Siebensohn, Treatment Plant Supervisor; and Suzanne Lindenfeld, Recording Secretary. Director Taylor arrived at 8:31 a.m.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Brad Sample commented on comments made regarding his absence from the June 25, 2007 Special Board meeting, documents submitted to the Regional Board, Sacramento County and Ranchomurieta.com, which CSD responded to, and articles/letter to Ranchomurieta.com. Director Pasek asked if any of the violations mentioned were serious or more technical. Brad stated the Regional Board dictates through your waste discharge requirements (WDR) what regulations you must comply with. The Regional Board conducts inspections and staff submits monthly reports.

Ted Hart commented on the previous Board's denial of knowing anything was wrong and asked the current Board to begin an investigation into who is responsible for the \$200,000 fine.

Janice Eckard commented on a letter from Ed Crouse to the Regional Board, dated October 28, 2005, her integrity has been impugned in the community, John Merchant and Ed Crouse going to the County to push for development which is illegal under the Brown Act, the Integrated Water Master Plan, and hiring a private consultant to review the Integrated Water Master Plan.

Candy Chand commented on Brad Sample's presentation to Sacramento County, article from Ranchomurieta.com October 3, 2004, comment from John Merchant, former CSD Board President, letter from Brad to Ranchomurieta.com and the response from CSD, the Regional Board rejecting the settlement offer from CSD, and comments made from the previous Board.

Al Swan asked if the responses to questions asked at Monday's Board meeting will be posted, can the agenda be posted on the RMA website, have the sewer and drains ever been vacuumed and inspected and if so when, and why wasn't sludge hauled away on a regular basis. Mr. Swan also commented on the comment made at the last meeting regarding Janice Eckard and that the person who made the comment owes Janice Eckard an apology.

Director Kjome commented on the Board calling for an independent audit of CSD operations. Director Belton stated it should be an entire plant audit. Director Kjome agreed and stated that Ed Crouse was an instrument of the previous Board and this Board plans to get him proper support so he can do his job.

Liz Swan commented on the difficulty coming to the meets can be, Director Taylor owing Janice Eckard and Brad Sample an apology and how the community would like better communication from CSD.

President Kuntz stated that the Board appreciates everyone coming to the meeting and there is no problem with bringing children.

John Sullivan stated it would be nice to know what the recommended solutions are before continuing the dialogue.

Director Taylor stated that he did know if this would be accepted as an apology but commented on the intent of the observations made. Director Taylor stated that the context in which he made his presentation was questionable. Director Taylor stated that his observation was that Janice Eckard addressed something, which we were not here to consider, and then left.

Tracy Dunlop commented on Director Taylor's comment regarding how Brad Sample made his presentation. Tracy stated that it does not matter how information is presented but that the problem be taken care of.

Brad Sample stated that he has not come to the Board due to the minutes from the meetings are sanitized and that he presented his information in manners that cause something to happen. Mr. Sample has no confidence that the previous CSD Board or management would do anything but is here today hoping the new Board will do something.

Janice Eckard commented on the comments made at the last meeting, why she had to leave and that she is not against development.

Candy Chand commented on how sensitive an issue this has been for everyone, Mr. Sample's credentials and information presented, information Janice tried to present to the previous Board, the need for an outside expert to review the Integrated Water Master Plan, and the need for an apology and thank you to Mr. Sample. Candy stated that she did not vote for Director but that she feels Director Belton is smart, honest, and will find the underlying cause of issues.

Jeannie LeBlanc commented on all the work that Candy, Brad and Janice have done, the residents hold the Board accountable, and that the residents are willing to help in solving the problems.

Al Swan stated that the whole thing could be settled if Director Taylor would just say that he made a mistake and apologize.

Carol Miler commented on the education of the residents and the Board, that the residents care about the drinking water and she will be advocating for more residents to come to more meetings.

3. NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR CONTINUED NUISANCE ODORS

Ed Crouse reported that he contacted the Regional Board to schedule a meeting for either late Monday or early Tuesday. The Regional Board staff was not available but gave direction on how to submit the action plan. As far as having the Regional Board resident expert on sludge management, they do not have one but they would defer to our expert, Dr. Richard Stowell from Eco:Logic Engineering, who is very well known in the community with over 30 years experience in pond systems. Dr. Stowell came out last week, gave recommendations on our operations, and has worked with staff on developing the action plan.

Staff has been maintaining a dissolve oxygen level in the ponds that are appropriate to biodegrade the incoming influent. Staff has been bringing out septic tank haulers to remove any floating scum and sludge from the corners and recirculating fresher water from one of the ponds. As of yesterday, Pond 1 is being bypassed to be sure that it is balanced, that water goes to Pond 3 where it is treated. Tertiary treated water has been added to help freshen the pond and move the influent that comes into Pond 1 into Pond 2 and maintained the water cap on top of the existing sludge, aerators have been operating to the maximum to maintain the dissolved oxygen. Staff is seeing a turn around in dissolved oxygen during the day because of the microbes that was put in over the weekend. That contractor is due out on Friday to evaluate the effectiveness of the initial application and to add more microbes if he feels more are necessary. We are getting Pond 1 stabilized and bringing it back to where it should be from an operational standpoint.

Liz Swan commented on a letter to Ranchomurieta.com from Jim Miller who stated that the aerators might need to be replaced. Paul Siebensohn stated that the aerators were rehabilitated last year and are working correctly at this time. Liz asked how old they are and how long they last. President Kuntz stated some new ones were installed within the last 2 years and should last as long as you keep up the maintenance on them.

Jeannie LeBlanc asked if the update that Ed is providing is going to be written down or just as a verbal. Ed Crouse stated that the recommendations would be in the report going to the Regional Board. Jeannie stated that the update being given needs to be written down, not just the recommendations. Ed Crouse stated that at the last Board meeting, CSD committed to providing weekly updates on our website. Director Belton stated that CSD is required to get a plan to the Regional Board by the close of business today. The plan includes recommendations and costs for immediate and long-term odor measures.

Director Belton stated that any person who leaves a meeting does not need to give a reason or rationale for their need to depart.

Director Pasek stated that at the Monday meeting he suggested an operational audit. An operational audit looks at not only what we have been doing but identifies what we should be doing given what we have.

NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR CONTINUED NUISANCE ODORS

a. Develop Plan of Action and Schedule for Sludge Removal

Ed Crouse stated that Dr. Richard Stohl, Eco:Logic, toured the facilities last Wednesday morning, made an initial recommendation to up the dissolved oxygen, which we did. Staff worked with Dr. Stohl and Harold Wellborn of Eco:Logic to develop the action plan.

Ed Crouse gave a summary of the action plan and schedule. The action plan included: Immediate-Near Term Odor Control Measures: a) operate the four aerators as needed to maintain the dissolved oxygen between 1 and 2.0 milligrams per liter; b) remove the floating scum and debris in Pond #1 and continue as needed; c) Contact local representatives of floating brush aerators as a field test to determine if they have a "loner/demonstration" unit that could be used on the level of Pond #1 to get some pond surface mixing and distribution of the incoming raw sewage to the four operating aerators; d) contact local representatives of specialized additives that can assist with reducing odor, but primarily to be used as a biological process to reduce sludge volume over time; e) add chlorine to influent shortly before it enters Pond #1 to reduce the odor in influent wastewater, and/or by altering the pump stations operation to maximize scour velocity in the influent force main; and f) dilute the influent wastewater organic concentration down by the introducing tertiary effluent into Pond #1 to help move that load into Pond #2 more quickly, if the previous recommended actions do not provide adequate odor control. A question and answer period followed.

Tiger Team Rapid Response Odor Control Measures - to be used if odor control and/or reduction is needed: a) contract with consulting engineer or operations expert to field review operations and provide operations advice to control odors and/or sludge maintenance; and b) immediate sludge removal of up to 33% of volume to provide additional water cap and to reduce organic loading should near term odor measures prove unsuccessful. A question and answer period followed.

Long Term Odor Control Measures: a) remove the sludge from Ponds #1 and 2 selectively and in problem areas; b) review and implement updated routine and preventative maintenance practices to prevent excessive sludge buildup in the future; c) install at least one brush aerator in each of the treatment ponds to gently mix the contents of the ponds so as to reduce hydraulic short-circuiting and to improve the oxygen transfer efficiency of the existing aerators, if field tests validate ability to produce desired results; d) install headworks to include a fine influent screen and a bar screen to increase the efficiency and reliability of the existing aerators; e) install piping to allow ponds #1 and 2

to be taken out of service for maintenance; f) plant an air drift barrier between the WWRP ponds and the District offices. A question and answer period followed. The headworks installation will be on the July 6, 2007 Special Board meeting.

Director Taylor apologized to Janice Eckard, Brad Sample and the community for stating his observations from the Board, but he is entitled to his own personal opinion.

Director Pasek recommended bringing in an arborist to define what should be done, which trees and how many. Ed Crouse stated that plantings are not odor control but mitigation that helps. President Kuntz suggested contacting the Tree Foundation.

Director Kjome stated that in the response to the Regional Board, we need to state what we are doing, what we will do and, if that is not working, what we will then do and include long range goals.

Director Pasek asked that the operations audit be placed on the July 25, 2007 Regular Board meeting agenda. Director Pasek will work with Director Kjome on a statement of work so by July 25, 2007, the Board can decide to proceed with obtaining bids for an operations audit.

John Sullivan commented on adding chlorine in the ponds, purchase of a vector truck, contracting for sludge removal, developing a sludge removal process, monitoring ponds 24 hours a day, operating procedures and built-in safety mechanisms, and that an operational audit needs to be conducted.

Director Pasek asked John Sullivan to assist in putting together the statement of work for the audit. John Sullivan stated yes. Director Belton suggested the Board meet with residents to discuss what steps should be taken. John Sullivan stated a workshop at the initial part of putting together an operational audit is a good idea. Director Pasek asked if forming a committee to develop the operations audit statement, falls under the Brown Act. Steve Rudolph, District Counsel, stated that if it is an ad hoc committee with only two Directors it does not fall under the Brown Act. Ed Crouse stated that under District Code Chapter 2, to form an ad hoc committee, the President has to form the committee and nominate the people for a specific time and a specific purpose. If you want to do it informally, as two Board members getting together informally with residents, you can do that without forming an ad hoc committee.

b. Develop Plan of Action and Schedule for Public Outreach

Ed Crouse reviewed the plan of action for public outreach discussed at the last meeting, which includes weekly updates on our website and forwarded to Ranchomurieta.com and River Valley Times; a community letter to go out and updates as needed, continue to hold Special Board meetings, and have reports back at Regular Board meetings. For emergency notices, messages will be put on Channel 5; hand delivered to residents in areas affected, and bill inserts for updates. On the customer service side, the procedure at the south gate has been changed so that calls received after hours are referred to the front desk from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If a general complaint, take name, contact phone number, and refer to appropriate party in the morning, but for true emergencies they immediately call the on-call operator. The south gate will also help in monitoring odors on a daily basis.

President Kuntz stated that when a resident calls after hours, a return call should be made the next working day notifying the resident what was done.

Director Belton suggested staff consider flexing the lunch hours and rotating phone coverage. Director Belton also suggested dedicating a telephone line to only severe odor calls. Director Pasek suggested when an odor complaint comes in after hours, a Patrol Officer to out to the location, complete a standard form, and note the extent of the odor. Director Kjome suggested creating a log for odor calls.

Ed Crouse stated staff would look at the phone numbers and identify a hot line, develop an on-line complaint/contact form and develop an outreach plan. John Sullivan suggested getting interested residents' email addresses to do a mass emailing of any CSD alerts.

Ed Crouse stated that regarding agenda item 3c - Authorize Emergency Expenditures for Sludge Removal and agenda item 3d -Authorize Emergency Expenditures for Public Outreach, we are using the operating budget for the nominal expenses on a weekly basis. For the large items, we have identified using money from our reserves.

Brad Sample commented on the general action, setting up remote monitors within the plant and ponds, Security responding to odor complaints, standard form on website for complaints, and email alerts.

4. DIRECTOR COMMENTS/SUGGESTION

Director Belton thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and feels that the Board is beginning to gain some community trust and support. Director Belton suggested having the Regional Board come out to make a presentation to the Board and residents.

Director Pasek stated that future discussions will take place regarding where funding for these projects will come from.

Director Kjome asked if the new Director of Operations will still coming next month. Ed Crouse stated that they are still in negotiations.

Ted Hart asked the Board to consider having Board meetings at 7:00 p.m. so residents can attend.

President Kuntz thanked everyone for coming today.

Candy Chand stated she appreciates the reception from the Board and General Manager; it was refreshing and open and thanked everyone.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Belton to adjourn at 11:22 a.m. **Second/Pasek. Ayes: Kuntz, Taylor, Belton, Kjome and Pasek.**

Respectfully submitted,


Suzanne Lindenfeld
Recording Secretary


Edward R. Crouse
District Secretary