

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 17, 2021  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Tom Hennig, General Manager  
**Subject:** General Manager's Report

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### **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to unfold, the District has responded to the pandemic in several ways. District offices continue to be closed to the public in response to COVID-19 as a best practice. The latest Sacramento County Health directive issued March 16, 2021, has moved Sacramento County from the purple tier to the red tier and allows some indoor businesses to resume with modifications. The order remains in effect until rescinded or amended by County Health Officials. We have the infrastructure in place to reopen to the public as soon as it is allowed.

As the County has moved to a less restrictive tier, we will coordinate with the Board on converting back to live meetings. There have been discussions related to continuing the Committee Meetings on Zoom going forward regardless of County guidelines. During the pandemic, we have seen greater public participation on the Committee Meetings via Zoom than before. This has improved our transparency which is something we would like to continue.

Under the recent vaccine protocol changes, our utility workers are now eligible to receive the vaccine and have been encouraged to do so. We look forward to the time when all staff will be eligible.

### **LAGUNA JOAQUIN UPDATE**

We received a letter from the RMA GM, February 17, 2021. A staff report has been included in tonight's meeting which details the District's position re: Laguna Joaquin. As an addendum to that item, I would like to report on the actions approved by the RMA board last night, 3/16/2021. This includes their approval and commitment to treating Laguna Joaquin for midge flies on a prescriptive cycle with BTi bacteria this summer. They have also approved the implementation of additional air diffusers/bubblers to improve on the basin's oxygen level, which, according to their research, is also expected to lessen the midge fly problem.

### **OUTREACH/ADVOCACY**

**CSD/MVA (Murieta Village)** – Cameras have been installed at the entrance of the Village. The cameras face the entrances to the Village and both directions of Murieta Drive near the entrance of the Village. Video footage has already proven useful in the identification of a vehicle that

caused damage to Village property. The violator was identified and restitution has been agreed upon. While the cameras are not monitored live, footage is available for review by CSD staff.

The timing of potential roadwork within the Village has been discussed, including how we would coordinate the timing of work on the water delivery system with their schedule. The Village currently has no tentative dates for this roadwork.

**CSD/RMA**– During the past month, I have met several times with the RMA GM on issues related to Laguna Joaquin and security. The Laguna Joaquin discussions are detailed in a later staff report. Security discussions are on-going and productive as our interim security Chief is working directly with the RMA compliance committee.

#### **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DROUGHT WATCH**

Regional Water Authority sponsored a Regional Drought Coordination Planning web meeting on Wednesday, March 3. This meeting was attended by more than 50 water managers. At this point in time, we are confident the water supply coming down the Cosumnes will maintain sufficient flow to fill our three reservoirs this year.

**Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA)** – I attended the regular meeting on March 10, 2021. This group continues to discuss their options for charging local agencies and groundwater users. This same discussion is taking place at the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District. Paul or I will continue to attend the meetings and report to the Board as these plans develop. There was a lengthy discussion related to consolidating SCGA with the Regional Water Authority. We will update this item as the plans progress.

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) Board Meeting** – I attended the regular meeting on March 10, 2021. This group continues to discuss their options for charging local agencies and groundwater users. This same discussion is taking place at the Sac Central Groundwater Authority. This group spent a few minutes discussing the possibility of forming a JPA in the future that will allow for a different mechanism for charging fees to those parcels within their area of influence. Paul or I will continue to attend the meetings and report to the Board as these plans develop.

**Regional Water Authority (RWA) Regular Board Meeting** – Paul Siebensohn will be attending virtual meetings when scheduled.

#### **OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**Security Opinion Survey** – Director Pohll and I met with Tim McLarney, True North Research, to discuss our plans for conducting the opinion survey. We have identified the following initial steps for this project. I anticipate posting a schedule for the workgroups within a few weeks. The basic format for the workgroups will be to include voters from the various neighborhoods in each working group. The agenda will be structured in the following manner.

1. Introductions & Process Review.
2. Provide an overview of the Security in CSD and Measure J. Show the revenue over time, then the expenditures over time being well in excess. Note the points at which the service levels were enhanced, then cut back.
3. What levels of service do they think we should go with – what are the needs?
  - a. Option 1: Cut back services further to live within Measure J funding.
  - b. Option 2: Fill the current schedule with approximate per month increase.
  - c. Option 3: Restore cuts, include two gate and/or patrol officers for specific shifts and events with approximate per month increase.
  - d. Option 4: To Be Determined through the working group process
4. Determine survey methodology and develop questionnaire design. The goal will be to and determine if a new voter measure meeting the needs defined by the workgroups would be likely to pass with a two-thirds vote.

This process will be refined as we prepare to schedule the workgroup meetings.

**Activities related to the Mellow Roos Bond - CFD 2014-1** – While evaluating the receipts and payments related to this bond, we discovered issues with the management of the various accounts. District Finance staff is in the process of completing an audit of the entire CFD 2014-01/Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project. This work involves compiling data and documents generated from 2013 to the current date. Meetings to begin to resolve these issues have not had the chance to begin due to staffing issues. Once they do, I will provide regular updates to the Finance Committee.

**Joint Security Committee Meeting** – We are working on scheduling the next meeting.

**Reserve Study** – We are mid-way through the reserve study. We anticipate a preliminary report to be available before we present reserve recommendations to the Board on March 30, 2021 when we present the proposed Prop 218 Budget notice. This will allow us to provide an estimated amount to be charged for water and sewer reserves in FY 21/22.

**General Staffing Update** – Over the past two months, I have received five Public Records Act (PRA) requests. Three of these requests are overly broad and have required significant staff time to address. In one instance, I have requested the District's legal counsel to intervene to narrow the scope of the request. This resulted in a reduction in the original request. However, the reduced request has resulted in 8,351 emails to review. We are planning to contact the requester a second time to determine if we can further narrow the scope of the request.

We are currently recruiting for the Accounting Supervisor and Controller positions. The Accounting Supervisor position has been open for over a month with only one viable candidate who has declined to accept our job offer. The Controller position will become vacant when Cindy Chao leaves the District on March 31, 2021. I am pleased to announce that an offer to fill the Director of Administration has been accepted, and we anticipate that the candidate will begin work on March 29, 2021. We are continuing to recruit to fill a Gate and Patrol Officer vacancy.

**Conference/Education Opportunities:**

**California Special Districts Association (CSDA)**

2021 SDRMA Spring Education Day	3/23/2021	Virtual
Prevailing Wage: Basics and Beyond	3/24 & 25/2021	Webinar
General Manager Leadership Summit	6/27/2021	Olympic Valley
2021 Special District Leadership Academy	9/26/2021	Lake Tahoe, CA

**Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)**

2021 Spring Conference & Exhibition	5/12 – 5/13/2021	Virtual
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**EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROMOTIONS, COMMENDATIONS, AND KUDOS:**

District Controller, Cindy Chao, is leaving the District. Her last day is March 31, 2021.

Gerald Ayers started with the District as a Patrol Officer. He began training yesterday.