

**RUBIDOUX COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 1, 2024**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bernard Murphy
F. Forest Trowbridge
Hank Trueba, Jr.
John Skerbelis

DIRECTORS VIA ZOOM: Armando Muniz

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Laddusaw, General Manager
Ted Beckwith, Director of Engineering
Kirk Hamblin, Director of Finance and Administration
Martha Perez, Customer Service/Accounts Payable
Manager
Melissa Trujillo, HR Generalist/Safety and Facilities
Coordinator

VISITORS (SIGNED IN): None

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rubidoux Community Services District by President Skerbelis, at 4:00 P.M., Thursday, August 1, 2024, in-person and by teleconferencing at the District's Administrative Office, 3590 Rubidoux Boulevard, Jurupa Valley, California.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – General Manager

ITEM 3. ROLL CALL – General Manager

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

ITEM 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes for July 18, 2024, Regular Meeting
- B. Consideration to Approve August 2, 2024, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers

- C. **DM 2024-62:** Receive and File Statement of Cash Asset Schedule Report Ending June 2024

ACTION:

Director Trueba moved, and Director Murphy seconded to approve the Consent Calendar:

Roll call:

Ayes – 5 (Murphy, Trueba, Skerbelis, Trowbridge, Muniz)

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried 5-0-0-0.

ITEM 6. CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED INFORMATION

GM Brian Laddusaw included News Release 40,000 Riverside County residents gain access to state water supply via new partnership. A new partnership between five water agencies gives Rubidoux Community Services District access to high-quality water to meet growing demand. Over the past 50 years, the population in RCSD, a Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) wholesale customer, has increased from 4,000 to 40,000. RCSD previously relied on only local groundwater and needed a new way to bolster water supplies to serve its growing community. Now, four water agencies have joined forces with RCSD to ensure they have enough safe, reliable drinking water for every customer. Through a new agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), San Bernardino Valley Water District (San Bernardino Valley), West Valley Water District (WVWD), and Western Water, up to 2,000-acre feet of water imported through the State Water Project will soon flow to RCSD Customers' taps every year.

ITEM 7. REPORTS

- A. Operations Report (Second Meeting Each Month)**
- B. Emergency and Incident Report (Second Meeting Each Month)**
- C. General Manager and Staff Reports / Updates**

GM Brian Laddusaw reminded the Board of Directors of the National Night Out event occurring on Tuesday, August 6th from 6pm-8pm at Vernola Park in Jurupa Valley. He also talked about the Board Installation and Community Awards Dinner on July 27th. Director Trueba and Director Skerbelis attended the event. Pictures of the event were displayed on the screen for all attending the Board meeting to view. GM Laddusaw also mentioned the City of Jurupa Valley Branding Project Feedback Survey. The City of Jurupa Valley is asking all residents to complete the survey located on their website <https://www.jurupavalley.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=403>. He also updated the Board with the giveaway updated pail numbers Director of Engineering Ted

Beckwith informed the Board of Directors about the grant the District received from Western Municipal Water District for the water conservation used for the Fire Station 38 landscape.

D. Committee Reports

No committee meetings were held.

ITEM 8. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS.

A. DM 2024-63: Consider Participation in the Santa Ana River Watershed Public Outreach Displays

BACKGROUND:

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (“SAWPA”) is a joint powers authority established in 1968 with the goal of ensuring comprehensive, sustainable, and long-term management of the Santa Ana River Watershed. This watershed spans approximately 2,840 square miles, encompassing parts of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The Santa Ana River itself is the largest river entirely within Southern California, stretching about 100 miles from the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

SAWPA collaborates with various stakeholders, including local governments, water agencies, and community organizations, to address critical issues such as water supply, water quality, flood control, and environmental conservation. The authority focused on integrated regional water management, promoting projects and initiatives that provide multiple benefits to the watershed and its inhabitants.

One of SAWPA’s key initiatives is public education and outreach, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of the watershed and the collective efforts required to protect and enhance it. Currently, SAWPA is offering display space on their informational displays along the Santa Ane River Watershed (Attachment 1). This initiative aims to educate the public about the watershed’s importance, conservation efforts, and the roles of various stakeholders.

The District is not on the current iteration of the watershed displays and participating in this effort would provide the District with prominent exposure to a broad audience, including local residents, tourists, and environmental enthusiasts. Further, this can provide an exciting opportunity for the District to demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship and community involvement. Lastly, this effort aligns with the goals of the District’s Strategic Communications Plan adopted by the Board of Directors (“Board”) on October 5, 2023 (Attachment 2).

The District has two options for participation:

- Option 1: Water agency listing – **\$1,960** – In this option, the District would be listed in the right-edge margin of the display, under ‘Water Agencies’. The District would be able to provide contact information and/or a small message.

Option 2: Large logo slot – **\$8,200** – In this option, the District would be listed at the bottom of the display and have its logo shown while also having the option of providing a generic map message.

Note: See examples of both options in Attachment 1.

SAWPA is looking to have sponsors secured in the next 2-3 months with the plan to install the new displays between December 2024 and March 2025. Once installed, the displays will remain in place for approximately 2 years in 75 locations including Rancho Jurupa Park and Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center. A full listing of the locations is included in Attachment 1. Further, although the display at Rancho Jurupa Park is currently within the District’s service area, the District could work with SAWPA on getting an additional display installed in the District at no additional cost.

Budget Considerations

This is a unique opportunity for the District to not only gain valuable exposure but also align itself with a respected authority dedicated to the long-term health and sustainability of the Santa Ana River Watershed. But since this prospect is new to the District, this effort was not budgeted for in the Fiscal Year 2024|2025 (“FY 24|25”) Water Fund Budget. Staff recommend the Board consider Option 1. To fund this display, the Board would need to adopt a budget amendment or authorize the use of existing budgeted monies not originally appropriated for this cause.

Because the District is only one-month into the new budget, staff is unable to determine if certain budgeted monies would have sufficient capacity at the end of the fiscal year to cover the cost of this effort and the normal operating costs of maintaining the water fund. Thus, staff recommends the Board approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$2,000 to fund the cost of Option 1. Administratively, this would require the increase of the FY 24|25 Water Fund Budget, line 61 ‘Miscellaneous Expense’ from \$1,000 to \$3,000, with the additional \$2,000 being funded from the Water Fund’s Unrestricted Operating Reserve, which is estimated to have an ending FY 24|25 balance of approximately \$4.4 million (Attachment 3). With a display commitment of at least 23 months, the \$1,960 display cost for Option 1 equates to about \$86 per month.

Although participation in the SAWPA displays is completely voluntary, this opportunity presents a valuable platform for the District to continue emphasizing its strategic goal of enhancing its public image and fostering strong community relations, in alignment with the District’s Strategic Communications Plan.

ACTION:

Director Skerbelis moved, and Director Trowbridge seconded to authorize the General Manager to:

1. Authorize the District’s participation and expenditure in the Santa Ana River Watershed Authority’s signage update opportunity under Option 1 in the amount of \$1,960.

2. Amend the District's Fiscal Year 2024|2025 Water Fund Budget line 61 'Miscellaneous' from \$1,000 to \$3,000 funded from the District's Water Fund Unrestricted Operating Reserve.

Roll call:

Ayes – 4 (Muniz, Trueba, Skerbelis, Trowbridge)

Noes – 1 (Murphy)

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried 4-1-0-0.

- B. CLOSED SESSION** Start at 4:20pm: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9: Legal Counsel Status on Litigation Case No. CIVDS 1310520, City of Riverside vs. Rubidoux Community Services District

Close Session Ends at: 4:30pm

The Board of Directors did not have any comments to report back on.

ITEM 9. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Director Murphy commented on Planet Bids. He successfully was able to locate the link on the District's website. He also commented on the electrical fleet challenge and the requirements the District will need to follow. He requested an update on the LAFCO meeting. The update will be provided during the 1st scheduled Board meeting in September. He also requested staff to provide an update on the administration building on 5473 Mission Blvd. Director Muniz apologized for not attending the meeting in person. No other Directors had any comments.

ITEM 10. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 4:00 P.M.

ITEM 11. ADJOURNMENT

President Skerbelis adjourned the meeting at 4:34 P.M.