



**BEAUMONT-CHERRY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**  
560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

***Meeting held via teleconference pursuant to  
California Government Code Section 54950 et. seq. and  
California Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20***

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**Call to Order:** *President Slawson began the meeting at 6:07 p.m.*

**Pledge of Allegiance:** *Led by Director Covington*

**Invocation:** *Given by Director Ramirez*

**Announcement of Teleconference Participation**

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez clarified that this meeting is conducted via teleconference pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953, and under Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20 of the Governor of California.

The teleconference capabilities of this meeting have been identified in the Notice and Agenda, pursuant to the Brown Act and the Governor's Executive Order. Under the Governor's Executive Order and the Gathering Guidelines of the California Department of Health due to the danger of COVID-19, the teleconference locations are not publicly accessible. The public's right to comment and participate in the meeting is being assured via teleconference capabilities.

The Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) will use sound discretion and make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to the provisions of the Brown Act, and other applicable local laws regulating the conduct of public meetings, in order to maximize transparency and provide the public access to meetings.

**Roll Call:**

Directors present:	Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, and Williams
Directors absent:	None
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez Senior Engineer Mark Swanson Senior Finance and Administrative Analyst William Clayton Human Resources Coordinator Sabrina Foley Administrative Assistant Brandy Llanes

Members of the public who registered attendance: Mr. Mickey Valdivia.

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez verified that all members of the Board of Directors have indicated that they are able to hear the other directors clearly on the teleconference. No directors expressed any reason to believe, based on voice recognition or otherwise, that those persons representing themselves to be directors are not truly so.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Mickey Valdivia, newly elected at-large representative for the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) noted that he is impressed with BCVWD's clarity and outreach. He said he is looking forward to working with the Agency's largest retailers and representing the region. He apologized to Director Covington for communication at the last SGPWA Board meeting and said he hopes to work cooperatively in a more positive direction.

**1. Adjustments to the Agenda: None.**

**2. Consent Calendar:**

*The following Consent Calendar items were approved with one motion:*

- a. November 2020 Budget Variance Report
- b. November 30, 2020 Cash/Investment Balance Report
- c. December 2020 Check Register
- d. December 2020 Invoices Pending Approval
- e. Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 3, 2020
- f. Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 19, 2020

MOVED: Williams	SECONDED: Hoffman	APPROVED 5-0
AYES:	Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None.	
ABSTAIN:	None.	
ABSENT:	None.	

**3. Resolution 2021-01 Acknowledging the Review, Receipt and Acceptance of the District's Investment Policy**

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez explained this is the routine annual review of the policy. She pointed out some minor changes.

Director Hoffman suggested a financial advisor for assisting the District. In response to additional comment by Director Hoffman, Ms. Rodriguez indicated the District's investments are with only LAIF and CalTrust and are reported monthly to the Finance and Audit Committee. She pointed to Items 2 a and b on the Consent Calendar and noted that she had discussed with the general manager the use of a financial advisor but that had not been budgeted.

Director Covington agreed with Hoffman and suggested it be discussed at the next Finance and Audit Committee with potential recommendation to the Board.

General Manager Jagers reminded that this has been discussed in the past and said that up until COVID-19 the interest rates for longer term investments had been improving. There are different strategies used by other districts, which can be brought to the Committee for discussion, he noted.

Director Williams asked about allowable disposition of the agency's money as indicated in section K of the Notes to Authorized and Suitable Investments Table. Ms. Rodriguez explained that this is dictated by Government Code. She will look into the reason for the restriction.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

*The Board adopted Resolution 2021-01 Acknowledging the Review, Receipt and Acceptance of the District's Investment Policy by the following vote:*

MOVED: Covington	SECONDED: Williams	APPROVED 5-0
AYES:	Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None.	
ABSTAIN:	None.	
ABSENT:	None.	

*6:31 p.m.: Director Covington advised that he is abstaining from Items 4 and 5 as a potential conflict of interest and disconnected from the meeting.*

**4. Consideration of "Will Serve Letter" for Tract 31462-21 Related to Fairway Canyon Master Plan Ongoing Development located north of Oak Valley Parkway and east of Tukwet Canyon Parkway in the City of Beaumont**

Senior Engineer Mark Swanson introduced the item as a component of the Fairway Canyon development. This Tract consists of 167 single family units in Planning Area 26, Swanson explained. The property was sold to applicant DR Horton who will build the houses, he said. Plans have been finalized and signed by the District and water improvements are ready to go in the ground, he said, and staff is waiting on payment and some documents from DR Horton.

Mr. Jagers noted this is part of a master-planned community and the developer has continued to provide improvements to support the projects. He pointed out a mainline extension down Tukwet Canyon and a road extension from the north to Oak Valley Parkway and said the developer has not been idle. This is part of an overall annexation that happened in approximately 2004, Jagers advised.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

*The Board approved issuance of a "Will Serve Letter" for Tract 31462-21 related to Fairway Canyon Master Plan Ongoing Development located north of Oak Valley Parkway and east of Tukwet Canyon Parkway in the City of Beaumont by the following vote:*

MOVED: Williams	SECONDED: Hoffman	APPROVED 4-0
AYES:	Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None.	
ABSTAIN:	Covington	
ABSENT:	None.	

**5. Consideration of “Will Serve Letter” for Tract 31462-22 Related to Fairway Canyon Master Plan Ongoing Development located north of Oak Valley Parkway and east of Tukwet Canyon Parkway in the City of Beaumont**

Senior Engineer Mark Swanson advised that this is the next tract in the sequence by the same applicant, DR Horton for 101 single family units. It is a similar tract with work ongoing for several years, he noted.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

*The Board approved issuance of a Will Serve Letter” for Tract 31462-22 related to Fairway Canyon Master Plan Ongoing Development located north of Oak Valley Parkway and east of Tukwet Canyon Parkway in the City of Beaumont by the following vote:*

MOVED: Hoffman	SECONDED: Williams	APPROVED 4-0
AYES:	Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None.	
ABSTAIN:	Covington	
ABSENT:	None.	

*6:40 p.m.: Director Covington rejoined the meeting.*

**6. Direction Regarding Possible Preparation of Temporary Agreement between the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for Mud and Debris Storage at Hannon Tank Site located on Cherry Valley Boulevard west of Union Street**

General Manager Jagers explained that Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control) had been seeking a site for mud and debris flow drying in the event of significant flow and has requested use of the District’s Hannon Tank site. Mr. Jagers noted that the land is graded and said it is important to continue to partner with Flood Control. This would provide an advantage to the community with a quick turnaround time for trucks hauling material, he added.

A right-of-entry would be created for Flood Control for this work which would include restoration of previous conditions, assurance of no adverse runoff, and a clause allowing the District to reclaim the land in the event of a District need, Jagers said. If there was a burn in the upstream area, this activity would be reconsidered, he added.

Counsel Markman recommended an appropriate indemnification for damage caused by their operation, particularly downstream to any property. A reasonable period for removal would be included, Jagers reiterated.

Mr. Jagers presented an overview of the property. There is no near-term plan for the land, he indicated.

Director Hoffman asked about access for heavy equipment and noted the driveway may be narrow. Mr. Jagers suggested that Flood Control grade a construction access, provide gravel and tire cleaning, and maintain drainage. Minimum criteria would be required for use and access, he assured. Director Hoffman pointed out that Flood Control would also have to maintain the existing drain on the north side of Cherry Valley Boulevard. Mr. Jagers said Flood Control would likely partner with Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency to assure all their own criteria are met. Director Hoffman expressed support for assisting Flood Control.

Director Covington asked about the requested area and other agreements with Flood Control. Mr. Swanson advised that the area is about 6 acres and Mr. Jagers posited that Flood Control would use County facilities first. Jagers indicated that Flood Control had been satisfactory in addressing concerns in other areas. Covington expressed support and suggested fencing off the debris area to assure the material stays on the property.

Director Hoffman suggested including a requirement that there be no foreign materials or contamination that would affect the District's future use of the property.

Mr. Jagers pointed out to Mr. Valdivia that the San Geronio Pass Water Agency's Mountain View Turnout property may be an additional location for material if needed. Mr. Valdivia acknowledged inter-agency cooperation and said he would reach out to a concerned neighbor. He reminded about the SGPWA concerns regarding K-rail at Mountain View and said that with the leadership of Flood Control and BCVWD a good job is being done to secure the area and prepare for flood.

Mr. Valdivia also noted that as development occurs, all collective efforts to make sure the area is restored and in good shape will be on the mark. In response to Director Slawson, Mr. Jagers assured that Flood Control is adept at debris containment.

Mr. Markman recommended an agreement be drafted to come back to the Board.

Director Covington pointed out that adjacent property owners would notice the material and that traffic on Cherry Valley Boulevard would see it. Mr. Jagers indicated that Flood Control would be requested to outreach to the local property owners and provide contact information.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none. He directed staff to move forward quickly.

## **7. Review of District Staffing Activities and Cash Flows as related to the ongoing COVID-19 Local State of Emergency**

Director of Finance and Administration Yolanda Rodriguez compared the District's cash position from December 29, 2019 to December 29, 2020. She pointed out receipts from customers this year at \$14.4 million in 2020; in 2019 the total was \$12.2 million. She attributed this to growth and the rate increase. Net cash used as of December 29, 2020 was \$1.9 million in comparison with \$2.1 million in 2019, she said.

Ms. Rodriguez pointed out a decrease in interest received to less than half of 2019. She reviewed restricted and unrestricted cash and investments and reported total cash and investments of \$65,984,916.

She noted that the District has fared well despite the pandemic. She advised that she continue to bring this report to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Director Covington said he prefers to see the reports of COVID impacts as related to fees and charges monthly and reminded the Board about discussion in December about whether to reinstate the fees. Director Hoffman concurred. Ms. Rodriguez indicated the report would be brought at the meeting later in the month as to allow collection of data.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none. He agreed with directors Covington and Hoffman regarding the report.

**8. Status of Local Emergency regarding the Impact of the Respiratory Illness Pandemic COVID-19 pursuant to Resolution 2020-07**

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board about efforts to open the District office a couple of days a week from 8 to noon, and pointed out that there has been an uptick in staff COVID-19 positive tests which is common across California and the country. The City of Beaumont recently closed again to the public indefinitely, he advised.

Jagers gave an overview of COVID statistics and recommended remaining with the current policy and discuss again at the Engineering Workshop. He pointed out hospitalization and positivity rates and said he hopes people will exercise caution.

Staff has worked through some plans for re-opening and is as ready as possible, Jagers explained. However, some staff members have tested positive over the last few weeks although it is not believed that any transmission was via District interaction, he said. There has been a reduction in staffing due to COVID, he noted but assured that staff would act on Board direction.

Director Covington agreed and advocated caution. He suggested reviewing once per month and indicated that based on trends, he felt it would be close to April before any change. He said it is unfortunate, but opined to keep the office closed, and limit the number of employees on site in the best interests of the staff, he said.

Director Williams concurred and advocated a conservative approach. Director Hoffman also agreed and suggested caution; there is no rush. President Slawson concurred.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.



## **9. Status of Declared Local Emergencies related to Fires**

- a. Impact of the Apple Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-17**
- b. Impact of the El Dorado Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-20**

General Manager Jaggars reported that the work related to the Bogart Park and in Little San Geronio Canyon Creek is substantially complete. The work done by Flood Control was professional, he said. The first two rain events were cold weather events and there was no runoff on the slopes, he noted.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

## **10. 2020 Employee Engagement Survey Results Presentation**

President Slawson introduced the item and advised that this had been presented to the Personnel Committee. Mr. Jaggars added that the Committee felt it was important for the Board to hear the presentation.

Human Resources Coordinator Sabrina Foley reminded the Board that a negotiation of the employee Memorandum of Understanding is approaching. She indicated the survey would be performed annually.

Ms. Foley presented the survey findings and advised the Board of an Overall Employee Engagement Score of 8.12, which she indicated is very good.

Director Covington posited that an annual survey is important not only to the Personnel Committee but also to management in order to move in the right direction. He said he was impressed with the overall ratings and that it was humbling that employees are so engaged.

Director Williams agreed the scores are amazing. Ms. Foley credited the Board with the safety rankings and the addition of human resources functions. General Manager Jaggars added that the survey was taken in July in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic which added stress to the employees. He acknowledged areas for improvement and said it is encouraging that staff cares about their work.

President Slawson agreed about an annual survey and said it is good to know that employees are happy but there is always room for improvement.

President Slawson invited public comment. Mr. Valdivia opined that the survey was very impressive and complimented District leadership.

Mr. Jaggars added that staff has worked hard, it is a team environment, and changes made in 2017 have allowed everyone to invest.

## **11. Reports For Discussion**

- a. Ad Hoc Committees: None.**

b. General Manager

Mr. Jagers reported there have been staffing challenges related to outages due to COVID. Although the holidays were quiet, he noted there were activities such as the Flood Control item taking place in the background.

Jagers also pointed to recent power outages and noted there was no significant threat to water supply. He acknowledged that Assistant Director of Operations James Bean worked with Southern California Edison to help them understand that the unintended consequence of shutting off power to prevent fires results in the water system experiencing negative pressure and causing significant potential health impacts.

The District is working with the SGPWA and local agencies on the Urban Water Management Plan activities. He advised that a change in usage over time has been noted.

In response to Director Covington, Mr. Jagers advised that there was some damage at the State Water Project Cherry Valley Pump Station. The Department of Water Resources is moving quickly to fix it, but the East Branch Extension is estimated to come back online in early February, he said.

c. Directors' Reports: None.

d. Legal Counsel Report: None.

**12. Announcements**

*All the following meetings will be held via teleconference unless otherwise indicated. President Slawson read the following announcements:*

- District Offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Day
- Personnel Committee Meeting: Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee: Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 at 10 a.m.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021 at 3 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021 at 6 p.m.

**13. Action List for Future Meetings:**

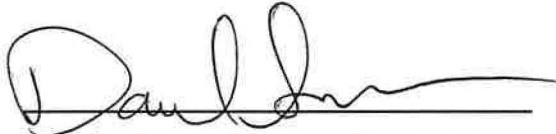
- Water supply for BCVWD and the region
- Reinstatement of fees waived due to COVID-19
- Matrix for delivery of recycled water
- Update on the Delta Conveyance Project
- Legal perspective on the Delta Conveyance (request to Counsel Markman)



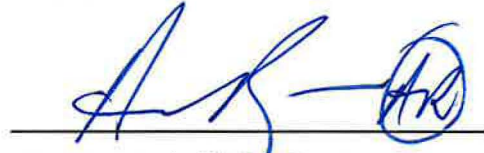
#### 14. Adjournment

*President Slawson adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.*

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Slawson", written over a horizontal line.

Director Daniel Slawson, President  
to the Board of Directors of the  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Ramirez", written over a horizontal line.

Director Andy Ramirez, Secretary  
to the Board of Directors of the  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District