



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

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, February 10, 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***

Call to Order: *President Slawson began the meeting at 6:00 p.m.*

Pledge of Allegiance: *Led by Director Ramirez*

Invocation: *Given by Director Hoffman*

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 Assistant Director of Operations James Bean (6:20 p.m.) Senior Finance and Administrative Analyst William Clayton (6:09 p.m.) Human Resources Coordinator Sabrina Foley

	Civil Engineering Assistant Evan Ward Senior Accountant Sylvia Molina Administrative Assistant Brandy Llanes Administrative Assistant Erica Gonzales Transmission and Distribution Supervisor Julian Herrera
Legal Counsel	James Markman

Members of the public who registered attendance: Ray Santos, City of Beaumont.

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: None.

1. Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

2. Consent Calendar:

The following Consent Calendar items were approved with one motion:

- a. Review of the December 2020 Budget Variance Reports
- b. Review of the December 31, 2020 Cash/Investment Balance Report
- c. Review of Check Register for the Month of January 2021
- d. Review of January 2021 Invoices Pending Approval
- e. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2021
- f. Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 28, 2021

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

3. Acknowledge Receipt of the Operating Budget Excellence Award from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers for BCVWD's FY 2021 Operating and 2021 – 2025 Capital Improvement Budget

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez gave some background on the awards and the organizations. She noted a continued commitment by the BCVWD to follow best practices in budget preparation. This is the first time the District has won this award. General Manager Jaggars and the Directors indicated appreciation for the efforts of staff.

4. Acknowledge Receipt of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for BCVWD's 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Yolanda Rodriguez gave background on the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the award. This is the third year the District has won this award, she said. In response to Director Covington, Ms. Rodriguez confirmed that the District had not previously won these awards. The Directors indicated appreciation for the efforts of staff.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

5. Presentation: American Water Works Association Virtual Summit Presentation Regarding Groundwater Banking Bridges the Time and Funding Gap to Implement New Water Resource Projects

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board that the District had submitted an abstract to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) National Sustainability Conference approximately 18 months ago. Tomorrow, the virtual conference begins, and the abstract will be presented by Joe Reichenberger on Friday, Jagers advised. He noted that the PowerPoint is included in the agenda packet and provided highlights, noting that it is positive to receive national recognition.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

6. HR Dynamics & Performance Management Consulting Agreement for 2021

General Manager Jagers reminded the Board of discussion related to the budget and noted that the HR Dynamics contract was brought up at a recent Finance and Audit Committee meeting. He indicated that staff would like to continue to use this consultant and there are several items in progress.

Ms. Rodriguez noted that the Human Resources Department was founded in 2019 with the hiring of the Human Resources Coordinator and retained the services of HR Dynamics as a human resources consultant to train and assist the HR Coordinator. She explained the ongoing consulting and indicated the services have been very helpful.

The 2021 budget includes \$24,900 which is within the General Manager's purchasing discretion, Rodriguez advised, but is being brought to the Board for transparency. Mr. Jagers added that there has been value received from HR Dynamics based on Ms. Rhonda Strout-Garcia's work with other districts. This year, the need for assistance with ongoing activities is lessened but there is an upcoming classification and compensation study and negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding which present a need for some additional experience, he noted. This is now a "not-to-exceed" time and materials contract instead of a monthly retainer, Jagers explained.

Director Williams indicated support and pointed out that new regulations appear regularly that must be tracked. Director Covington indicated support and pointed out that consultant Strout-Garcia is well known and brings great experience. Director Ramirez commented on the Board's effort in establishment of the department.

The Board directed the General Manager to commit to the proposed HR Dynamics agreement for consulting services in 2021 by the following vote:

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

7. Status of Automatic Meter Read/Advanced Metering Infrastructure Deployment Project: Water Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant

Director of Finance and Administration Yolanda Rodriguez gave background on the project and \$1.5 million grant received. She explained that the grant is to be matched and there are funds available in the capital replacement reserves. The total estimated project cost is \$5.5 million, she noted.

The District is required to submit a semi-annual performance report, Rodriguez explained. The next report will cover October 2020 through March 2021. She reviewed the status of meter upgrades and noted that 36 percent of the District's meters have now been converted to AMR / AMI. Total project expenditures through December 2020 were \$302,439. Of that, \$187,124 (50 percent) plus \$67 in administrative costs has been submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation for reimbursement under the grant.

Mr. Jagers noted that the program start was delayed due to COVID-19. With the hiring of temporary staff, almost 900 meters were installed the last quarter of 2020, he pointed out. This benefits the District in the ability to shift full time employee hours from meter reading to other activities, he noted. Upon project completion in the next two years, the District will be able to have a good idea about labor pool strategies, Jagers advised.

Ms. Rodriguez reported that as of January 31, there are 12,013 meters remaining to be exchanged. Temporary staff has resulted in the changing of close to 500 meters per month, she said.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

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

General Manager Jagers reported that the case numbers are going in the right direction. He noted an uptick over the holidays in effects on staff but said there was no spread via the District office.

Jaggers shared case trends and noted a 12.7 percent positivity rate. Jaggers pointed out the challenge of workers with small children at home and schools not yet re-opened. More will be known in a couple of weeks, he said, but the trends are positive.

A program has been instituted for BCVWD employees in accordance with OSHA requirements, Jaggers noted.

President Slawson asked about early vaccinations. Mr. Jaggers explained an opportunity for some staff through leftover vaccines and noted the eligibility age has been lowered. The District was not trying to jump the line, he assured the Board, but was trying to be ready if it was available, but that opportunity is no longer available.

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 Jaggers briefed the Board about the last storm, which was expected locally but shifted west, creating no issues.

10. Reports For Discussion

a. Ad Hoc Committees:

Director Ramirez reported on the Communications Committee. The group is working on fine-tuning public outreach and trying to improve methods, making substantial progress. With CV Strategies, the Committee is now looking at the next level for reaching ratepayers, and looking at the overall budget for the Committee, he noted.

b. General Manager

Mr. Jaggers reported that imported water deliveries of about 19.8 acre-feet per day (10 cubic feet per second) have re-started at the facilities. The rate is slow due to the possibility of rain, he explained. The San Geronio Pass Water Agency is adding 3.8 acre-feet per day on behalf of the City of Banning, he added.

Although there has been rain, the State Water Project has not announced an increase over the 10 percent allocation, Jaggers advised.

Mr. Jaggers reminded the Board about the City of Beaumont's Ordinance 1113, a moratorium on pavement cuts on recently resurfaced streets and requirements. Jaggers explained challenges related to the required pavement repair procedures and more robust conditions.

The District's average repair patch was 160 square feet per unit per point of entry into the pavement, he stated, and the new moratorium will create a need for more like 600 square feet, increasing the average pavement repair price from \$1,300 to an estimated \$5,000 to \$7,000.

A recent repair created a dialogue with the City, Jagers explained. The encroachment permit fee, along with increased repair costs could have a significant financial impact on the District, he said.

Mr. Jagers said he hopes to partner with the City and have good things to report at the next workshop. Director Ramirez asked if there had been conversation with the City Manager and suggested letting the City know that the District is looking for collaboration and to streamline moving forward. Mr. Jagers concurred.

Director Ramirez noted that Beaumont City Councilmember Rey Santos is on the teleconference and said he appreciated any support he could offer. Councilman Santos indicated he will seek more information. Mr. Jagers indicated that he understands that the City wants to protect its streets and the District wants to work toward common ground.

Jagers explained that there are internal studies moving toward improving safety.

c. Directors' Reports:

President Slawson reported that he attended the San Geronio Pass Regional Water Alliance meeting on January 27. There are some changes on the Board of Directors at the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, he advised. Slawson was re-elected as chair with co-chair Robert Ybarra. The Committee will meet every other month, he reported.

Director Hoffman noted that the Finance and Audit Committee had reviewed the January check register and noted the large volume of refund checks issued for credit card fees, at an average of \$1.75. This involves staff time to issue and mail the check, and said he believes the waiver of the fees should be stopped due to the extra burden. He also asked the Board to consider direction on investments.

d. Legal Counsel Report: None.

11. 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, Feb. 15, 2021 in observance of Presidents Day
- Personnel Committee Meeting: Monday, Feb. 22, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Collaborative Agencies Committee Meeting: Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2021 at 5 p.m. (*in-person meeting at Beaumont Library; also available via Zoom*)
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting: Thursday, Mar. 4, 2021 at 3 p.m.

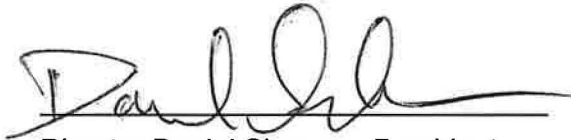
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Mar. 10, 2021 at 6 p.m.

12. 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

13. Adjournment

President Slawson adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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