



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

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – ENGINEERING WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

***Meeting held via teleconference and video 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

President Slawson began the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Slawson.

Invocation was given by Director Hoffman.

Announcement of Teleconference Participation

Acting Director of Finance and Administrative Services William Clayton clarified that this meeting is conducted pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953, and under Executive Order N-29-20 and N-33-20 of the Governor of California.

The teleconference and video conference capabilities of this meeting have been identified in the Notice and Agenda for this meeting, 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, Williams
Directors absent:	None
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Acting Director of Finance and Administrative Services and Recording Secretary William Clayton Senior Engineer Mark Swanson Administrative Assistant Erica Gonzales

Legal Counsel	James Markman
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Members of the public who registered their attendance: Nisha Wade, CV Strategies and Matt Rexroad, Redistricting Insights.

Acting Director of Finance and Administrative Services William Clayton 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. Water Supply in California

a. Update on the Delta Conveyance Project

b. Status of Drought Conditions

General Manager Jagers advised there have been no new developments related to the Delta Conveyance Project.

Drought conditions are being discussed in the local area, Jagers noted. The San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) has finalized a deal with the City of Ventura for 500 acre-feet (af) of supply available this year, Jagers reported. He gave an overview of imported water and said a total of 3,515 af may be delivered this year.

It is a dry year, and there are concerns at the state level, Jagers indicated. To be determined is whether the District is in a place where drought restrictions should be implemented based on the rate study and the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), he advised.

Mr. Jagers reminded the Board that BCVWD put water in storage last year. He described water deliveries to date and drew attention to a letter sent to the State Water Resources Control Board from the State Water Contractors and 90-page response from the Department of Water Resources, Central Valley Project and Bureau of Reclamation indicating it is a critical year as there is no water north of the reservoirs. Reports and documents are available on the SGPWA website.

The area will not see water delivery until the fall, Jagers posited. He indicated that the District is not yet in a condition to trigger the UWMP water shortage activities. He noted that the District's storage account in the Beaumont Basin has grown but will now be drawn down. However, he continued, last year's production was over the anticipated need for the region.

The 2019 rate study set forth drought rates depending on stage of drought and suggests that the District can save water by increasing costs, Jagers pointed out. There is a drought, but it has not yet been declared by the Governor for the southern counties, he noted. The UWMP provides guidelines for stages of water shortage,

Jaggers explained, but noted that some imported water supplies are available. However, in relation to long-term imported water supply allocation averages, the District meets the guidelines but from a reality factor of need vs. annual supply, he said he does not see the shortage stage. Given the dry year, the District should start implementing a 10 percent reduction, but this is a policy decision. He stated that he is concerned because if next year is dry, more water will be pulled from storage and there will be a higher state of emergency across the state.

The District has done a lot to prepare to weather the drought, but there is a high level of need to be concerned, Jaggers explained, drought restrictions may adversely impact the ratepayers after the good work they have done in the past few years to conserve water supply.

President Slawson asked about imported water recharge. Jaggers explained that 427.3 af was added to storage last year, but production was higher than in 2019, at 12,536 af in 2020. In response to Director Covington, Jaggers explained the District's storage account in the Beaumont Basin.

Director Hoffman shared that his hay suppliers have indicated they are all in extreme water shortage, many will not be able to grow this year, and it is the worst he has seen in his 41 years in the feed and hay industry.

BCVWD has its drought proofing in place and will not run out of water in 2021 or 2022, Jaggers assured, but there are things that need to be considered and there may be other solutions or opportunities. In response to Director Covington, Jaggers detailed the SGPWA's 2021 Water Portfolio, but cautioned that it shows what *should* be available and does not include constraints on the Sacramento River or other contingencies; if the situation continues to decline, the water may not make it to BCVWD. Covington opined that the District should not pass up any opportunity within reason to import water into the District's storage account. Mr. Jaggers assured that the water ordered will be delivered if it is available.

Director Hoffman reminded that the District has first right of refusal on water charged into the basin. President Slawson asked about potential restrictions on production from the basin based on potential subsidence or other factors. Jaggers explained that the area is not particularly susceptible to subsidence but pointed out there is mounding due to recharge activities.

Counsel Markman pointed out that the rate study included a drought rate in order to charge more because the District would be able to serve less water, but still has overhead that must be met whether or not certain quantities of water are delivered. During the last drought, he recalled, the District had water in storage, but the state mandated cutbacks. This almost resulted in a lawsuit, he noted. Jaggers concurred and added that the rate study proposes potable demand reduction via increased rates as part of the solution.

President Slawson calculated that the District could draw from its storage account for three to four years before encountering a problem. Jaggers indicated that the Beaumont Basin Watermaster anticipates such a situation and allows for an assessment to replenish.

President Slawson posited that this needs to be monitored and revisited in a few months. Director Ramirez stated that the discussion is timely in order to be prepared. He noted the balance between conservation and being prepared with all

resources. He suggested promoting conservation and banking water as much as possible.

3. Resolution 2021-09: Revising the District's Salary Schedule and Organization Chart

Human Resources Coordinator Sabrina Foley reported that CalPERS confirmed that any position over half time (approximately 20 hours per week) is eligible for health benefits and the District must comply. This caused staff to revisit the Account Clerk position designated for the 2021 salary schedule which has not been filled.

Due to recent staffing changes in the Finance Accounting Department, it has been identified that the department's needs are different than the Account Clerk position, Foley continued. Staff now recommends implementation of the full-time Accounting Technician position, she explained. At the last Board meeting, directors requested a revised job description, and it was attached, she noted. The requested four-year degree has been included as preferred rather than required so as not to limit the pool of candidates.

Director Covington indicated that the concerns voiced by directors at the previous meeting have been addressed. He agreed that, balanced with experience, the degree could be waived.

The Board adopted Resolution 2021-09 Revising the District's Salary Schedule and Organization Chart by the following roll-call vote:

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

4. Contract with Redistricting Insights for Demography Services for the 2020 Census Redistricting of Divisional Boundaries in an Amount Not to Exceed \$34,000

Acting Director of Finance and Administrative Services William Clayton reminded the Board of direction to staff at the March 25, 2021 meeting to engage professional services to complete the required redistricting of divisional boundaries in accordance with California Water Code section 21605. A notice requesting bids was sent to 11 vendors and six responses were received and reviewed by staff, Clayton reported.

Clayton explained staff's recommendation of Redistricting Insights based on their proposal. This item is before the Board because the cost is beyond the General Manager's purchasing authority, he noted.

General Manager Jagers noted that a \$4,000 contingency has been included for any unanticipated costs. This proposal will serve the District's needs to establish new division boundaries for the next election cycle, he explained.

President Slawson asked about the role of CV Strategies. Mr. Jagers noted that public outreach is outside the scope of this agreement. CV Strategies is under existing contract, and it is expected that this work will fall within that budget, Jagers responded. Mr. Markman advised this process would require four public hearings.

Mr. Matt Rexroad of Redistricting Insights added that the key to redistricting is to be as open and transparent as possible and allow the public to come forward during the approval process. He said he and his staff would be available to assist and present proposals for the Board to consider.

In response to Director Hoffman, Mr. Rexroad explained that the purpose of redistricting is to equalize the voting districts so that the electeds represent an equal population. He touched on the Voting Rights Act, communities of interest and state and federal law. Director Hoffman pointed out it is based on population density and the physical size of the district; Mr. Rexroad confirmed, "every heartbeat counts." There has been a delay in the US Census data, he noted, and the problem is impacting local governments all over California.

Director Covington asked what is triggering this action. Counsel Markman explained that state law requires all agencies with voting districts look at the boundaries following the census every 10 years as described by Mr. Rexroad. This was last done in 2011, Jagers added, and was done in-house.

Director Covington expressed concern that the names of the responders to the notice inviting bids were not listed in the staff report.

Director Williams asked when the Census data was expected; Mr. Markman said at the end of September. Mr. Rexroad advised that new state law requires consideration of incarcerated persons so complete data may not be available until the end of October. The deadline for completing the process is mid-April, Markman advised.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

The Board authorized the General Manager to execute a contract with Redistricting Insights for demography services in the amount of \$30,000, with a not-to-exceed cost including contingencies of \$34,000 by the following roll-call vote:

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

5. Award a Contract to Best Drilling and Pump, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$76,989 for Well 14 – Well and Well Pumping Unit Rehabilitation and Repair

General Manager Jagers advised that it is expected that the well repair will be simple, but a contract has been bid to perform all required maintenance. Staff is hopeful that the equipment can be restored and come in under the \$25,000 general manager's authorization level, he explained.

Best Drilling and Pump, Inc. (Best Drilling) was identified as the lowest responsible bidder, Jagers explained. Director Hoffman asked if BCVWD had used Best Drilling before; Jagers said that the District has not, but he has had previously successful contracts with Best Drilling.

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a contract not to exceed \$76,989 with Best Drilling and Pump, Inc. to perform the work necessary to remove, inspect, and repair the District's existing Well 14 pumping unit and to rehabilitate the well by the following roll-call vote:

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

6. Approve Expenditures in an Amount Not to Exceed \$200,000 for a Pipeline Replacement within Antonelle Court between Pennsylvania Avenue and Cherry Avenue in the City of Beaumont

General Manager Jagers advised that Riverside County Flood Control received a bid more than 25 percent over engineer's estimate due to material and equipment cost and said the District's intent is to pre-purchase the pipe and provide it to the contractor for installation to insulate against inflation and provide longer lead time.

Senior Engineer Mark Swanson referenced the City of Beaumont approval of the street selections for the citywide street rehabilitation program, and it includes complete rehab of Antonelle Court. The pipeline is identified in the District's budget for replacement, he advised, and was included in the presentation to the Board on March 25, 2021. However, staff proposes doing this street by itself ahead of the City's road work, Swanson explained.

Swanson identified the location of the 570 to 590 foot pipe and described the work and cost estimates. He said the goal is to be complete by August, when the City wants to do the rehab. Funding is identified in capital replacements for about \$170,000 but this request is higher with a 20 percent contingency, Swanson noted.

Mr. Jagers pointed out that the cost estimate includes pavement work that may be able to be coordinated with the City for savings.

In response to President Slawson, Jagers provided detail on paving. Director Hoffman advised that the price of steel has been significant, and vendors were out of stock on common items. He recommended pursuing the purchase immediately, and Jagers noted that the design is ready to send to the vendor next week.

Director Covington asked about course of action if the materials were not available to meet the timeline of the City. Mr. Jagers said staff has been in contact with the vendor but said the District could check its own inventory, consider PVC, and ask local partners.

The Board approved expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for a pipeline replacement within Antonelle Court between Pennsylvania Avenue and Cherry Avenue in the City of Beaumont by the following roll-call vote:

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

7. Consideration of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Categorical Exemption and Notice of Exemption for the Pipeline Replacement Project located within Antonelle Court between Pennsylvania Avenue and Cherry Avenue in the City of Beaumont

Senior Engineer Mark Swanson explained that this is related to the project approved on the last agenda item. This project is a Class 2 categorical exemption because an existing pipeline is being replaced and there is no negative environmental impact, he explained.

In response to President Slawson, Legal Counsel Markman explained that when the exemption is filed with the County, a 30-day statute of limitations begins.

President Slawson invited public comment. There was none.

The Board accepted the findings of staff that the following project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), approved the project, and directed staff to file the Notice of Exemption with the Riverside County Clerk of the Board for the Antonelle Court Pipeline Replacement project by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Covington	SECONDED: Hoffman	APPROVED 5-0
AYES:	Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None.	
ABSTAIN:	None.	
ABSENT:	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 District office is open two full days per week and staff is running at a 60 percent level with no COVID-19 positives. An item will be agendaized for the June 9 meeting to discuss returning to in-person meetings, he said.

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 Jagers reported that Jason Uhley from Riverside County Flood Control identified that USGS will return in June to re-assess the burn scar areas and re-evaluate the mobilization intensity.

10. General Manager's Report

Mr. Jagers advised that the Well 25 motor has been put back on the pumping unit. As of this week, the pump has been run and everything looks reasonable, he said.

Staff is working on the Antonelle Pipeline, is advertising the 2021 pipelines which will come to the Board for possible award for a consultant contract and is pushing on a host of things that will move forward in the post-COVID environment.

No recharge is taking place, he advised. There is still struggle with the City regarding timeliness of encroachment permit acquisitions, he noted.

President Slawson asked about recycled water. Mr. Jagers said it is ready, but the facilities are not in place. The District also has things to do, but some of the critical path activities are happening first, he said. He acknowledged that the City has the same struggles and is in the middle of their budget period.

11. Topics for Future Meetings:

- Water supply for BCVWD and the region
- Matrix for delivery of recycled water
- Update on the Delta Conveyance Project
- Legal perspective on the Delta Conveyance
- Legal update on Drought Conditions in the West

12. Announcements

Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order N-33-20, all BCVWD Board and Committee meetings will be held via teleconference and/or video teleconference until further notice or unless otherwise indicated below. President Slawson read the following announcements:

- District Offices will be closed Monday, May 31, 2021 in observance of Memorial Day
- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee: Wednesday, Jun. 2, 2021 at 10 a.m.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting: Thursday, Jun. 3, 2021 at 3 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Jun. 9, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting: Monday, Jun. 21, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Jun. 24, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Collaborative Agencies Committee: Wednesday, Jul. 7, 2021 at 5 p.m.

13. Convened in Closed Session: 7:35 p.m.

- a. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54947
Title: General Manager

14. Report on Closed Session

President Slawson reported that no reportable action was taken.

15. Adjournment

President Slawson adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.



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

ATTEST:



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