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Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESA WATER DISTRICT

Tuesday, November 19, 2020 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 3:30 p.m. Adjourned Regular Board Meeting

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER** 

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at

3:32 p.m. by President Dewane.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Atkinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Shawn Dewane, President (teleconference)

Marice H. DePasquale, Vice-President (teleconference)

Jim Atkinson, Director (teleconference)

Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director (teleconference)

James R. Fisler, Director (teleconference)

**Directors Absent** 

None

Staff Present

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager (teleconference)
Phil Lauri, P.E., Assistant General Manager (teleconference)

Denise Garcia, Administrative Services Manager/

District Secretary

Wendy Duncan, Records Management Specialist/

Assistant District Secretary (teleconference)

Tracy Manning, Water Operations Manager (teleconference)

Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager (teleconference)

Celeste Carrillo, Public Affairs Coordinator (teleconference) Jennifer Blackwell, Temporary Public Affairs Specialist

(teleconference)

**Others Present** 

Jonathan Aparicio, IT Support Engineer, T2 Technology Group

John Lewis, President, Lewis Consulting Group, LLC

(teleconference)

Lanae O'Shields, Public Affairs Manager, Southern California

Gas Company (teleconference)

Timothy McLarney, Ph.D., President, True North Research.

Inc. (teleconference)

Maris Ensing, Founder, Mad Systems (teleconference)
Anthony Zorrilla, Designer, Mad Systems (teleconference)

President Dewane stated that the Board of Directors was attending the meeting via teleconference per Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 which suspended certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

President Dewane stated that for each action, a roll call vote was taken in accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(b)(2) which states, "all votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by roll call."

President Dewane proceeded with the meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments on non-agendized topics and President Dewane proceeded with the meeting.

# ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED, OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

General Manager Shoenberger pulled Item 9 for discussion. There were no objections.

President Dewane requested the addition of Item 16.5, Critical Workers Exempt from Curfew Order, to discuss that essential workers are not subject to the curfew order announced by Governor Newsom.

# MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to add to the agenda Item 16.5, Critical Workers Exempt from Curfew Order, as the item arose after the agenda was posted and requires discussion and/or action by the Board. Motion passed 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: DIRECTORS Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, DePasquale, Dewane NOES: DIRECTORS None ABSENT: DIRECTORS None ABSTAIN: DIRECTORS None

Director Fisler pulled Item 8 for discussion. There were no objections.

# **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

Approve all matters under the Consent Calendar by one motion unless a Board member, staff, or a member of the public requests a separate action.

- 1. Receive and file the Developer Project Status Report.
- 2. Receive and file the Mesa Water and Other Agency Projects Status Report.
- 3. Receive and file the Water Quality Call Report.
- 4. Receive and file the Water Operations Status Report.
- 5. Receive and file the Accounts Paid Listing.
- 6. Receive and file the Monthly Financial Reports.
- 7. Receive and file the Major Staff Projects.
- 8. Receive and file the State Advocacy Update.
- 9. Receive and file the Orange County Update.
- 10. Receive and file the Outreach Update.
- 11. Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2021 First Quarter Financial Update.

President Dewane asked for comments from the Board. There were no comments.

# **MOTION**

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to approve Items 1 - 7 and 10 - 11 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

DIRECTORS

Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, DePasquale, Dewane

NOES:

**DIRECTORS** 

None None

ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS None

# ITEM 8 - RECEIVE AND FILE THE STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE.

General Manager Shoenberger introduced Water Policy Manager Taylor who provided the State Advocacy Update.

# ITEM 9 - RECEIVE AND FILE THE ORANGE COUNTY UPDATE.

President Dewane introduced Lewis Consulting Group, LLC, President Lewis who provided the Orange County Update.

Mr. Lewis responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the update.

President Dewane asked for comments from the Board. There were no comments.

# **MOTION**

Motion by President Dewane, second by Director Atkinson, to approve Items 8 and 9 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

DIRECTORS

Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, DePasquale, Dewane

NOES:

**DIRECTORS** 

None

ABSENT:

DIRECTORS

None

ABSTAIN:

DIRECTORS

None

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### 12. STRATEGIC PLAN:

GM Shoenberger introduced the topic.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

President Dewane asked for comments from the Board. There were no comments.

#### MOTION

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Vice President DePasquale, to approve the 2020 Strategic Plan, as amended and with modifications. Motion passed 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

DIRECTORS

Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, DePasquale, Dewane

NOES: ABSENT: DIRECTORS

None None

ABSTAIN:

DIRECTORS DIRECTORS

None

# PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

# 13. BALANCED ENERGY SOLUTIONS:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic and introduced Southern California Gas Company Public Affairs Manager Lanae O'Shields who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- California Clean Air Goals
- Why We Need to Work Together
- Using an Integrated Approach

Ms. O'Shields responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the presentation.

The Board agreed to move forward with the adoption of a resolution in support of a Balanced Energy Solution. Staff will draft a resolution and place it on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.

#### 14. TRUE NORTH RESEARCH POLLING ANALYSIS:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic and introduced Public Affairs Coordinator Carrillo who introduced True North Research, Inc. President Timothy McLarney who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- From Bad to Worse
- What is Going On

Mr. McLarney responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the presentation.

# 15. MESA WATER DISTRICT 2020 CUSTOMER SURVEY:

Mr. McLarney proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Methodology of Study
- Most Important Issue Facing the Community
- Aided & Unaided Awareness of Mesa Water
- Awareness of Mesa Water (by Own vs. Rent)
- Opinion of Mesa Water District (by Study Year)
- Overall Satisfaction with Service Provision (by Study Year)
- Satisfaction with Services Tiers 1 & 2
- Changes in Satisfaction 2019 to 2020
- Satisfaction with Communication Efforts (by Study Year)
- Key Findings

Mr. McLarney responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the presentation.

# 16. MESA WATER EDUCATION CENTER:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic and introduced Public Affairs Coordinator Carrillo who introduced Mad Systems, Inc. Founder Maris Ensing who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Floor Plans
- Telling a Story
- Technology Used
- Visitor Flow
- Exhibits and Layout Concept
- Mission Statement

Mr. Ensing responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the presentation.

President Dewane asked for comments from the Board. There were no comments.

#### MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to amend the contract with Mad Systems for \$500,000 for additional exhibits and design elements at the Mesa Water Education Center. Motion passed 4-1, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: DIRECTORS Bockmiller, Fisler, DePasquale, Dewane

NOES: DIRECTORS Atkinson ABSENT: DIRECTORS None ABSTAIN: DIRECTORS None

# ITEM 16.5 - CRITICAL WORKERS EXEMPT FROM CURFEW ORDER:

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

President Dewane asked for comments from the Board. There were no comments.

#### **MOTION**

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Vice President DePasquale, to direct General Legal Counsel to draft a letter - with the signatures of the Board President, General Manager, and General Legal Counsel - for employees and Board to carry with them that identifies them as essential workers during curfew orders. Motion passed 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: DIRECTORS Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, DePasquale, Dewane

NOES: DIRECTORS None ABSENT: DIRECTORS None ABSTAIN: DIRECTORS None

#### **REPORTS:**

# 17. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

18. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- 19. FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT REPORT
- 20. OTHER (NO ENCLOSURE)

#### RECESS

President Dewane declared a recess at 6:13 p.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 6:14 p.m.

President Dewane announced that the Board was going into Closed Session at 6:14 p.m.

# **CLOSED SESSION:**

21. PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: General Manager

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:54 p.m.

President Dewane announced that the Board conducted one Closed Session with the General Manager pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6. There was no further announcement.

# **ACTION ITEMS (CONT.):**

22. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER:

President Dewane asked for comments from the Board. There were no comments.

#### MOTION

Motion by Vice President DePasquale, second by Director Atkinson, to approve an increase of the General Manager's base salary of 4.5 percent effective mid-shift September 28, 2020 and a one-time performance incentive of \$15,000 payable Pay Period ending November 20, 2020. Motion passed 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

DIRECTORS

Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, DePasquale, Dewane

NOES: ABSENT: DIRECTORS DIRECTORS

None None

ABSTAIN:

DIRECTORS

None

President Dewane adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Approved:

Shawn Dewane, President

Denise Garcia, District Secretary