

# Pixley Public Utility District

## Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Date: July 3, 2023

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: 232 East Davis Pixley CA 93256

Contact: (559)757-3878

### Agenda:

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Minutes**

**3. Bills to be Paid**

**4. Public Comments**

- Members of the public may address the Board during public comments regarding any matter which is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Comments shall be limited to three minutes per person with thirty minutes overall for the entire comments period, unless otherwise indicated by the Board President.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

**5. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6) Unrepresented Employee Operator 1**

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

**6. Discussion, Consideration, and Potential Action to Increase the Hourly Wage of Operator 1, in an Amount not to Exceed \$33.00, Per Hour.**

**7. Refugio's Welding & Repair/Rafael Luna/Water Service for 236 North Market Street/Outside Water Contract**

**8. Nemecio Galarza / 706 East Compton Ave/Will Serve Letter**

**9. Update/Tait Property**

**10. Update/T-Mobile**

- Discussion, consideration, and possible action on T-Mobile placing equipment on Water Tower

**11. Provost & Pritchard**

1) DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND REPORT ACTIVE ITEMS

a) Remaining Available Water Units (January 2023)

**125 units**

- Will Serve Letters

- Mercado – Walnut (11-19-19/11-7-22)

**1**

- Orneles – 270 W. Court Ave. (12-20-19/2-7-23)

**3**

- N&S Truck Stop (11-2-21)

**22**

- Palma-Quiroz (7-11-22)

**1**

- Correa (7-11-22)

**1**

- Camp (8-1-22)

**1**

- Correa (12-5-22) 2
  - Thandi/Singh (12-5-22) 24
  - Correa – 451 Market Street (1-9-23) 3
  - Pixley Park 2
  - Correa – Pine Street 18
  - Robles -339 Walnut Street 2
  - Remaining Available Water Units **45 units**
  - Note: Properties in red were sent will-serve extension letters as directed at the January Board meeting and who have not responded. I suggest removing it/them from the list.
- b) Travel Stop – It is understood that the developer of the travel center north of Howard Avenue near Park Drive may be constructing the water line from Howard Avenue north to our water main extension project in the spring of 2023. A formal Agreement between the property owner and the Pixley PUD will be required for the reimbursement of costs expended by the Pixley PUD construction of the water line across a portion of the proposed development frontage. P&P staff are coordinating with the developer’s engineer to finalize an agreement for Board consideration. The project engineer is addressing District comments.
- c) Pixley Park – The County of Tulare has hired a design consultant and is consulting with District staff.

## 2) INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

- Well and Waterline Replacement Project
- Near term activity for the month:
- Well 5: Bakersfield Well and Pump successfully removed the pump and recorded video. There was some damage to the well casing. Bakersfield Pump was working on the bowls. They might get out there the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> to brush the chlorine into the well and install the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Well 6: Work is proceeding on the final punch list. The punch list now consists of generator keys, return of pump from Well 2A and re-activation of Well 5. Expecting closure shortly but we suggest holding back a portion of the retention or bond for remainder. The State anticipates full reimbursement to the PUD by the second week of June.
- Recommended Action: Board’s pleasure

## 3) FUNDING ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS

- a) Planning Grant and Construction Grant Applications to the State
- The Planning Grant Application has been finalized and submitted to the State for consideration. The improvements would include the following:
  - Relocation of wastewater collection system improvements in the vicinity of Court and Main Streets
  - Construction of a self-cleaning screen prior to the influent lift station at the WWTF
  - Construction on pumps in the aeration tanks to allow for dewatering of the aeration tanks when maintenance is required
  - Groundwater Monitoring Wells at the WWTF
  - Grit removal equipment at the WWTF

- Sludge Drying Bed improvements at the WWTF
  - The State has assigned a Project Manager to the project application.
  - The State has responded that the information submitted appeared to be complete and that Pixley PUD may expect an executed agreement in 9 to 12 months from December 2022. Updated forms were submitted to the State.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- b) Interim Emergency Drinking Water and Drought Related Drinking Water Funding
- The Project received the final Grant Contract from the State. A kickoff meeting with the State was conducted and a task order was authorized for Provost & Pritchard to perform the design. Design has been initiated and fill station has been ordered. The contractor is coordinating site work. Plumbing/electrical scheduled for the week of May 22; shade structure scheduled for week of June 5.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- c) Drought Relief Grant Applications to the Department of Water Resources
- A Contract for the funding is expected from the Department of Water Resources has been received.
  - Well 4 Rehabilitation
  - This project would rehabilitate the Well 4 well casing in a manner similar to the work performed on Well 3A. An initial site visit may offer an option of a new well on the site as the rehabilitation effort rather than pulling the existing pump – due the recent experience of Well 2A. Communications with DWR and DDW will be initiated soon. The project would include a standby generator for Well 4. Funding has been approved for this project by DWR. Communications with DWR and DDW have been initiated and we are awaiting conceptual approval from DDW. Board directed engineering staff to plan for building demolition.
  - Addendum to the Water Supply and Distribution Improvement Project, Mitigated Negative Declaration was approved at the December Board meeting. Design has begun.
  - Water main in Elm and loops to School Street
  - This project would provide a 10 inch main extension in Elm from Joanne to Ellsworth. In addition, this project would loop the waterlines in Carol, Holste, Sarah, and Diane to School Street. Funding has been approved for this project by DWR. Construction Documents have been started. Project awarded to Specialty Construction.
  - Construction initiated, but discovery of unmarked utilities has brought some delay. School Street tie-ins are complete. Some adjustments needed on Elm Street to adjust conflicts. Crews have moved to Park Drive while conflicts were addressed. Expected to return and finish in June. Design revisions sent to the contractor.
  - A request for additional funds was submitted to and approved by DWR.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- d) TCP PLANNING GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD – WELL 5, WELL 3A, AND 4

- The State has authorized Self Help Enterprises with a Technical Assistance Grant for the project.
  - Design and environmental work have begun. The work now includes mitigation measures for Well 6.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- e) IRWM GRANT TO EVALUATE IMPROVING THE WATER LINE NORTH OF COURT ALONG PARK. (\$2,000,000 grant)
- Water Main Loop Across State Route 99
  - This project would provide for a 12-inch main across State Route 99 north of Howard. The project would extend a 12-inch main north in Park Drive. The water main would loop from Main to Howard. Funding has been received from the County of Tulare for this project.
  - The property owner east of Park Drive and south of the Memorial Building will construct the water main across its frontage.
  - Several easements have been offered to the PPUD for the water main extension project.
  - Project awarded to Specialty Construction. A few punch list items remain (fire hydrant relocations, abandonment of old main line). Work expected to resume the first week of June.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- 4) TULE BASIN WATER QUALITY COALITION – WATER FILL STATION
- The Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition is requesting to enter into an agreement with the Pixley PUD for the installation and operation of a water fill station. The proposed location is the southeast corner of the tank site on School Street north of Terra Bella.
  - Updated information has been received and reviewed. Comments have been returned to the applicant. Draft contract was approved at the December Board meeting. The draft Memorandum of Understanding was submitted by Tule Basin for Board review but rejected by the Board in April.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- 5) CALTRANS PROPOSED POSITIVE LOCATION AGREEMENT
- Caltrans contacted the Pixley PUD on December 5, 2022 with the following request:
  - Caltrans is preparing projects where a positive location or “potholing” of Pixley Public Utility District facilities within the highway right of way is required. Caltrans is requesting a Positive Location Agreement (Pos-Loc Agreement) executed from Pixley Public Utility District. This agreement will permit Caltrans to perform non-destructive vacuum extraction and electronic detection to determine the exact facility location and elevation at no expense to the utility owner. Further, Caltrans will indemnify Pixley Public Utility District of all liability with the testing procedures.
  - A copy of the proposed agreement was included at the meeting of December 19 and is attached.

- The utility of interest to Caltrans in the immediate term is to pothole the sewer line crossing State Route 99 and water lines in the vicinity of Davis and in the vicinity of Court.
  - At the February Board Meeting, the agreement was approved pending Legal Counsel review, who is coordinating with Caltrans staff on the verbiage.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- 6) COUNTY OF TULARE – COURT AVENUE PROJECT
- The County of Tulare has contacted the Pixley PUD regarding a road project in Court Avenue between Main Street and School Street.
  - The County is planning to resurface the roadway, which will impact the existing water valves and sewer manholes owned by the Pixley PUD. The County is requiring that the Pixley PUD pay for raising the valve boxes and manholes. The Work cannot be performed until the resurfacing work is completed. It is recommended that the Pixley PUD request that the County of Tulare cover the cost for raising the valve vaults and manholes. If the County of Tulare will not cover the cost, it is recommended that the Pixley PUD request that the County include bid items in their construction contract for raising the valve vaults and manholes. The County of Tulare and Pixley PUD could enter into an agreement that would make provisions for Pixley PUD to reimburse the cost of the work associated with the valve vaults and manholes. It is not recommended that the Pixley PUD enter into a separate contract for the work after the resurfacing is completed as it is expected that such an effort would be more costly than performing the work when the resurfacing is performed.
  - The County has sent a proposed loan agreement for review. Their engineers found additional facilities; their current estimate is \$92,000.
  - Recommended Action: Board review of attached loan agreement.
- 7) LOWER TULE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT REQUEST
- Lower Tule reached out to the PUD with its intent to gather additional information concerning groundwater levels by installing and operating, at Lower Tule's expense, a transducer in Pixley wells. A draft agreement was provided to the PUD. P&P staff connected with Irrigation District staff and is awaiting further information.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- 8) Pixley PUD Rate Study
- P&P staff have engaged in discussions. Expected to have recommendations by the June Board meeting.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- 9) County Water Feasibility Study
- County staff approached the PUD concerning the feasibility of extending the water main in Park Drive north to Road 120. It was determined that P&P staff would contract directly with the County to provide options (including new well and/or tank facilities) at no cost to the District.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure

## **12. Tools & Maintenance**

- 1) Aramark Service Agreement

- Discussion, consideration and possible action on cancelling Aramark Service Agreement

### **13. Other Matters**

- 1) Board Opening/Seat #4/Rebecca Brown applied for appointment.
- 2) District Office Flooring
- 3) Aldo Gutierrez/Pixley Park Lawn Service
- 4) Housing Rehabilitation Program/Tulare County

### **14. Board Member Communications**

### **15. Adjournment**

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the legislative body after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at Pixley Public Utility District, 232 East Davis Avenue Pixley, during normal business hours. *“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Communication for Hearing Impaired: the TTY/TDD number is: (800)654-5984, voice only: (800)654-5988. Waste Water Services are provided on an Equal Opportunity basis. Reasonable accommodations for alternative means of communications or access of individuals with disabilities will be made upon request. Call: (559)757-3878 to request accommodation.”*