

# Pixley Public Utility District

## Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Date: April 4, 2022

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: 232 East Davis Pixley CA 93256

Contact: (559)757-3878

**NOTE: IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONFERENCE CALL INTO THE MEETING THE NUMBER IS: (701)802-5228 AND THE ACCESS CODE IS: 173772**

### 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.

**5. Denise England/ARPA Agreements/Tulare County**

**6. Alberto Nunez/2238 North Park Drive**

- Discussion, consideration, and possible action on 2238 North Park Drive well going dry.

**7. Surplus Truck**

- Discussion, consideration, and possible action related to the 2003 Chevrolet Pickup

**8. Provost & Pritchard**

1) DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND REPORT ACTIVE ITEMS

a) Remaining Available Water Units -

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
|  | <b><u>133 units</u></b> |
| • Will Serve Letters                     |                         |
| • Elm St. – Medrano (5-16-19)            | 1                       |
| • 1575 N. Park (5-28-19)                 | 1                       |
| • 1224 E. Terra Bella Ave. (6-24-19)     | 1                       |
| • Walnut – Romero (09-17-19)             | 2                       |
| • 521 Walnut – Coronel (10-8-19)         | 1                       |
| • Mercado – Walnut (11-19-19)            | 1                       |
| • Orneles – 270 W. Court Ave. (12-20-19) | 3                       |
| • Mata – 1021 S. Walnut (2-4-20)         | 1                       |
| • Navarro – 637 W. Compton (6-29-20)     | 1                       |
| • Campos – Pine St                       | 2                       |
| • N&S Truck Stop (11-2-21)               | 22                      |

- Remaining Available Water Units 97 units
- Other:
- It is noted that a couple of developers have approached the District with questions regarding water and sewer capacity to support additional development. General information has been provided. It is recommended that developers be required to submit written requests to the District to determine what level of effort is appropriate and what costs the developers would be required to cover.

2) INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

a) Well and Waterline Replacement Project

- Near term activity for April:
- Work will focus on modification of Well 2A, continued progress on Well 6, work on Well 5.
- The Division of Drinking Water has agreed with the direction of destroying Well 2A. The funding agencies have been informed of the change.
- It may not be possible to perform the extra work in Elm Street in this contact. However, the work in Elm Street is included in the Drought Relief project that will be finalized soon.
- Recommended Action: Authorize the contribution of \$8,200 to the water project to allow for the final change order improvements. The water system connection fees can be used for the contribution of the project.
- Authorize the purchase of the pipe and fittings that was purchased by Unified Construction in preparation for the water line extension in Elm Street. Due to the additional costs associated with destroying Well 2A, the water line extension in Elm is no longer viable. However, the \$33,713.47 can be paid from connection fees and can be applied to the Drought Relief project that will begin this year to perform the replacement of the water main in Elm Street. The pre-purchase of materials will result in a reduction of overall cost of said improvement project.

3) FUNDING ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

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 and will be contacting the District in the near future with recommendations.
- Recommended Action: No action requested at this time.

b) Interim Emergency Drinking Water and Drought Related Drinking Water Funding

- The State has provided an updated Scope of Work for District review. Comments to the updated Scope of Work have been returned to the State for final edits.
- CEQA
- Recommended Action: Adopt the Notice of Exemption
- c) Drought Relief Grant Applications to the Department of Water Resources
  - The District has received a funding commitment from the State for the projects summarized below. An initial meeting was held with the State to initiate the process. A Contract for the funding is expected from the Department of Water Resources in the near future.
  - Well 4 Rehabilitation
  - This project would rehabilitate the Well 4 well casing in a manner similar to the work performed on Well 3A. The project would include a standby generator for Well 4. Funding has been approved for this project by DWR.
  - 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.
  - Next courses of action will be to proceed with final Construction Documents as soon as the Contracts are received from DWR.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- d) TCP PLANNING GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD – WELL 5, WELL 3A, WELL 2A AND 4
  - The Applications were submitted to the State for processing on June 23, 2020.
  - The State has submitted a request for a Technical Assistance Grant on behalf of the Pixley PUD to perform design and environmental tasks for the project. The State has communicated back to the District on March 18, 2022 that the contract is under review by DFA Management Staff
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure
- e) IRWM GRANT TO EVALUATE IMPROVING THE WATER LINE NORTH OF COURT ALONG PARK.
  - The County of Tulare has authorized additional work to be performed on this project. The work involves defining the necessary easements that should be existing for the existing water and sewer mains in the vicinity of the project. In addition, modifications to the existing Caltrans encroachment permit are in process. The encroachment permit modifications include clauses to allow for the temporary closure of tow off ramps from State Route 99.
  - 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 County of Tulare has notified the District that Pixley PUD will receive \$2,000,000 of grant funds to compete the construction of the water project. It is expected that the Pixley PUD will receive a contract in the next few months.

- Letters have been sent to the property owners impacted by the water project. It is anticipated that easements will be finalized for approval by the Board by the April 2022 meeting.
- The County has informed the district of insurance requirements for the project. The District's insurance carrier has been informed of the requirements and will provide a recommendation to the District.
- Recommended Action: It is anticipated that the District may need to obtain additional insurance coverage for the duration of the ARPA project. It is recommended that the District obtain additional insurance in order to receive the \$2M grant. Details regarding insurance are expected prior to the Board Meeting.

#### 4) NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY

- The District received a Notice of Deficiency regarding the justification for choosing Path A for nitrogen mitigation as required under CV SALTS. A response has been submitted to the RWQCB for review.
- A meeting was conducted by the RWQCB on February 22, 2022. A summary of the meeting is attached. The RWQCB is recommending that the Pixley PUD change the choice to Pathway B, which would involve joining the Tule Subbasin Local Management Zone. A determination of the annual cost of participation has been requested.
- The Tule Subbasin has provided the annual cost of participation. The costs are attached. This cost is much greater than expected.
- Cost for period of Jan 2021 – June 2021 back fees: \$17,917.31
- Cost for the period July 2021 – July 2022 current fiscal year assessment: \$50,732.70
- The Tule Subbasin Local Management Zone has noted that these fees are based on the MZ's adopted budget for each fiscal year. For the July 2021 – June 2022 fiscal year, the MZ is tracking on coming in under budget, therefore any unexpected funds will be applied towards next year's budget and each discharger will be credited for their proportionate share of the unexpended prior years budget. Additionally, as new discharges join, their back fees and current year assessment will further offset contribution from participating member discharges and the difference will also be applied as credits toward future assessments. In summary, as the MZ continues to get additional dischargers to join the MZ and budgets get dialed in, dischargers can expect future assessments to be less than this initial assessment.
- Although the fees are higher than anticipated, it is recommended that the District participate in the Local Management Zone for the near term. It may be possible to withdraw from the Management Zone in the future once groundwater monitoring wells are installed and the treatment process becomes more stable. It is anticipated that the funding application that has been submitted to the State can provide funding assistance to construct the groundwater monitoring wells and to construct facilities that will provide greater treatment consistency.
- Recommended Action: Approve payment of the fees to the Tule Subbasin Local Management Zone in the amounts of \$17,917.31 and \$50,732.70 as shown above.

#### 5) 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. It is expected that an updated draft contract will be submitted to the Board for review in the near future.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure.
- 6) POINT OF USE (POU) AMENDMENT TO THE WATER SUPPLY PERMIT
- Information has been sent to DDW regarding the potential amendment to the Water Supply Permit to incorporate Point of Use (POU) devices at the Pixley Elementary School and Middle School.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure.
- 7) ARSENIC COMPLIANCE ORDER
- The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has informed the Pixley PUD that the Pixley PUD is no longer in violation of the arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL) identified in Compliance Order No. 03-12-15R-007. The directives contained in Compliance Order No. 03-12-15R-007 will no longer be enforced. The Pixley PUD may consider sending one final notice to customers informing them that the State has determined that the Pixley PUD is no longer in violation of the arsenic MCL (a draft is attached). The final notice should also be sent as bilingual notice.
  - Recommended Action: Board's pleasure

**9. Tools & Maintenance**

**10. Other Matters**

- 1) Support Letter/Trust Grant
  - Discussion, consideration, and possible action on Support Letter/Trust Grant

CLOSED SESSION

**11. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government code Section 54957 (b)(1)- Operator in Training**

OPEN SESSION

**12. OIT Increase/Discussion, consideration, and possible action on Operator in training pay increase not to exceed \$24.96**

**13. Board Member Communications**

**14. 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."*