

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL - MINUTES – DECEMBER 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Chairperson Tracy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on ZOOM

IN ATTENDANCE- Karen Tracy, Barbara Delph, Shari Long, Frank Coate, Karen Morton, Karyn Sernka, David Carrillo, and Jane Jarlsberg.

STAFF PRESENT- Mark Ban, GM and Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant, Jim Corbin, Supervisor-Distribution.

CONSULTANTS PRESENT – Kathleen Radnich, Public Information Consultant

ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR –

Kathleen Radnich requested that Karen Tracy outline her duties as Chairperson for the CAC.

Chairperson Tracy gave a brief description of what it means to be Chairperson of the CAC, with a reminder that anyone can attend the CAC meetings without being a member.

Coate/Jarlsberg nominate Karen Tracy as Chairperson, motion carried unanimously.

Jarlsberg/Tracy nominate Barbara Delph as Vice Chair, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA- Coate/Sernka motion to approve the agenda, motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT-

Dawn Davis stated that for the last 2.5 years she has been woken up by the sound of the generator at the District, at 4:15 a.m. consistently.

GM Ban replied that it is an emergency generator and should only come on when the power goes out.

Supervisor Corbin stated that the generator may come on once a week for AQMD testing.

GM Ban assured Ms. Davis that he would look into it and see if the settings could be changed.

Jane Jarlsberg commented that Ms. Davis has been complaining about the noise for several months.

APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Unanimously approved.

UPDATES ON WELL 14 (4-LOG TREATMENT), SADDLEBACK, AND TILFORD – GM Ban and Supervisor Corbin gave a presentation and a brief Q&A period followed.

ROUNDTABLE COMMENTS –

Jane Jarlsberg asked about the purchase of the property next to MDLT and that part of it runs along Yucca Mesa and asked about the possible connection with Yucca Valley. She wondered if this purchase by MDLT will make a difference.

GM Ban is not 100% certain about the purchase price yet but it is one of the things we discussed at the Water Resources & Operations committee meeting that day. One of the things we discussed was their finances for installing the on-site water improvements that needed to be completed, as well as the off-site improvements.

GM Ban commented that MDLT only owns the Northern and Western portion. The Joshua Tree Mental Physics (Retreat Center) is still owned by Mental Physics. The water project would still be to serve them (Mental Physics).

Jane Jarlsberg commented on the California Water Commission workshop series she attended.

Chairperson Tracy commented that the Wastewater Treatment Strategy would make the rounds again and asked if it would be in one month.

GM Ban replied that because of vacations, and holidays, Mike Metts will be updating the WTS report and he should have it available for discussion. Hopefully before the meeting we will be able to release it to the CAC. If it's not ready, then we will do a chapter by chapter review.

Frank Coate asked what the time frame is on the Wastewater Treatment Strategy in order to get it done.

GM Ban responded that these are basically the initial steps to where the District wants to begin looking. There isn't a restrictive time limit right now other than we have been starting to see increased nitrate levels in some of our wells. Plus, we are trying to be proactive prior to the State stepping in and having any say in this. The District should have some time with directions on how to move forward within the next couple of months. How the components move together with funding and constructing together shows this is several years down the road.

Frank Coate responded that he was wondering when we should start bringing this up to the community?

GM Ban replied that once this report is completed, we should have enough knowledge and direction on how to proceed.

NEXT MEETING – February 9, 2021

ADJOURNMENT- Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Barr, General Manager and Board Secretary