



## Staff Reports

December 19, 2024

TO: BCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Elaine Cervantes

RE: Staff Report

Cc: Marisol Camacho, Morelia Avila

Board Members,

During last month's meeting, it was discussed and agreed upon to allow drive-thru operations for the food distributions once again. We developed a detailed protocol for each distribution to ensure safety and efficiency. On November 27, 2024, we conducted our first distribution using the drive-thru method. Prior to the event, I spoke with the representative and volunteers to emphasize the importance of traffic control and ensuring the safety of everyone involved.

The distribution began at 4:00 PM, but unfortunately, at 4:12 PM, an accident occurred. A driver stated that the sun had blinded her vision, causing her to crash into a parking lot lamp post doing significant damage to her vehicle. Thankfully, no one was hurt. Following this incident, the representative decided that future distributions would not permit drive-thru operations and would remain walk-up to avoid potential liabilities. This approach will also apply to the next two distributions as confirmed by the representatives.

The protocol for drive-thru distributions remains available should any of the food representatives choose to implement it in the future. However, for now, the decision to continue with walk-up distributions prioritizes the safety of everyone involved.

### **\*Biola Food Distribution Schedule and Important Information**

The Biola Food Distributions are held three times a month:

- **1st Thursday of the Month** at 8:00 AM
- **2nd Wednesday of the Month** at 8:00 AM
- **4th Wednesday of the Month** at 4:00 PM (No distribution on Christmas Day-cancelled)

On the 2nd Wednesday of the month, United Health will be present to provide free health screenings to residents and anyone interested, at no cost.

Please be mindful that all participants are volunteers, especially during these cold months. We also want to remind everyone that the quantity of food we receive from the Fresno Food Bank can vary—sometimes there's plenty, and other times, there isn't enough. Unfortunately, this is beyond our control, and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

### **Water System Upgrade Project**

As you know, the district lost the Water System Upgrade Project that was originally scheduled for completion in February 2023. This project, initiated in 2018, aimed to provide Biola with a 500,000-gallon water storage tank, smart meters throughout the community, and booster pump replacements. Estimated at \$4 million, the project was crucial for Biola's water infrastructure.

On May 24, 2024, the State Water Board sent a denial letter citing a lack of communication between the Engineer and the District back in 2021-2022. This project is vital for Biola, especially considering the \$200,000 in losses from leaks over the past year. While the current Board and staff were not involved during the initial stages, they fully recognize the importance of moving this project forward.

Since then, the current team has taken significant steps, including numerous emails, phone calls, and outreach to politicians for assistance. With support from our current engineer, AM Consulting (led by Alfonso Manrique), he arranged a meeting on Friday, November 15, 2024, with Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria's representative, District Director Gilbert Felix, and five members of the State Water Board. During this meeting, we emphasized the significance of this project for Biola and its residents.

While we are uncertain whether this will be enough to overturn the State Water Board's decision, we are committed to continuing the fight. We will explore every avenue, whether through the State Water Board or alternative funding sources, to ensure this critical project becomes a reality for Biola.

### **Sitelogic Solar Panels**

California Energy Commission Next Loan payment is due on December 22, 2024 in the amount of \$28,037.06. This loan is in the amount of \$881,904.00 established in 2021 for District Solar Panels.

### **State water resources control Board**

State water resources control Board annual permit fee in the amount of \$28,205.00 is due on January 3, 2025. This annual permit is for Waste Discharge Annual Fee requirement.

### **District Responsibility for Maintenance along Shaw Avenue and Alleys**

We want to clarify the district's responsibility for maintenance along Shaw Avenue and the adjacent alleys. The district has managed the upkeep of weeds along Shaw Avenue walking path up to Well #3. Beyond this point, maintenance responsibilities fall to the respective property owners. As for the alleys they are sprayed and maintained for weeds twice a year. The District is not responsible for picking up trash, furniture, broken down fences or any other greenery that may be impeding the alley way. That is the responsibility of the property owner.

Specifically, the corner lot at Shaw Avenue and 3rd Street, as well as the property on Shaw Avenue next to Shaw Market, are not maintained by the district. We have contacted the owners of these properties regarding the necessary upkeep, but unfortunately, no action has been taken to our complaints.

Please note that Alfredo Soliz, our district maintenance staff member, has cleaned the area across from the fire station as well as other locations along Biola Avenue. He has proven to be a positive addition to our community.

Attached are photos showcasing the work completed.

### **ATP 5 Biola Community Sidewalk Improvement Project**

On June 17, 2024, work commenced on the Biola Community Sidewalk Improvement Project, which is focused on Biola Avenue from Shaw Avenue to G Street. The construction activities will include:

- Storm drain improvements
- Electrical upgrades
- Concrete work
- Asphalt enhancements

The first walk-through of the completed project took place on Tuesday, October 14, 2024. The County is currently finalizing repairs to damaged cement and addressing graffiti removal on the newly poured sidewalk. We sincerely appreciate your patience and support as we work to enhance and beautify our community.

### **Jakara Movement and UC Merced**

Jakara Movement and UC Merced have started on the Mural that was approved by the Board last month. The artist will work on the Mural through November and December with a ribbon cutting of the completed work in January 2025.

### **Toys with Santa**

Join us for this special event on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at the Biola Community Center. Please note, this event is exclusively for Biola residents. For more details, visit the district website.

If you're unable to attend but would like to contribute, there will be a Drive-Thru Toy Drive for Biola on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Fresno. Check the attached flyer for additional information.

**\*BOARD PACKETS** – Agendas and Board Packets will be sent by email effective August 1, 2023. If a hard copy is needed copies will be available at the office for pickup at your convenience, every Friday before the scheduled Board Meeting of every month. Thank you for your patience as we try and be a little more efficient with staff time and safety.

As a reminder the office hours are as follows:

Monday – office closed

Tuesday – 8:00am –5:00pm

Wednesday – 8:00am –5:00pm

Thursday – 8:00am – 5:00pm

Friday – 8:00am – 2:00pm



# INVOICE

## Annual Permit Fees Required by Sections 13260 & 13269 of the California Water Code

FACILITY ID (WDID): 5D100100001  
FACILITY NAME: BIOLA WWTF  
HOWARD  
BIOLA, CA 93606

INVOICE NO: WD-0282296  
BILLING PERIOD: 07/01/24 - 06/30/25  
INVOICE DATE: 12/4/2024  
INDEX NO: 631726



Total Amount Due by  
Friday, January 3, 2025

\$ 28,205.00

BIOLA COMMUNITY SERVICES DIST  
ELAINE CERVANTES  
PO BOX 57  
BIOLA, CA 93606

Invoice details are shown on the back

### STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD Annual Permit Fee

Facility ID: 5D100100001

Billing Period: 07/01/24 - 06/30/25

Invoice No: WD-0282296

Amount Due:

\$ 28,205.00

Due By: Friday, January 3, 2025

PLEASE REMIT YOUR PAYMENT ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATE SHOWN ABOVE. LATE PAYMENT COULD RESULT IN PENALTIES UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE WATER CODE SECTION 13261. THESE ACTIONS COULD INCLUDE DAILY PENALTIES IN ADDITION TO YOUR FEE OR OTHER ACTIONS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE REGIONAL BOARD.

Make your check payable to State Water Resources Control Board

If you have any questions about this invoice, please call the Water Board at 559-445-5550.



Retain this portion for your records

Please detach and return this portion with your payment

CHECK HERE FOR ADDRESS CORRECTION ON THE BACK

INVOICE NO: WD-0282296

INDEX NO: 631726

(Please print the above number on check or money order)

BIOLA COMMUNITY SERVICES DIST  
ELAINE CERVANTES  
PO BOX 57  
BIOLA, CA 93606  
(559) 843-2657

SWRCB  
PO BOX 1888

AMOUNT DUE: \$28,205.00  
BILLING PERIOD: 07/01/24 - 06/30/25  
DUE BY: 1/3/25  
FACILITY ID (WDID): 5D100100001  
FACILITY NAME: BIOLA WWTF

# Biola Ave Clean Up Between G and H street

December 2024

Before



After



# Biola Ave Clean Up Between G and H street

December 2024

Before



After





# Toys With Santa

December

22

1:30PM-4PM

**BIOLA COMMUNITY CENTER**

4925 N Seventh St. Biola,  
CA 93606



**SECRET SANTA**

BIOLA VFW POST 5845

BIOLA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

BIOLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOOMERANG VINTAGE AUDIO-FRESNO

**Binational "Empowering Communities**



*Thank you! Your generous donations made this possible!*

**\*\*\*NO GIFTS GUARANTEED\*\*\***

**SANTA CLAUS\* REFRESHMENTS & LOTS MORE**

**For More Information**

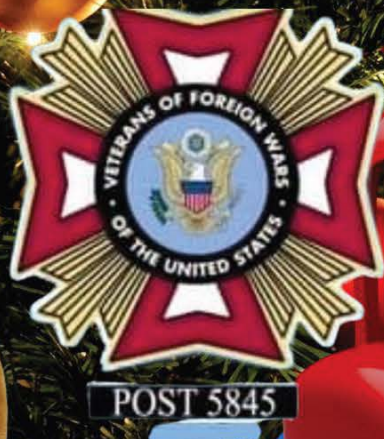
Phillip- (559) 681-7994



**BOOMERANG PRESENTS**

**DRIVE THRU-TOY DRIVE**

*Benefiting*



**Biola VFW**

*Please Give a Little Joy to Our Local Children*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14  
11AM-5PM**

**Drop-off  
Location:**

4295 N Blackstone Ave  
Fresno, CA 93726  
United States

We are looking for donations of new (unwrapped) toys for local children  
in our community

