



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BIOLA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
April 18, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Biola Community Services District met for its Board Meeting on April 18, 2024 at the Biola Community Center, Biola, California.

The following were present:

Board of Directors:

Jennifer Duarte, Board President
Carlos Rodriguez, Vice President
Martha Madera, Board Treasurer
Reyes Lozano, Board Member

The following seat is vacant:

Board of Directors:

Vacancy, Board Secretary

Staff – Present.

Public: Natalia Meza, Martha Palmero, Korina Palmero, Angelica Cortez, Andrea Cortez, and Phillip Cervantes.

Roll Call

Roll Call was called.

Call to Order

President Duarte calls the meeting together at 6:11PM.

Item 1.0 –Public Comment

Phillip Cervantes appreciates the community's support and board treasurer Madera for the March 9, 2024 fundraiser benefiting the seven families affected by the Madera car accident. \$9,500 was raised to distribute among the families.

Item 2.0 – Consent Calendar

2a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes Dated March 21, 2024.

2b. Approval of Financials ending March 31, 2024

Board Treasurer Madera highlights the significant financial strain caused by multiple water leaks on District funds.

A motion is made to approve the minutes dated March 21, 2024 and the financials ending March 31, 2024.

MSC Madera/Lozano Roll Call Vote: 4 Ayes 1 Vacancy

AGENDA ITEM

NEW BUSINESS-

Item 3.0 – Actagro/Nutrien Ag Solutions: New Staff Member

Introductions

Joseph Lee, the Senior Plant Manager, and Brent Taylor, the Technical Engineering Manager for Actagro, introduce themselves. The Biola Actagro facility, spanning 11 acres, produces 17.7 million gallons of product. Actagro has been involved in manufacturing since 1983 and was acquired by Nutrien in 2019. A notable project underway at the facility is the Truck Rerouting initiative, aimed at enhancing safety by reducing truck congestion on Howard Ave. This \$2.5-\$3 million project is awaiting permitting approval.

The following people made a public comment: Natalia Meza

Informational item, no direction from the board provided.

Item 4.0 - Discussion of the Biola Water and Sewer Rate Study Results

Dan Bergmann, President of IGService, who led the Water and Sewer Rate study, presents his findings with a PowerPoint presentation. He shares the data and research he has gathered since the last rate study conducted in 2014. The proposed monthly fixed charge will vary depending on meter size, while water usage will be subject to a volumetric charge of \$3.56 per thousand gallons. He outlines the proposed sewer rates for different customer groups, including single-family homes, duplexes/two dwelling units on one account, multifamily residences, commercial facilities, elementary schools, and industrial establishments. Dan also introduced a structured five-year plan that involves an annual 5% rate increase beginning in July 2025 if approved by the Board this July.

The following people made a public comment: Phillip Cervantes, Natalia Meza, Andrea Cortez

Discussion item, no direction from the board provided.

Item 5.0- Discussion and Approval of Public Notices for Public Discussion and Hearing for the Biola Water and Sewer Rate Increase on June 20, 2024

Dan emphasizes the importance of ensuring the Board's support for sending out the notices. During the rate hearing, residents will be given the chance to protest. For a protest to be successful, it requires more than 50% of customers to participate. The Board Clerk will report the number of protests at the time of the hearing. Following this, the Board will address residents' concerns, proceed to vote, and implement the decision if approved.

A motion is made to approve the public notices for the public hearing for the Biola Water and Sewer Rate Increase on June 20, 2024.

MSC Lozano/Madera Roll Call Vote: 4 Ayes 1 Vacancy

*The Board took a 5 minute recess

Item 6.0- Discussion on the Status of the Water Upgrade System Project and Consider Revisiting Engineer Contract

Elaine Cervantes, the General Manager, has observed that this project is two years overdue. Ruben Mora, from the State Water Boards, is now the fourth person responsible for overseeing the contract. He’s currently unable to approve the amendment as the amendment was submitted by the engineer after the deadline. The matter will be brought before the grand jury to determine whether we can have an amendment. If not, we will need to reapply in order to secure the necessary funds. Mr. Mora needs to know what measures the District plans to implement to prevent a recurrence of this situation. **The Board gives direction to place this as an agenda item on the May agenda.**

Item 7.0- Board Member Communications Information

Any Board member may make an announcement, report briefly on their activities, or ask a question for clarification:

- Board Treasurer Madera- inquiry on the Mid Valley Disposal Clean Up Event charge for disposal of televisions.
- Board President Duarte- update on the Fresno Housing Apartment water line construction.

Item 8.0 Staff Reports

General Manager, Elaine Cervantes, presents her staff report and verbally includes the following to her staff report:

- **SJVAPC Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program-** Application was approved and received \$5,283.00 to pull out vineyards at the District’s 5 acres.
- **Fresno EOC Water Assistance-** Have received almost \$30,000.
- **CSDA Training-** The General Manager, Board President, and Board Treasurer are scheduled to attend training. We have submitted an application for scholarship funds via CSDA to cover the associated training costs.

Item 9.0- ADJOURNMENT 7:45PM

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, April 18, 2024.

At 7:45p.m. on April 18, 2024 the Meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned.

I, Marisol Camacho, Board Clerk to the Board for the Community of Biola, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the above Minutes are a true report of all action minutes taken at the Regular Board of Directors meeting held on April 18, 2024 at the Biola Community Services District, 4925 N. 7th Street, Biola, CA 93606.

Approved:

Date

Marisol Camacho, Board Clerk

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 16, 2023 – Regular Meeting, Biola, CA at 6:00PM