



## Mariposa County Department of Public Works

Roads – Parks & Recreation – Facilities - Airport  
Engineering – Surveying – Transportation – Utility Operations  
Fleet Maintenance – Solid Waste - Cemeteries

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### WATER AGENCY ADVISORY BOARD

#### ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES April 25, 2024

**A. 3:00 pm Called to Order**

| Attendee Name    | Title                   | Status  |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Mike Guenther    | Chair                   | Present |
| Sonny Palmer     | Vice Chair              | Present |
| Michael Martin   | Member                  | Present |
| John McCamman    | Member                  | Excused |
| Mark Rowney      | Member                  | Present |
| Dave Conway      | Member                  | Present |
| Susan Wages      | MPUD                    | Present |
| Matt Hespenheide | PWD County Engineer     | Present |
| Joan Zierott     | PWD                     | Present |
| Sam Cervený      | PWD Deputy Director     | Present |
| Jean Dordan      | PWD Executive Assist    | Present |
| Wes Smith        | Mariposa OES            | Excused |
| Danette Toso     | Supervisor District III | Excused |
| Shannon Poe      | Supervisor District II  | Absent  |
| Steve Dahlem     | County Counsel          | Present |
| Raquel Sandoval  | County OES              | Present |

**B. Introductions**

None

**C. Public Comment**

None

**D. Approval of Minutes**

Approve the minutes of February 29, 2024, as corrected. (M) Dave Conway (S) Sonny Palmer

## **E. Action Items**

### **1. Approve the Annual Committee Report for 2023**

The Board of Supervisors asked that we add “will sit as Drought & Water Shortage Task Force”. Clarify 2023 membership. In the third paragraph under Background and Information, add “a percentage of revenue up to \$300,000” and “18 million”. Add “escrow account” in the last sentence.

(M) Michael Martin (S) Mark Rowney with revisions approved by County Counsel.

## **F. Discussion Items**

### **1. Continued discussion of the review of MID settlement payments and audit report**

County Counsel Steve Dahlem reported that earlier in the month, County Counsel, outside counsel, and a consultant from Charles River Associates met with outside counsel and MID internal staff to discuss and clarify the calculation of annual payments and determine their accuracy. There will be more discussion on this matter in the near future.

The County expects another payment in April or May 2024, their fiscal year ends March 30th.

## **Recess Water Agency Advisory Board**

## **G. Water Agency Advisory Board to sit as the Drought and Water Shortage Task Force**

### **1. Discussion of Resiliency Plan**

County Engineer Matt Hespenheide has been working with Blackwater Engineering to create a plan focusing on the 8,000-acre feet of water from McClure, which carries a usage deadline in 2047. The focus at this point will not be on the 30,000-acre feet at the South Fork of the Merced River. Matt needs clarification that these are the correct facts, after which he will have Blackwater revise the draft for better clarity before reaching out to any regulatory agencies.

Michael Martin emphasizes that there can be no diversion of water during a drought year, as it is anticipated that there could be up to four drought seasons within a 10-year span.

Matt proposes starting a community outreach program by partnering with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to gather information and data on domestic wells, offering a well test kit in exchange for information. He believes this approach will be better received by the community through the conservancy rather than directly from the county.

Environmental Health possesses records of wells that went dry during the last drought, along with additional information regarding wells in Mariposa County and the amount of water purchased within the county. Matt must report back to the state by June 2025.

Mike Guenther inquired about providing water in an emergency. Matt explained that self-help initiatives intervened during the last drought, emphasizing the need for a pre-established plan before applying for a grant. Raquel Sandoval from OES mentioned existing disaster mitigation plans. Mike Guenther requests a task order to be prepared for the next meeting.

## 2. Update from Blackwater/Public Works

None, there will be a draft to review from Blackwater at the next meeting.

## **Reconvene as the WAAB**

During the budgeting process, some funds should be allocated for water projects. Michael Martin suggests that this proposal be brought back to the Board of Supervisors, as ideas are moving forward to earmark these funds exclusively for water projects. Additionally, he recommends adding this topic to the agenda for the next Water Agency Advisory Board meeting for a vote and updating the previous letter to the Board from two years ago..

## **H. Next Meeting**

**June 27, 2024**

## **I. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Dordan  
Executive Assistant