



MARIPOSA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

TEAM, SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP

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YOSEMITE WEST DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES

September 14, 2023

A. 2:00 pm Called to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tom Lambert	Chair	Present	1:55 pm
Debra Kroon	Vice Chair	Present	1:55 pm
Jeff Webb	Member	Present	1:55 pm
Malcolm Neal	Member	Present	1:55 pm
Art Comier	Member	Present	1:55 pm
John Mock	Secretary	Present	1:55 pm
Ted Williams	Member	Present	1:55 pm
John Luthey	Plant Ops Manager	Present	1:55 pm
Shannon Hansen	Director PWD	Present	1:55 pm
Sam Cerveny	Deputy Director PWD	Present	1:55 pm
Melinda Rice	Deputy Director PWD	Present	1:55 pm
Leigh Westerlund	County Assistant CAO	Present	1:55 pm
Rosemarie Smallcombe	Supervisor District I	Present	1:55 pm

B. Introductions

C. Public Comment

Debra Kroon presented a well completion report for a 31-acre parcel in the Yosemite West area that original tested at 60 gallons a minute but decreased to 8 gallons per minute during a production test. Ms. Kroon also states that the Committee should advise on things happening in the area that could impact the district. Supervisor Smallcombe explains the SB 552 drought relief program.

D. Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of June 8, 2023, as amended (M) Debra Kroon (S) John Mock

E. Updates and Reports

1. Fiscal Review

Assistant County Administrator Leigh Westerlund addresses operations and budgets, encompassing six districts within four communities. Notably, these districts, comprising 406 households (5% of the total county population), are

responsible for financing their capital improvements, upgrades, and repairs, independent of county support.

Ms. Westerland elaborates on the intricacies of the utility district's cost structure, with utility rates influenced by the Proposition 218 process. Over the last two years, costs have consistently surpassed revenue, resulting in an accumulating negative budget. Emphasizing fiscal responsibility, Ms. Westerland underscores the districts' obligation to cover such shortfalls, discouraging reliance on loans for operational needs.

Last year witnessed necessary fund transfers to realign the budget. Ms. Westerland provides insight into the rate determination process, detailing how staff hours dedicated to each district form the basis for budgetary figures.

Highlighting the importance of transparency, Ms. Westerland mentions the existence of a concealed Operating Reserve (savings account), ensuring it serves as a safety net for addressing shortages through a budget action. Some funds from this reserve were allocated for tree removal.

Responding to Member Ted Williams' inquiry about the ongoing fund balance, Ms. Westerland clarifies that, as per her communication with the auditor's office, the amount stands at \$357,000. Discrepancies in calculations between Mr. Williams and the county arise, prompting questions specifically related to the fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

2. Operations Update

Flow rates are currently stable, with the treatment plant experiencing a notable increase in flow during the month of May. The increase is attributed in part to heavy rains during the previous season. The water break on Henness Ridge Road resulted in a substantial release of water.

In considering future improvements, Member John Mock expresses interest in implementing new water meters.

3. Wastewater treatment plant project

The wastewater treatment plant clarifier gear box is in the process of being rebuilt. Water tank cleaning is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks.

4. CIP Projects

Lowery unit back up and running with no cost to the district because ARPA funds were used for the repair. pH level should begin to stabilize. The ARPA funded sludge removal projects in Mariposa Pines and Yosemite West are moving forward. Removal and disposal of liquid waste and sludge from the clarifier is

quoted at \$108k. Cleaning of the 10k gallon wastewater UST is quoted at \$62k. Sludge sampling survey quoted at \$7k. The cleaning of the 10k gallon tank is overdue and should be conducted annually.

The spray field leach lines are also in need of repair. Blackwater has submitted a proposal to prepare a preliminary engineering report and design for restoration and or expansion of the spray field and leach lines in the amount of \$237,000 with no cost to the district. Tree removal will be helpful to get to areas in need of repair.

Deputy Director Sam Cerveney states that Public Works allocated \$1,000,000 in ARPA funds between all districts based on total revenue in each district. 50% will go to Yosemite West. Blackwater will study solids removal. The cost of leach field repairs will exceed the funding provided by the IRWM grant.

F. Discussion and Action Items

1. Update on status of rate study and Prop 218 process and discussion of next steps.

Rate study is still with Bartle Wells. They are waiting for the final fund balance for 22/23. Sam explains that all of the wastewater systems have been neglected for years and that the ARPA funding will get the systems back to intended operation of design. Going forward, he wants to make sure the increase in rates will be sufficient to maintain the systems.

2. Consideration and potential action regarding adjusting meeting time.

Sam would like to change the meeting time to 10:00 am starting in December so Public Works can return to Mariposa earlier in the day. Member Debra Kroon advised that winter is icy at 10:00 am. (M) Ted Williams (S) Art Cormier, Debra Kroon opposes.

G. Next Meeting

Future Agenda items: Debra would like to address the use of roads by non-district vehicles. People are using the roads and not paying a road maintenance fee. The Condos owners paid bond in the beginning and then fees. There is a new zone in the area that has not been addressed. She suggests adding a new zone through planning. Supervisor Smallcombe explains that the Yosemite West planning advisory committee is inactive but still exists.

Next meeting scheduled for December 14, 2023 at 10:00 am

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm by Tom Lambert

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Dordan
Executive Assistant