

# LAMONT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday November 16, 2016 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Location:  
District Office  
8624 Segrue Road  
Lamont CA, 93241

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Board President Cruz called to order the regular board meeting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 16, 2015 at the office of the Lamont Public Utility District. All Board Members were present. Staff present included Interim General Manager/District Secretary Martin Nichols, District Counsel Alan Peake, District Engineer Dan Cronquist, and District Interpreter Mario Sanchez.

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by President Cruz

## 3. Board Member announcements - none

## 4. Public Comment

Mr. Manuel Barrera, Huerta Foundation, regarding SGMA and its impact on water rates

## 5. Staff Reports

A. District Counsel – Mr. Peake reported on the need to add an item to the agenda following the report from the District engineer.

B. District Engineer –Mr. Cronquist reported on the lower than expected costs for the solar projects change order. He also reported to the Board on the refusal of Liberty composting to take the sludge material for which they has contracted and the need to issue a change order to GSE Construction for them to stop work until this matter can be resolved.

C. General Manager: Mr. Nichols reported on the additional special meeting agenda and the invoice received form the State Controller for the cost of their audit (\$114,000)

D. Urgency Item to add an item to the agenda

Motion by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Gonzalez to find that the need to take action arose after the agenda for the November 16, 2016 agenda was posted and to add as item C1. Consideration of issuing a change order to GSE Construction to demobilize from the sludge removal project due to action by Liberty Compost to no longer receive material from Lamont PUD. Approved 5-0

## 6. Consent Agenda

Directors Sanchez and Prado asked that the minutes of October 24, 2016 be removed for discussion.

A motion by Director Sanchez seconded by Director Gonzalez to approve the remaining consent items. Approved 5-0

B. Director Prado asked that the recording of the meeting of August 9, 2016 be included in the October 24 minutes and Director Sanchez asked that the comments of the General Counsel regarding the statements made by Mr. Sabovich also be included in the minutes of October 24, 2016. Motion by Director Prado, second by Director Hernandez to adopt the October 24, 2016 minutes as amended.—approved 5-0

## 7. Regular Agenda

A. Request by Directors Prado and Sanchez to discuss the District's policy regarding Board Members contacting staff on service matters.

Board member discussed policy option for members to follow when reporting to staff, potential service issues reported to them by district residents. By unanimous consent the Board directed staff to include in the forthcoming Board Policy Manual a provision the when contacted by residents on a service issue they must first try to contact the general manger and if that fails, they can contact other district staff, but when the issue involves another Board member that matter can only be reported to the General manger.

B.: Contract Change Order No. 3 Solar Power Project.

District Engineer, Dan Cronquist reported on the need to issue a change order to give the solar contractor additional time to complete the project due to difficulties they are experiencing in getting the faculty connected to PG&E.

Motion by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Prado to approve the change order. Approved 5-0

C. CEQA – Notice of Exemption for Well 17 Granular Activated Carbon Treatment Project.

District Engineer, Dan Cronquist recommended the adoption of a Notice of Exemption for Well 17 Granular Activated Carbon Treatment Project.

Motion by Director Prado, second by Director Gonzalez to adopt a Notice of Exemption for Well 17 Granular Activated Carbon Treatment Project. Approved 5-0

D. Options to trapping and relocation of animals at the Plan B site.

Interim General Manager, Martin Nichols advised the Board on the extraordinary and unexpected cost to relocate Kangaroo Rats from the Plan B area and recommended that before proceeding with

this project, the District Engineer should analyze options to the relocation proposal. Mr. Nichols also advised the Board that this matter needed to be settled in a couple of months to avoid permit issues with the State Water Resources Control Board.

Motion by Director Prado, seconded by Director Gonzalez to request the District Engineer to research all reasonable options for the Plan B animal relocation and report back to the Board at its January meeting. Approved 5-0

**E. Attendance at CSDA Board Member Workshop.**

Motion by Director Prado, seconded by Director Gonzalez to theorize attendance at District expense Board Members and General Manger attendance at the CSDA workshop in Tehachapi on December 8, 2016. Approved 5-0

**F. Authorization to acquire temporary office space for supervisory staff.**

Interim General Manager, Martin Nichols recommended the acquisition of a temporary office to relocate field supervisors so that space in the main office can be made available for the new finance officer.

Motion by director Sanchez seconded by director Gonzalez to authorize rental of the facilities recommended in the staff report and to install and electrical conception to the District's shop. Approved 5-0

The Board recessed the regular meeting to convene in a special meeting at 7PM. The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 7:26 PM

**G. Changes to the Utility Worker I job descriptions**

Interim General Manager, Martin Nichols recommended changes to the job description for the Utility worker I position to require a class B California Driver's License so that the new employee would be able to drive the new vacuum truck.

Motion by Director Prado, seconded by Director Hernandez to approve changes to the job description for the Utility worker I position to require a class B California Driver's License. Approved 5-0

**H.: Discussion of efforts to join the Kern River Groundwater Management Agency**

Interim General Manager, Martin Nichols and District Counsel reported on the actions of the Kern River GSA to delay Lamont PUD's membership in the KRGSA. No action was taken on this matter.

**I Determine date for December 2016 regular meeting.**

Motion by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Gonzales to set the date for the regular December meeting of the Board on December 13, 2016 at 6 PM.

**8. Closed Session –**

Pursuant to California Government Code Section Gov't Code § 54957. – To provide direction on the negotiation of an employment agreement and to consider the appointment of a General Manager

**Report on closed session**

District Counsel Peake reported that the Board had met in closed session to discuss terms of an employment agreement with Mr. Scott Taylor and had reached agreement with Mr. Taylor

**J. Approval of an Employment Contract for the position of Lamont Public Utility District General Manager**

Motion by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Gonzales to approve an agreement with Scott C. Taylor to serve as the Lamont General Manger effective November 21, 2016 and authorize the President to execute this agreement on behalf of the Board.

Approved by roll call vote:

Director Gonzalez – aye

Director Prado – aye

Director Sanchez – aye

Director Hernandez – aye

President Cruz - aye

**K. Termination of Interim General Manger agreement with Martin Nichols**

Motion by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Gonzalez that by mutual agreement with Mr. Nichols, his employment agreement is terminated effective November 20, 2016.

Approved 5-0

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Director Sanchez and seconded by Director Gonzalez to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lamont Public Utility District, held on Wednesday November 16, 2016 at 8:45 pm. Approved. 5-0.

**ATTEST:**

X  
Jose G. Cruz, President of the Board

X  
Martin Nichols, Interim Board Secretary/  
General Manager