

Merquin County Water District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merquin County Water District called to order in regular session at 19684 Second Ave., Stevinson, California at 6:00 p.m.

Present were, President Freddy Oliveira, Director Danny Drumonde, Director Adam Azevedo, Absent: Director Phil Dores, Director Rosemary Ouse.

MOTION APPROVING MINUTES of October 26, 2022

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Adam Azevedo approving the minutes of October 26, 2022

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING LIST OF WARRANTS

Moved by Director Adam Azevedo, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving the list of warrants \$112,665.66. President Freddy Oliveira questioned if the CPA David Farnsworth has completed his auditing? Crystal stated he is requesting additional documentation.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING CHECKING ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES

None

Motion approving Financial Report for September 2022

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Adam Azevedo approving the Financial Report for September 2022.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Financial Report for October 2022

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Adam Azevedo approving the Financial Report for October 2022.

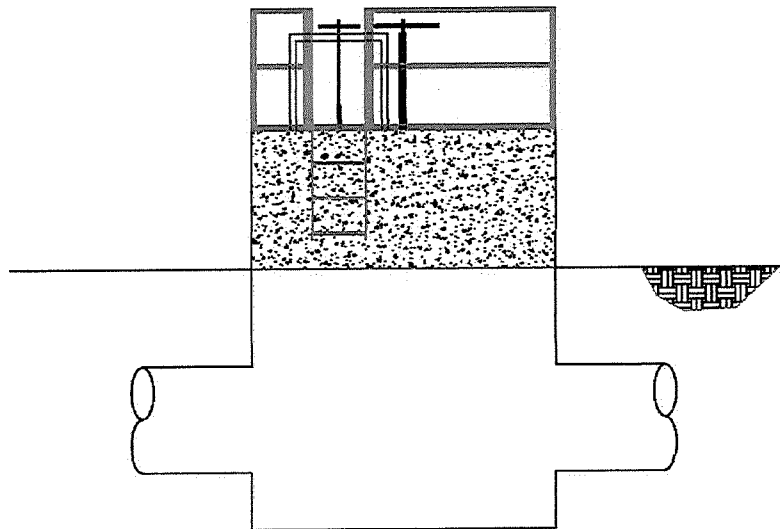
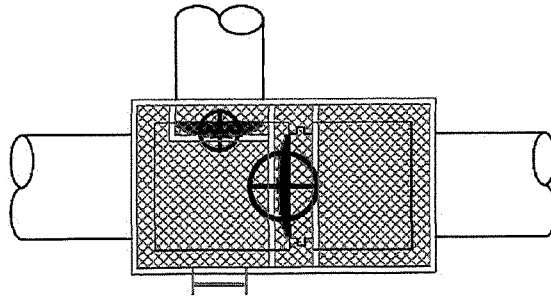
Motion Carried Unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

None

Eric Swenson-District Engineer.

1. Discussion/Action: Consider approving RLA for Flying H Partners and Oliveira Family Dairy. New overpour box on Highline Lateral with outlet. Unfortunately, the old RLA Agreement was used that does not include the Board approved fee of \$750 and the construction insurance requirements. The exact location of this box has not been provided and the type and size of pipe connecting to the box for the southward delivery has not been provided. It has been proposed that a 30-inch gate be installed for this new delivery. A railing will be required around the top of the box due to elevation from ground and Cal OSHA requirements.



The board did not have a quorum that did not include President Freddy Oliviera since this project concerns the Oliviera Family Dairy. This is tabled.

2. Discussion/Action: Proposal to develop a resolution regarding metering/billing for delivered irrigation water for MCWD customers. It has come to my attention that the District is billing customers for water based upon flows at the Eastside Canal and flows from wells. Customers are paying for seepage losses prior to delivery point(s) and customers are not being billed for actual water delivered to their properties as is the case for many other Water and Irrigation Districts. It would seem appropriate that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution formalizing this metering and billing protocol. The Board directed staff to create a resolution for consideration by the Board of Directors at the December 13, 2022, meeting regarding metering/billing for delivered irrigation water.

3. Discussion/Action: Proposal to develop a resolution concerning fees associated with activating irrigation on abandoned irrigation laterals within MCWD. It is likely that between now and the 2026 water season many customers who have not recently received irrigation water from MCWD will want to do so. In order for this to be a smooth process, it is desirable that there is a policy to outline the costs associated for customers to receive water and who pays costs associated with these changes. It would seem appropriate that the Board of Directors should adopt a resolution formalizing this metering and billing protocol. The Board directed staff to create a resolution for consideration by the Board of Directors at the December 13, 2022, meeting regarding a resolution concerning fees associated with activating irrigation on abandoned irrigation laterals within MCWD.

4. Discussion/Action: Consider request from Juan Sanchez to install 3 delivery gates on an abandoned section of the McCullagh Lateral between McCullagh and Northrup Roads. Jimmy and the District Engineer met with Mr. Sanchez on October 17, 2022, to discuss his request for irrigation water from the District during the coming water season. Mr. Sanchez took us to the locations where he desires to have deliveries (3 each). We observed that the ditch has not been maintained. Jimmy reports it is likely 10-20 years since the parcel was irrigated by MCWD. Additional challenges are that there is an inadequate canal bypass that was dug upstream and in addition one landowner appears to be pipelining a section of the McDonald Lateral without authorization. Mr. Sanchez is a licensed plumbing contractor and has asked how much of the work to restore service to his parcel he can do through his company. Action items 2 and 3 described above will aid in providing direction to Mr. Sanchez.

Juan Snachez



Legend
Corner

Google Earth

1000 ft

140

N



Picture of ditch through Juan Sanchez's property. Top width of ditch approximately 17 feet. Bottom width of ditch approximately 6 feet.

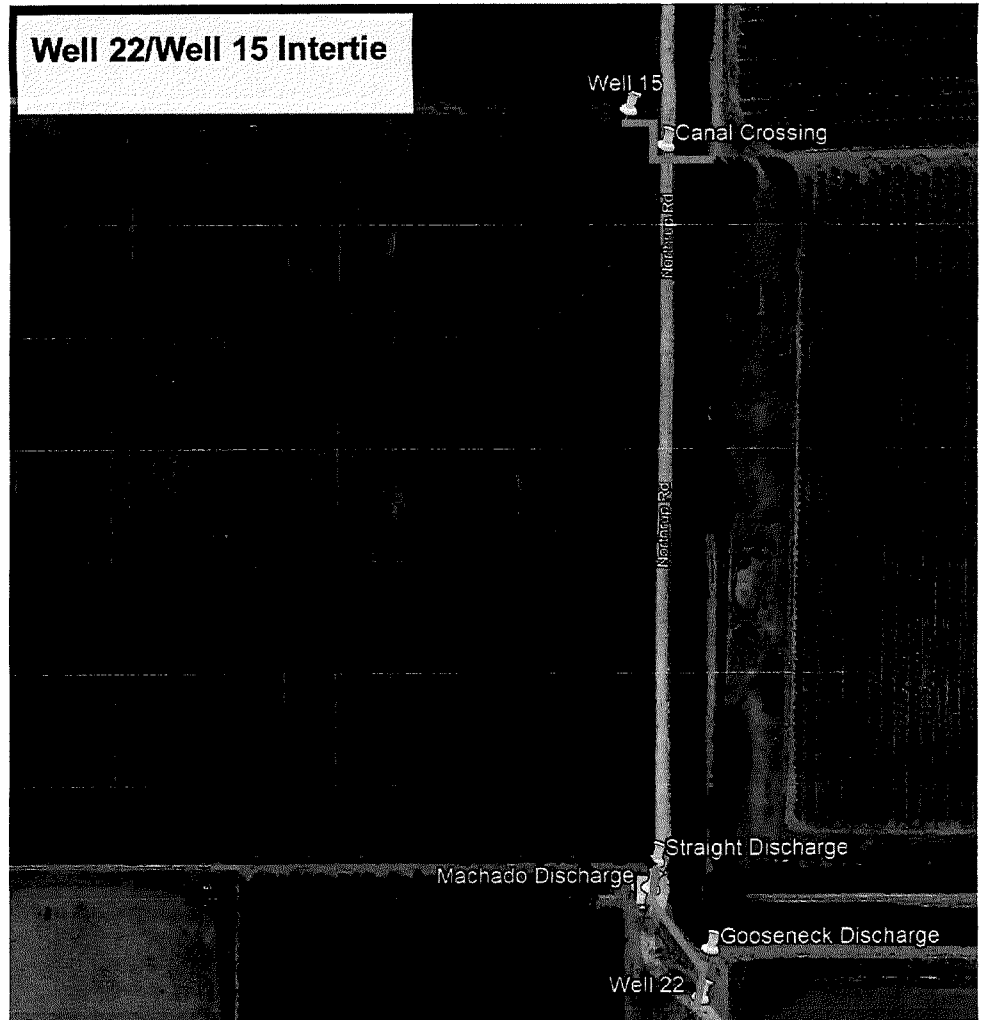


Owner dug a temporary ditch upstream of the Sanchez property. Top width of ditch 6 feet. Bottom width of 3 feet.

The Board indicated that property owners could do improvements themselves for open ditches adjacent to their property. Additional investigation needs to be completed to determine the full scope of work required to deliver water to Juan Sanchez's property. Items 2 and 3 earlier in the District Engineer's presentation will apply to this project.

5. Discussion/Action: PG&E electrical service application for proposed well 7A on Vierra property .PG&E application for 75 HP service submitted on October 31.
6. Discussion/Action: Direction to District Engineer concerning proceeding with two pipeline projects to interconnect District wells. With the new requirement from SWD to apply for permits to wheel water through the Eastside Canal and associated fees it will be desirable to minimize wheeling of well water through the Eastside Canal. In addition, the District needs to be able to provide irrigation water to customers in dry years when surface water is available. To move in this direction two projects are being proposed for construction prior to the 2023 water season.

Well 15 and 22 intertie.

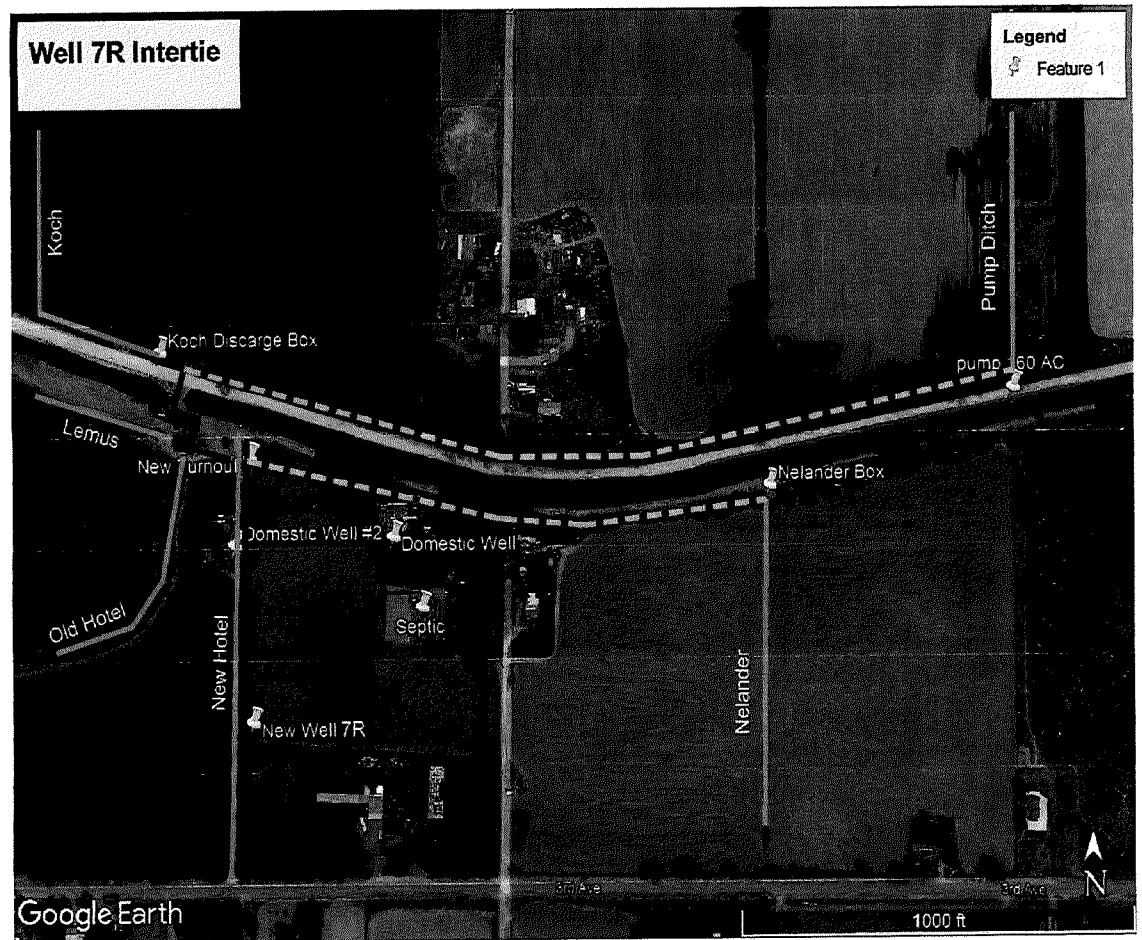


Proposed new 12- or 15-inch pvc pipeline indicated in red.

Pipeline would allow flow of water from Well 22 and Well 15 to:

- Gooseneck lateral.
- Straight lateral.
- Stoerk lateral.
- Machado Property
- Property east of well 15 across Eastside Canal.

Well, 7R Intertie Project:



Initial project (in red) would provide water to:

- Dave Vierra (condition of new well easement)
- New Hotel lateral.
- Old Hotel lateral.
- Lemus lateral.
- Koch lateral.

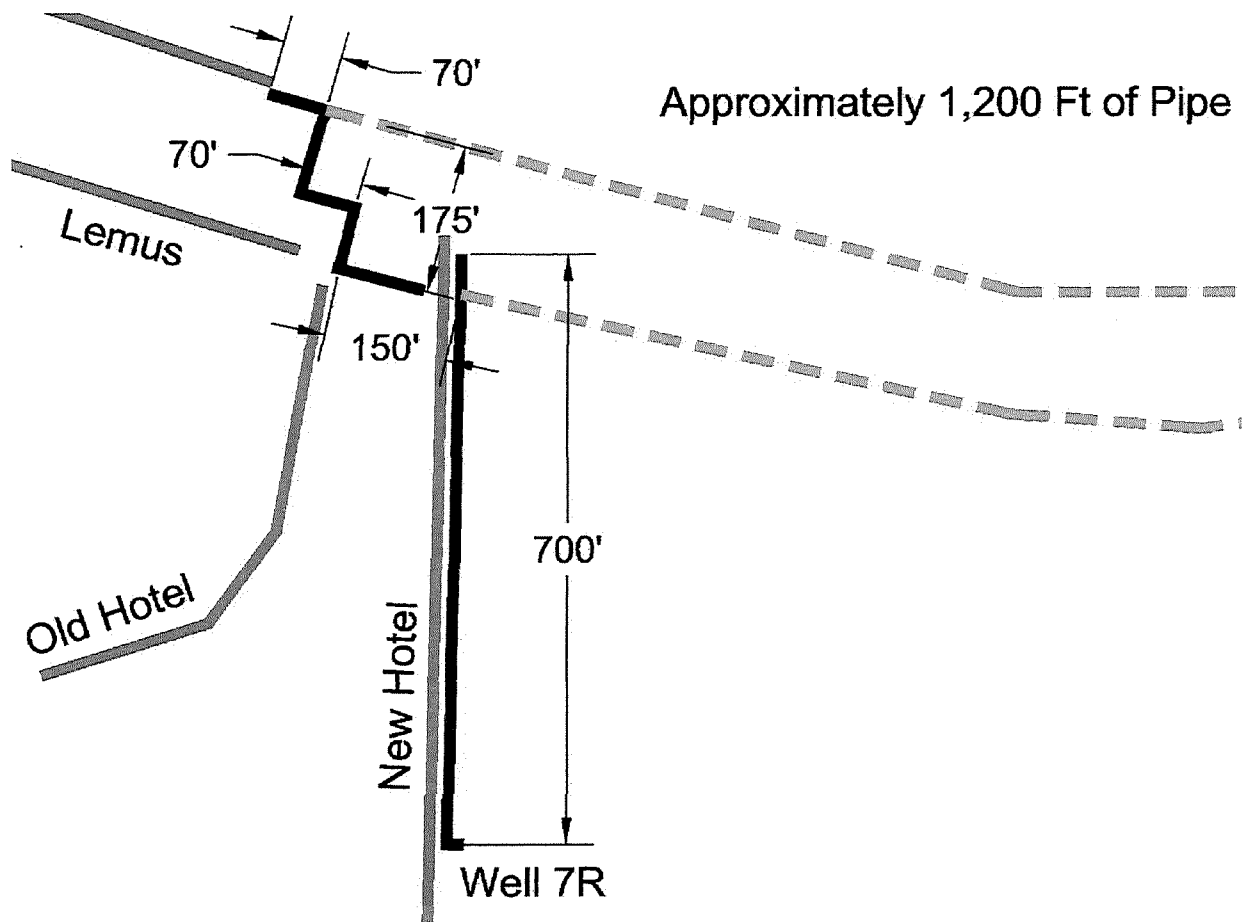
Future connections are planned to:

- Nelanders lateral
- Pump Ditch

Proposed pipeline would likely be pvc 15 inches in diameter.

District Engineer addressed Bobby Kelley if they have a standard agreement for crossing the Eastside Canal. Bobby stated he does not have a standard agreement, but with the figure described in the drawing he would prefer not to do that. Eric asked if we could cross the Eastside Canal and Bobby said yes, just not as described due to in the future he will be making changes to the structure and would

not want to have issues at that time. Bobby stated MCWD can go under the Eastside canal.



General support from the Board on proceeding with design and costing of these two pipelines. Bob Kelley in the Audience indicated that he would want the Eastside Canal crossed upstream of the proposed location and to contact Mario Martins with SWD to discuss crossing requirements.

7. Discussion/Action: Consider modification of timesheet for District Engineer to help track time spent on projects. Work is starting on the DWR grant entitled: *Merquin County Water District (MCWD) Sustainable Yield Management Plan and Plan Implementation*. Reimbursable work is also occurring on the new Cal Trans traffic circle at Highway 140 and Lander Avenue. It would be desirable to start tracking some of the time the District Engineer bills for selected project for tracking and reimbursement purposes. The current timesheet does not support such detailed record keeping.

The Board of Directors was supportive regarding modifying the current time sheet.

MATTERS FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT

Dave Nervino reported TID attended a conference in Turlock, the General Manager mentioned the GSA plans. They reported eight were approved and one was inadequate. There were thirty-nine that were incomplete. Dave said there is something new called Land-Flex where they will pay individual farmers not to pump.

OFFICE

Crystal reported State fund payment was found, it had been credited to an incorrect account, it has been fixed and credited correctly.

Xavier Farms Services sent a bill for \$971.53 claiming they had not received payment; Merced County has the cancelled check. Merced County will not issue a copy of the cancelled check unless we pay \$5.00 per check and there are two checks. The Board directed that the District pay the check fee and clear up the billing issue.

Letter for Biannual Conflict of Interest form for the Board to sign.

The CPA reported MCWD should consider increasing the assessment fee due to MCWD is losing money each year due to the fee being too low.

Maintenance

Jimmy reported they began pumping the pipelines, finished the Nelander they will move to the Hotel and Koch, then the Storke and the Spole which has more leaks. Dusty should be available the end of the week to begin repairs.

Well 17 is leaking water thru the shaft, it pumps approx. 550 gpm.

Jimmy stated the letters have been sent to the property owners with leaky valves, Rogers old property with the fence said MCWD can take it out.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

1 & 2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--ANTICIPATED LITIGATION [Gov't. Code §549456.9(d)(4)]; Two Potential Cases

Moved by Director Adam Azevedo, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde, to adjourn to closed session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

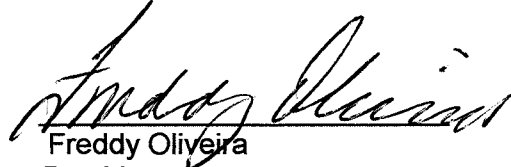
Moved by Director Adam Azevedo, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde return to open session

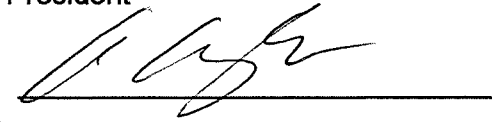
Motion Carried Unanimously


MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Adam Azevedo to adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously


Freddy Oliveira
President


Adam Azevedo
Vice President


Betty Guest
Secretary