

**Merquin County Water District**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Of the Board of Directors  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

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 6:00 p.m.

Present were, President Adam Azevedo, Director Danny Drumonde, Director Rick Jones, Absent: Vic President Freddy Oliveira

**MOTION APPROVING MINUTES of December 13, 2022**

Tabled

Motion Carried Unanimously

**MOTION APPROVING MINUTES of December 28, 2022**

Tabled

Motion Carried Unanimously

**MOTION APPROVING LIST OF WARRANTS**

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving the list of warrants \$27,132.09.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**MOTION APPROVING CHECKING ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES**

None

**Discussion on water rates 2023**

MCWD Board of Directors requested entitlement application be sent to MCWD customers to show what acreages will be irrigating in 2023. Water rates will be discussed at a later date.

**Motion approving Financial Report December 2022**

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving Financial Report for December 2022.

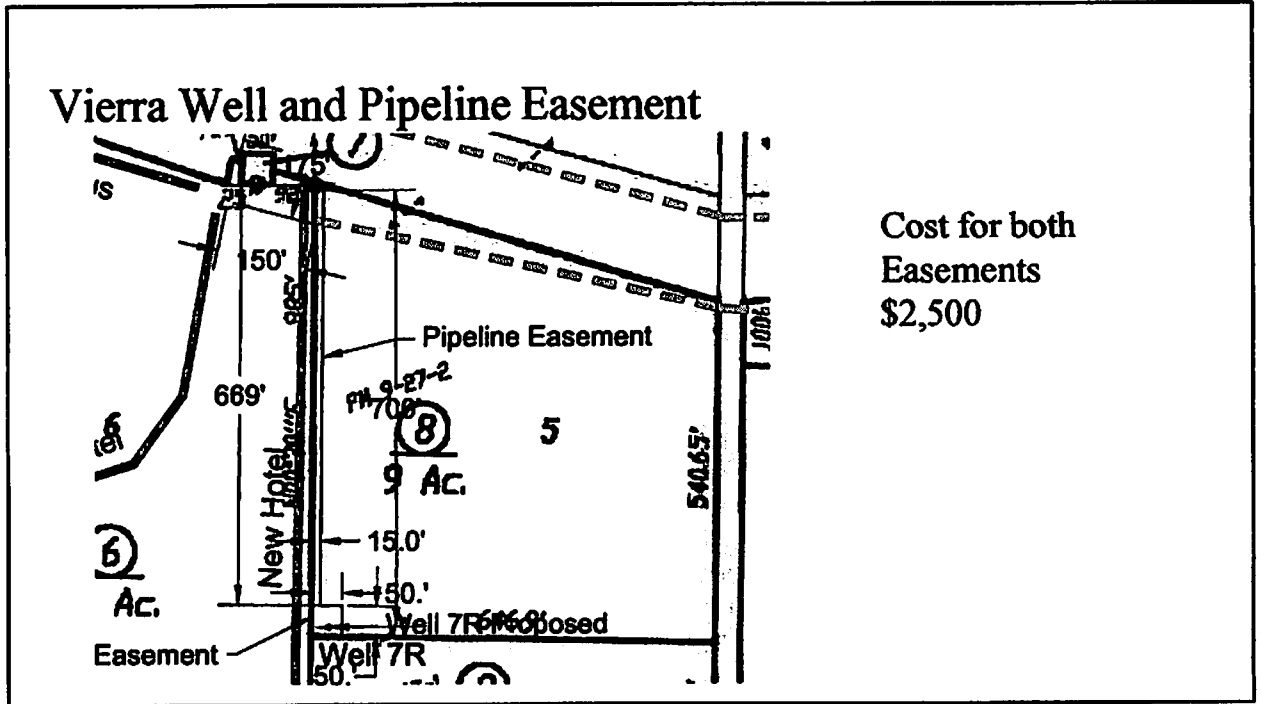
Motion Carried Unanimously

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

Civil Engineer Eric Swenson:

1. Discussion/Action: Update on Vierra Well and well easement. Action to approve easement and submit drilling permit application.



Cost for both  
Easements  
\$2,500

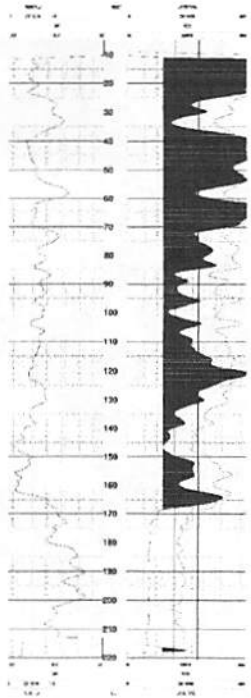
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Motion approving easement fees of \$2,500 for Vierra Well easement and submittal for well drilling permit application.

2.

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded, by Director Phil Dores accepting the \$2,500 fees for the Vierra well easements, and submittal for well drilling permit application.

3. Motion Carried Unanimously



- Well 7R E Log looks good.
- Likely 190-foot completion depth.
- Estimated salinity 600 ppm.
- Cost proposal from Quality Well Drillers requested.
- MCDEH permit cost \$52.

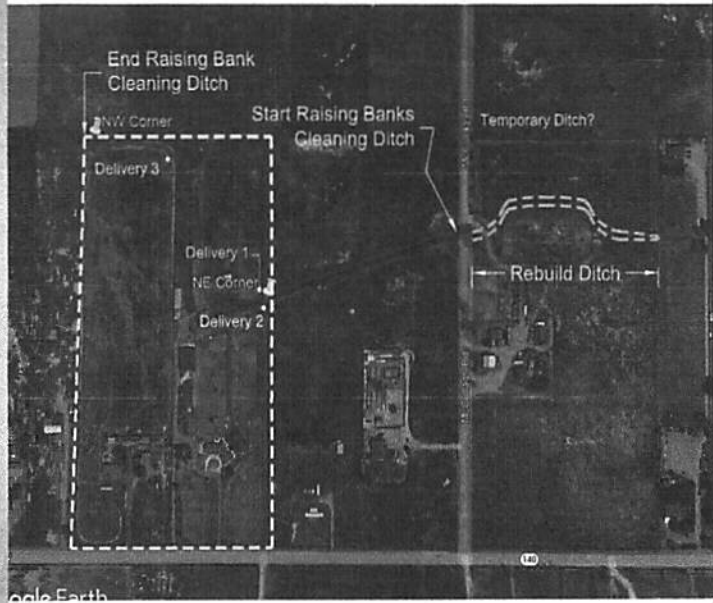
Dave Nervino asked how deep the drilling would need to go to reach the perforation? Eric stated the state requires a fifty-foot seal. Possible 170-175 feet.

Bobby Kelley stated this was presented to SWD General Manager who presented it to Mario. They requested Mr. Kelley to communicate it to the MCWD board that if a pipe is installed above ground it needs to be installed on the West side not the East side of the 42–48-inch spill, there irrigation boards that need to be removed and reinstalled, so therefore there cannot be a pipe blocking it. It also means it will be over an area of traffic. If it is going to be above ground, we need to meet with engineers and staff to work out the details. It was agreed Eric Swenson, Mario and Dave will meet and work out the details.

4. Discussion/Action: Update on work related to new delivery request by Juan Sanchez. Board direction on property access where access is physically restricted.

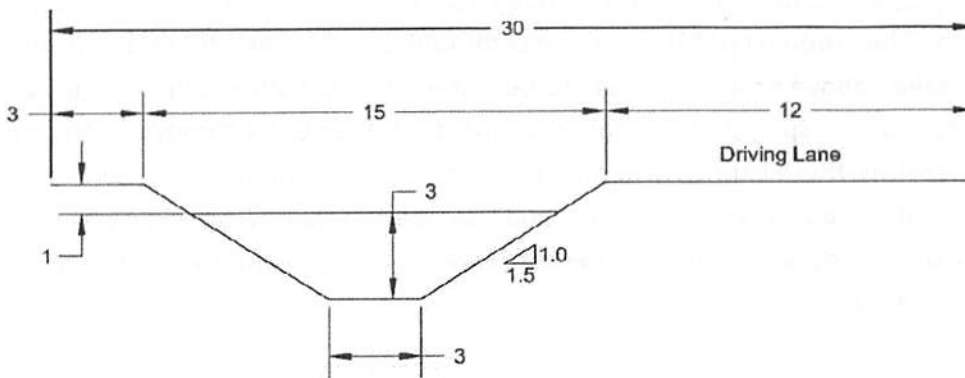
## Juan Sanchez Deliveries

- On December 21, 2022 MCWD staff carried out limited elevations surveys related to providing new water deliveries to Mr. Sanchez's property on the McCullagh Lateral.
- The District Engineer recommends at a minimum rebuilding the District Lateral between the points indicated on the map below and raising and cleaning canal banks as needed:



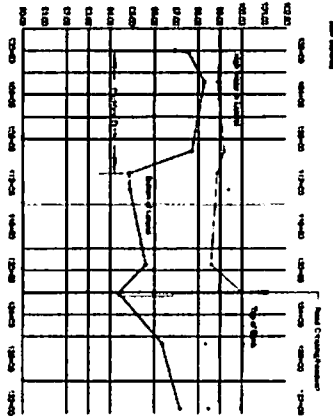
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Recommendations New Canal Cross Section:



Proposed New Canal Cross Section

## Surveyed elevation data on McCullough Lateral:



6

- Access is still needed to upstream properties where landowners may have converted MCWD facilities from open ditch to pipeline without permission.
- Unsuccessful attempts have been made to contact landowners to obtain access.
- District Engineer has been in contact with District's legal counsel, and they recommend a final written letter be sent with proposed dates of access by District Staff to conduct official District business.
- District Engineer recommends installation at this location of permanent gate to allow future access by District staff as needed.



8

5. Discussion/Action: Board direction regarding potential fees associated with storm water disposal by MCWD.

The District Engineer has learned that a number of Board members have met with representatives of Merced County Public works regarding storm drainage from the County Roads to the District's facilities and decided to change the previously stated position of the Board to suspend storm water services at the end of the 2023 water season.

Does the MCWD Board desire to pursue new fees to support costs incurred by the District in operations of storm drainage activities?

Is the plan for winter maintenance to restore the "Old Hotel" Lateral?

6. Discussion/Action: Board guidance on opportunity to create a new Wheeling Agreement between MCWD and SWD for 2023 Water Season.

## Water Wheeling Agreement

Board guidance on opportunity to create a new Wheeling Agreement between MCWD and SWD for 2023 Water Season. The District Engineer met with the General Manager for SWD on January 5, 2023. MCWD was invited to submit a Wheeling Agreement for water for the 2023 water season patterned after the Agreement SWD adopted during the summer of 2022. The District Engineer plans to draft a new DRAFT Wheeling Agreement but needs input from the Board on three items:

- Should the starting point on fee negotiations be using a figure of \$3.00/AF?
- Should the transfer loss factor be set at 10%?
- Should the following well discharges to the Eastside Canal be proposed as points of origin:
  - i. Modesto Properties Well
  - ii. DW7A
  - iii. DW15
  - iv. DW22

Director Danny Drumonde commented Wells 18 and 13 should be included.

Mr. Kelly commented there has not been an invitation to write a Water Wheeling Agreement.

Mr. Kelly stated SWD does not need to wheel water, MCWD does, so why would SWD allow MCWD to write out terms for SWD.

Eric Swenson requested clarification to be sent to him.

7. Discussion: MSGSA Zone 6 Sustainability Zone Map.
8. Discussion/Action: Proposed remote participation of District Engineer in District Board Meetings.  
The board approved District Engineer to participate in zoom meetings.
9. Discussion/Action: Update on MSGSA meetings.  
January 9th meeting how different land usage are going to get ground water allocations. An allocation for typical farming, another allocation for duck clubs, and another allocation for range land.

#### **MATTERS FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT**

Mr. Kelly reported over the New Year's weekend SWD dealt with 4300 cfs of water at Bear Creek at Keyes Rd., today was 6500 cfs.

Mr. Kelly stated the number one priority is to protect the community of Stevinson and the people while getting rid of the water.

Adam Azevedo stated MCWD will work with SWD to assist with getting rid of excess water. Mr. Kelly responded they would not be diverting water MCWD direction.

#### **OFFICE**

First Net is switched over.

AIG – Finally was given a local office to deal with.

## Maintenance

Crystal reported for Jimmy: AllPro repaired leaks on the Storke, point line, leaks on Phil Does field, Bill Coehlo's, Frank Amaral's (Borba rents), Dave Nervino's and Jim Huckabee's. Leaks on Lemos pipeline on Travis Faria's

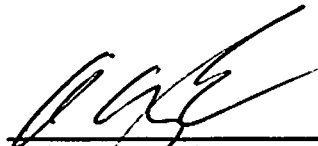
January 2,2023 Jimmy assisted Mario dewatering the canal by running water on Joe Sousa's field on Brower 1, ran water on the Gooseneck Dave Santos field, on the Straight into Tony Azevedo's field, Ran water on the Cement into Tony Azevedo's field. Danny Drumonde and his son along with Adam Azevedo helped open valves.

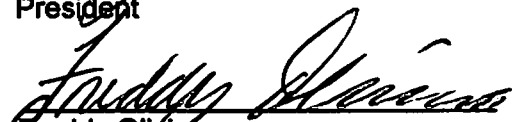
SWD is running water to the San Joaquin River on the Highline.

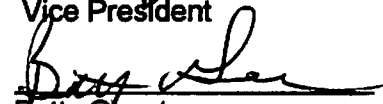
## MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Does to adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Azevedo  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Freddy Oliviera  
Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Betty Guest  
Secretary