

Merquin County Water District

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 13, 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, Vice President Freddie Oliveria, Director Danny Drumonde, Director Rick Jones, Absent: Phil Dores

MOTION APPROVING MINUTES of May 24, 2023

Moved by Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving Minutes of May 24, 2023

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING LIST OF WARRANTS

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Vice President Freddy Oliviera approving list of warrants \$74,574.44.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING CHECKING ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES

Moved by Vice President Freddy Oliviera, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving checking account expenditures in the amount of \$74.91 to Costco.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING ENTITLEMENT LIST FOR 2023

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving Entitlement List for 2023, Sandhu Bros. fixed the broken pipeline.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 2023

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Vice President Freddy Oliviera approving Financial Report for May 2023

Motion Carried Unanimously

**MOTION APPROVING MOVEMENT OF FUNDS THROUGH MERCED COUNTY
FINANCE DEPARTMENT FOR BUDGET BALANCING**

Moved by Vice President Freddy Oliveria, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving Movement of Funds through Merced Count Finance Department for Budget Balancing.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

MOTION APPROVING MAINTENANCE BILL BACKS.

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Vice President Freddy Oliveria approving Maintenance Bill backs with 50% paid by MCWD, 50% paid by Landowners.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**MOTION APPROVING DRIP SYSTEM IRRIGATION SYSTEM PLAN OF OPERATION
AND PRIORITY WELL USE AGREEMENT FOR SANDHU BROS AND TORRES FARMS**

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Vice President Freddy Oliveria approving Drip irrigation System Plan of Operation and Priority Well Use Agreement for Sandhu Bros and Torres Farms.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**DISCUSSION/MOTION MCWD INITIATE PROCEDURES FORMING INDEPENDENT
GSA.**

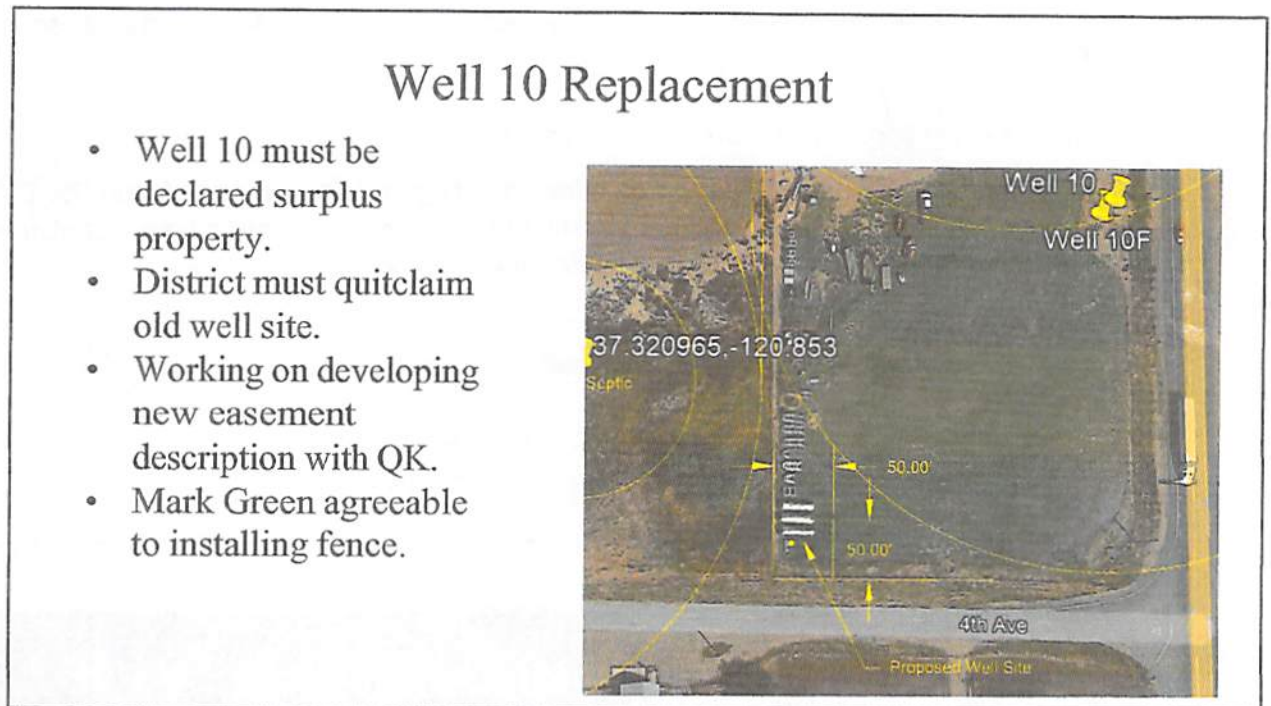
Tabled Pending Additional Information

CORRESPONDANCE

None.

Civil Engineer Eric Swenson:

1. Discussion/Action: Update on replacement for well 10. Well Easement and PG&E Application. Application for PG&E electrical service has been made.



2. ²Discussion: Update on 218 Process for increased Standby Assessment.

- Assessment Ballots mailed out June 8.
- Public Workshop for questions regarding Standby Assessment Increase June 28.
- Public Hearing for Standby Assessment Increase and Vote Count July 26.

Reasons for Well Standby Assessment Increase

- Rates last increased in 2013.
- Significant increase in costs to install and maintain wells over the last 10 years and especially during the last 2 years.
- In 2015 District could only provide 9,000 AF of pumped groundwater. Normal water year deliveries are 21,000 AF.
- During the last 2 years the District has lost over \$200,000 per year.

Board members discussed potential for phased introduction of increased standby fees such that the increase would be \$3/acre year one, and \$2/acre for each of the next 4 years. District Engineer will research how to implement such an approach.

3. Discussion/Action: Update on 218 Process for increased Water Rate. Creation of consultant evaluation team.

- Consultant Proposals for rate study due on June 14.
- Review team needed to review and rank proposals.

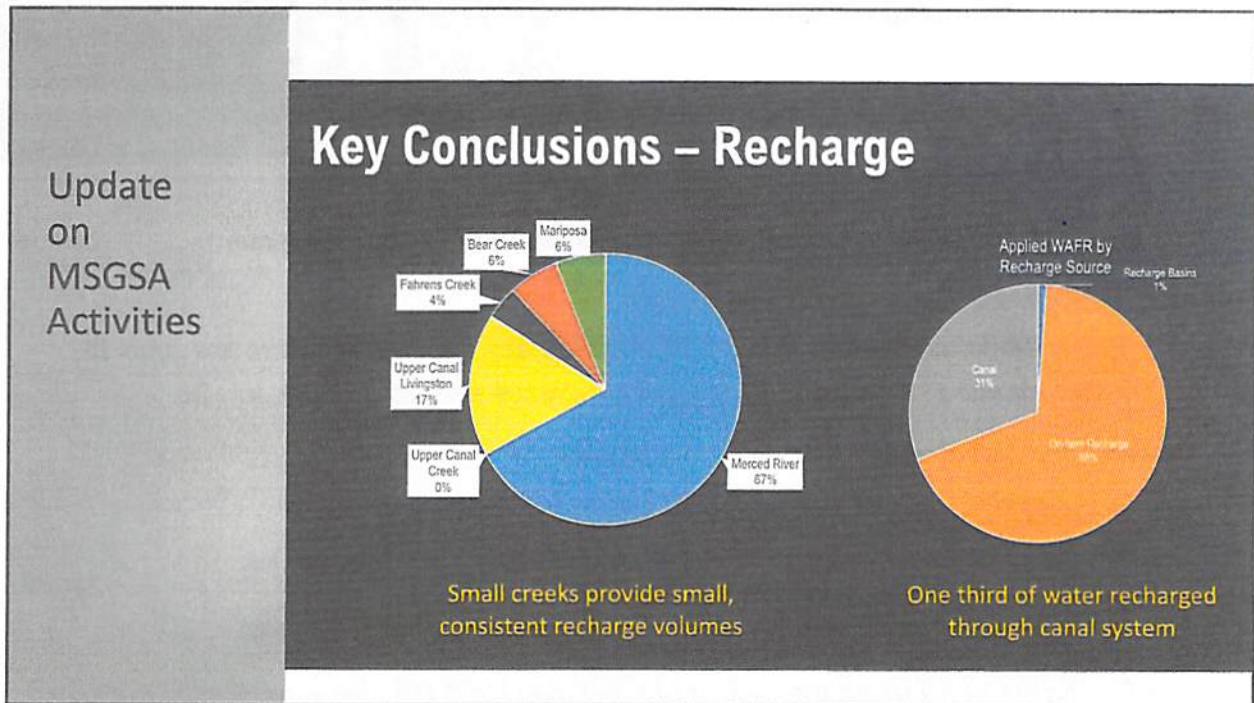
Director Rick Jones and farmer Mike Brasil selected to be on review team in addition to District staff.

4. Discussion/Action: Update on MSGSA Activities.

Report given on GSA Coordination Committee meeting and conclusions of study by DWR on Flood MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge) and enhanced reservoir operations to optimize groundwater recharge. Report of study due out in one month.

218 Process for Increased Water Rates

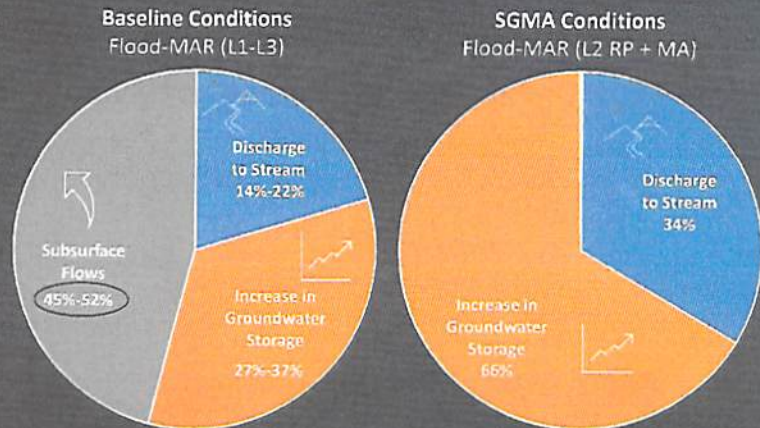
- Consultant Proposals for rate study due on June 14.
- Review team needed to review and rank proposals.



Fate of Recharge Water

Recharge Factors:

- Volume Recharged (Level)
- Recharge Location (Management Objective)
- Boundary Conditions (SGMA implementation)
- Climate Conditions



Lose less water to neighboring subbasins when they are sustainable

MSGSA Assessments for 2023/24

- MSGSA Board action on June 8, 2023
- MSGSA Compliance Fee Irrigated Lands \$4.00/AC
- SGMA Compliance Fee Rangeland: \$0.50/AC
- Phase 1 Assessment: \$11.49/AC (current year \$26.61/AC)

Matter for the Good of The District

Mr. and Mrs. Lessel presented to the board the issue of their driveway collapsing on June 5, 2023. Pictures were presented to the board of the driveway condition. Irrigation water leaks each time water is run in the ditch washing out their driveway and overflowing into the street. The board responded, the landowner pays for the pipe needed for the replacement of the decayed pipe in the ground and MCWD will install the new pipe at no charge to the landowner. (it is customary for the landowner to be responsible for repairs) Noe Barragan requested consideration of ideas on how he can get water to his property. A test run was done, and he did not get any water at all on his land. It's on a dirt ditch, the property is higher than the ditch, making it difficult to get water to them. Jimmy will continue working with Noe on a system to get water to his property.

Office

Water bills were sent out, they included the 218 standby assessment information sheet.

Maintenance

The total cost for maintenance was \$23,324.51.

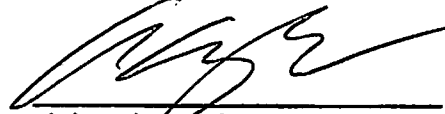
Leaks on Nelander, Straight, Rice, Scott Hills leak by the box

The Fire Department requested the ditch bank be disced at 4th ave. and Keaton road.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Vice President Freddy Oliveria to adjourn.

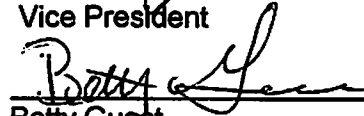
Motion approved Unanimously.



Adam Azevedo
President



Freddy Oliveria
Vice President



Betty Guest
Secretary