

CALAVERAS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

August 13, 2019

Public Hearing

7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Claudino
Clifford Overmier
Richard Blood
John Lavaroni
J.W. Dell’Orto

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Leatherman, District Manager
Kate Jesus, Administrative Account Assistant
Bret Beaudreau, Water System Superintendent
Carissa Bear, Customer Service Representative
Gary Ghio, District Engineer, Weber, Ghio & Associates
Mark Mandell, Special Legal Counsel
Schaelene Rollins, Pando Public Relations

OTHERS PRESENT: See Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet

1. ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The public hearing was called to order by Chairperson Dell’Orto at 7:07pm. Director Claudino, Overmier, Blood, Lavaroni and Dell’Orto were present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes per person/15 minutes per subject): None

3. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE: Chairperson Dell’Orto reported that the District had received 124 protests at the start of the public hearing and a majority protest would be valid written protests for 1,007 or more parcels. He then gave a brief statement on how the hearing would proceed.

- Introduction (Donna Leatherman, District Manager): The Manager welcomed the public and introduced the staff in attendance. She provided details of the process taken by the committee and staff to revise the 2018 proposed rate increase. The Manager introduced Gary Ghio, District Engineer.
- Presentation (Water Rate Cost of Service Study Presentation – Weber, Ghio & Associates): Mr. Ghio presented a slideshow on the Water Rate Cost of Service Study which reviewed the proposed rate increase.

Chairperson Dell’Orto explained how the Public Testimony portion of the hearing would continue. Members of the public were asked to complete speaker cards and would be called to the podium. The public testimony was opened and Schaelene Rollins invited the speakers to the podium.

- Public Testimony (Limit: 3 min/person): The following individuals presented testimony:
 1. Mike Moran
 2. Arthur Sheble
 3. Scott Speer
 4. Gina Kathan
 5. Ray Crawford
 6. Tammy Hebrard
 7. Kevin Krantz
 8. Sheila Russo
 9. Antonie Wurster
 10. Simona Muschalek
 11. Michael Dell’Orto
 12. Todd Fischer

- Close Public Hearing: Chairperson Dell'Orto asked if there were further testimony. Hearing none, he stated that the public hearing is closed and no further protests will be accepted. The public hearing closed at 8:01pm.

Director Blood addressed a comment from the public regarding the District's distribution system. The Manager also addressed comments regarding staffing changes and capital improvement projects. Director Lavaroni clarified a comment regarding the 2015 State mandated drought restrictions.

A recess was called at 8:14pm to tabulate the protests. Chairperson Dell'Orto called the meeting back to order at 8:29pm.

- Statement of Written Protest: Kate Jesus, Board Secretary, read the following statement: There are 2013 parcels served by the District so a majority of parcels in the District would be 1007. The District has received 124 apparent protests prior to tonight's hearing. We received apparent protests with respect to an additional 493 parcels at the hearing for a total of 617 apparent protests. Even if every protest we have received is valid, 617 is less than 1007 so the majority of parcels have not protested the increased rates and the Board may move forward. All protests are public record and will be available for inspection in the District office. At this time, I will turn the microphone over to the Board Chair.
- Consideration of Resolution 2019-9: Water Rates: A motion was made by Director Overmier, seconded by Director Lavaroni to approve Resolution 2019-9: Water Rates. Director Blood expressed his concerns regarding the capital improvement projects stating they were not well defined and the lack of transparency. Due to this, he stated he would not be in support of the rate increase. A roll call vote was taken. Directors Claudino, Overmier, Lavaroni and Dell'Orto voted yes; Director Blood voted no. Motion carried 4-1.

Chairperson Dell'Orto thanked the public for attending the hearing.

4. ADJOURNMENT (Next Regular Meeting August 20, 2019): As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Jesus, Administrative Account Assistant