

FRAZIER PARK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
4020 Park Drive, P.O. Box 1525, Frazier Park, CA. 93225
Teleconference Via: Zoom.com - Phone in +1 (408) 638-0968
Meeting ID: 870 2463 3690 Meeting Password: 286394
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021
Immediately Following the Public Hearing Scheduled at 6:00pm
Gipson/Neyman 5/0/0
Minutes Approved on July 22, 2021

1. Call to Order: 6:07pm.

a. Pledge to the Flag.

b. Roll Call of Directors:

Teleconference: Garcia, Gipson, Kelling, Neyman and Schoenberg.

Director Neyman was present as the chairperson.

Also present: Jonnie Allison and Tiffany Matte.

2. Discussion/Vote/Adjust Agenda if Necessary - No change.

3. Public Comment - None. Present: Dave Warner, Dee Jaspar, and five members of the public.

4. Discussion/Vote on Remediation of High Nitrate Levels at Well #5.

The nitrate levels in Well #5 are above the MCL. This may be caused by leaking septic tanks in the area. It is also possible that there is a hole in the casing allowing more shallow water into the well. The well was disconnected from the system, but Well #6 was unable to keep up with the demand. General Manager (GM) Jonnie Allison hired a water truck to haul water purchased from Lebec County Water District (Lebec CWD). The total cost for the truck hauling came out to \$2,700. The District has not yet received an invoice for the water purchased. The field crew worked all weekend passing out notices to the residents so that Well #5 could be turned back on.

a. Discussion/Vote on Quote from Bakersfield Well & Pump.

One way to mitigate the high nitrate level is to hire Bakersfield Well & Pump to lower the pumping level to where there would be less nitrate contamination, allowing the well water to be blended. The initial quote was for \$13,651.40, to lower the bowls 100 ft. Based on the engineers recommendation, they will be lowered 125 ft., so it will cost a little more than estimated. The rig won't be available for at least three weeks, and the parts are also very hard to come by, so it may take time before the work can begin.

Background: Well #5 has nitrate levels that are too high. This was based on the results of water testing during the month of June. The District does not have a way of mitigating the nitrates other than blending.

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The first step is to extend the pumping level deeper, to blend cleaner water with the nitrate contaminated water.

Under normal circumstances the District would be required under the Public Contract Code to publicly bid the necessary repair work, however, the code authorizes the District to forgo the public bidding process in the event of an emergency. An emergency condition exists when there is substantial evidence that demonstrates that the emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids, and that the action is necessary to respond to the emergency. The current conditions of the well could not have been foreseen. The water testing measurements taken in the months preceding June did not have a nitrate level that exceeded the MCL. Two measurements taken in the month of June showed levels higher than the amount for public safety. In addition, the District can't find any other pumping companies that have the parts or ability to come out in a timely manner. If the District does not make a decision this evening the parts may no longer be available.

Motion: Move that the Board avail itself of its authority under the Public Contract Code that an emergency currently exists consistent with the definition quoted, and in doing so make such a finding.

Schoenberg/Kelling 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Aye: Garcia, Gipson, Kelling, Neyman, and Schoenberg.

Motion: Move that we approve Bakersfield Well & Pump Company to do a Well #5 pump extension under emergency circumstances for approximately \$13,651.40. It will be higher than this because we need to go 25 more feet.

Schoenberg/Kelling 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Aye: Garcia, Gipson, Kelling, Neyman, and Schoenberg.

Dave Warner suggested the District submit an emergency project CEQA document that may help when trying to get emergency grant funds.

Motion: Move that we change the classification of the well replacement project to emergency and declare it exempt from the requirements of CEQA, which would say: Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain services essential to public health safety or welfare; Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

Schoenberg/Kelling 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Aye: Garcia, Gipson, Kelling, Neyman, and Schoenberg.

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The project ad hoc committee will schedule a meeting with Lawrence Sanchez to let him know the situation and that the District has declared an emergency.

5. Discussion/Vote on Changing the Water Conservation Level.

Jesse Dhaliwal from the State Waterboards and Dee Jaspar both recommend the District adopt a stricter level of water conservation. Frazier Park is currently on the Stage 2 - Alert Stage.

The Board did not want to vote on changing the conservation level until the Water Conservation Plan is revised.

6. Discussion/Vote on Updating the Water Conservation Plan.

In addition to making corrections and updates, the Board discussed adding a level between the Alert Stage and the Emergency Stage so the change is not so drastic. There would also need to be a provision in the Water Conservation Plan that spells out how the General Manager would identify a water emergency and enact a stricter level of water conservation. Due to the need to revise this plan as soon as possible, and the fact that the agenda for Thursday's meeting had already been published, Tiffany Matte suggested the Board hold a Special Meeting right after the Planning Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 24th.

Motion: Move that we add a Special Meeting to happen directly after the Regular Meeting, and then this in particular be put on the agenda and whatever else needs to be there.

Schoenberg/Kelling 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Aye: Garcia, Gipson, Kelling, Neyman, and Schoenberg.

The Board discussed and agreed on forming an ad hoc committee to work with GM Allison on the revisions to the Water Conservation Plan.

Motion: Move that we have an ad hoc committee to go over the Water Conservation Plan and update it, to consist of Director Schoenberg and Director Kelling.

Gipson/Garcia 3/0/2, Motion Passed.

Aye: Garcia, Gipson, and Neyman.

Abstain: Kelling and Schoenberg.

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7. Discussion/Vote on Hauling Water.

GM Allison explained that the total cost for a truck to haul water was \$2,700. He expressed gratitude to Lebec CWD for helping out by selling the District bulk water. He has not received an invoice on that purchase.

Motion: Move that we combine Items #7 and #8 because they go together.
Schoenberg/Kelling 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Aye: Garcia, Gipson, Kelling, Neyman, and Schoenberg.

The Board agreed that during an emergency situation the General Manager should be authorized to obtain and purchase water necessary to provide for the town.

Motion: Move that we give Jonnie permission on an emergency basis only to go ahead to haul and purchase bulk water from whatever water source.
Kelling/Gipson 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Aye: Garcia, Gipson, Kelling, Neyman, and Schoenberg.

8. Discussion/Vote on Purchasing Bulk Water.

Covered in the previous discussion.

9. Discussion/Vote on Future Agenda Items.

Planning Meeting June 24, 2021.

Special Meeting June 24, 2021:

- Carry over the approval of the water conservation plan.
- An agenda item to approve taking a video of Well #5.
- Approval of the emergency Notice of Exemption.

10. Adjournment.

Motion: Move that we adjourn.

Kelling/Gipson 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Aye: Garcia, Gipson, Kelling, Neyman, and Schoenberg.

Meeting adjourned: 7:28pm.

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At every special meeting, the legislative body shall provide the public with an opportunity to address the body on any item described in the notice before or during consideration of the item. (Brown Act Code Sec 54954.3(a)).



Tiffany Matte, Clerk of the Board



Attest: Terry Kelling, Secretary

seal