

**SELMA-KINGSBURG-FOWLER  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**

**January 11, 2007**

The regular Board Meeting of the Selma-Kingsburg-Fowler County Sanitation District was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by the Chairwoman, Judith Case.

**DIRECTORS' ROLL CALL**

Leland Bergstrom (present)  
David Cardenas (present)  
Don Tow (present)  
Bob Waterston (present)  
Judith Case, Chairwoman (present)

**STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

David Michel, General Manager/ Board Sec.  
Ben Muñoz, Assistant Manager  
Richard Hargrove, General Counsel  
Veronica Cazares, Supervising Engineer  
Michael Slater, Deputy District Counsel

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jim Simonian, Fowler Mayor  
Ed Blanton, Kingsburg Resident  
Norman Krebbs, Kingsburg Resident  
Steve Samuelian, California Consulting

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

There being no comments from the public, a motion to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of December 14, 2006, was made by Director Waterston, seconded by Director Cardenas, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Waterston, Cardenas, Bergstrom, Tow and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kingsburg resident Norman Krebbs asked when the General Manager would respond to his letter of 12-12-06 and when the 6-month financial report would be issued. Chairwoman Case asked General Manager Michel to place those items on the February agenda.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### Rental Houses Plan of Action

In a written memo, Assistant Manager Muñoz reported on two District-owned houses for which the Board directed staff to negotiate rental agreements. Mrs. Heather Zapata is the current resident at 14720 South Del Rey Avenue and wishes to continue renting at \$440 per month. Mrs. Olga Chavez is the current resident at 15532 South Del Rey Avenue and wishes to continue renting at \$420 per month. Copies of the draft month-to-month rental agreements were distributed to the Board. Board members commented that next year, staff should attempt to find one lessee who may be willing to lease all the properties, thereby saving time for staff to concentrate on treating wastewater.

There being no comments from the public, a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute rental agreements for Mrs. Zapata at \$440 per month and Mrs. Chavez at \$420 per month, was made by Director Tow, seconded by Director Cardenas, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Tow, Cardenas, Bergstrom, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

### District Comments on Proposed Developments

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that staff regularly responds to requests for comments regarding serviceability for proposed development projects. Oftentimes, the request is from LAFCO or the Cities as they are preparing for public hearings. Usually, the District must respond within 10 days. Staff has been responding with the following statement as recommended by General Counsel Richard Hargrove: “Capacity is available in the treatment plant at this time, but there is no commitment, allocation or reservation of such capacity until applicable fees are paid and the District issues a sewer connection permit. Such fees are subject to change and must be paid at the rates in effect at the time the sewer connection permit is issued by the District.”

Because the Board is seeking an additional opinion as to the capacity of the treatment plant, staff intends to respond as follows unless otherwise directed by the Board. “The availability of treatment plant capacity currently is under review. No commitment, allocation or reservation of such capacity can be made at this time. In any case, there is no commitment, allocation or reservation of such capacity until applicable fees are paid and the District issues a sewer connection permit. Such fees are subject to change and must be paid at the rates in effect at the time the sewer connection permit is issued by the District.”

General Manager Michel stated that staff will proceed unless otherwise directed. Director Cardenas asked how long it will take to get an additional opinion regarding capacity. General Manager Michel said that the proposals are due January 19<sup>th</sup> and they will state how long the operational audit will take.

Kingsburg resident Ed Blanton commented on initial design plant capacity, the process water holding pond as related to plant capacity, industrial connection fees, the former Industrial Cost Recovery program and elimination of septic haulers discharging into the plant if the waste is from out of the area.

Chairwoman Case asked if any action was necessary. General Manager Michel stated that no action is necessary and staff will proceed unless otherwise directed. No action was taken.

### California Consulting Agreement

General Manager Michel reported that, as directed by the Board, staff has negotiated an agreement for grant and legislative services with California Consulting (Steve Samuelian) at \$2,000 per month. It is month-to-month with 30 days cancellation by either party. He distributed an email dated 12-18-06 which confirmed the terms of the agreement.

Kingsburg resident Ed Blanton advised that the District should be cautious in applying for grants that are in non-compliance with Title II grant conditions and obligations. He cited the Code of Federal Regulations 30.920.5.

Directors Tow and Cardenas described the productive work that Mr. Samuelian has performed for the Cities of Selma and Fowler. Director Waterston commented favorably about Mr. Samuelian's consulting successes. Chairwoman Case suggested that the District did not so much need a legislative advocate as it needed grants. Mr. Samuelian spoke and assured the Board that, as stated in the 12-18-06 email, direct legislative efforts would only be undertaken if no grants were available.

There being no further questions from the public, a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute documents necessary to engage California Consulting for 12 months for the basic fee of \$2,000 per month, with 30 days cancellation by either party, to be re-evaluated in three months, was made by Director Waterston, seconded by Director Bergstrom, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Waterston, Bergstrom, Cardenas, Tow and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Centrifuge No. 2 Installation – Authorization to Solicit Bids

Assistant Manager Muñoz and Supervising Engineer Cazares reported that in March, 2006, the Board awarded the contracts for purchasing equipment for Centrifuge No. 2 and authorized the engineering design for installation. By pre-purchasing the equipment instead of having it part of a construction contract, the District saved money. The equipment is now on site and the engineering design for

installation has been completed. The engineer's cost estimate for installation is \$420,000. Staff recommended that the Board direct staff to solicit sealed bids for the Centrifuge No. 2 Installation Project.

Kingsburg resident Ed Blanton suggested two alternatives to installing the second centrifuge at this time: one is to wait until the next major construction project and include installation as part of that project; and the other is to hire temporary help and run the existing centrifuge a second shift at night. General Manager Michel commented that state law requires that the centrifuge be operated by a licensed wastewater treatment plant operator.

In response to questions from the Board, staff commented that the centrifuge provides for biosolids dewatering during the winter months when the open air drying beds are not effective. Without the centrifuges, the biosolids would need to be stored and aerated in aerobic digesters which require substantial electrical costs to operate. Staff also commented that the installation of the first centrifuge contained much of the infrastructure necessary for the installation of the second unit and that this is a completion of the whole project. The second unit provides redundancy as well as increased dewatering capabilities in the winter.

There being no further questions from the public, a motion to direct staff to solicit sealed bids for the Centrifuge No. 2 Installation Project, was made by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Bergstrom, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cardenas, Bergstrom, Tow, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

#### Staff Report on Recent Sewer Overflows

General Manager Michel reported in a written memo that the November 2006 warrant list had several expenditures related to essentially one sewer overflow. Details are provided herein.

A mainline stoppage caused an overflow of a toilet into a bedroom at a residence on Keith Street in Selma. As per prudent risk management procedures, the District provided several days lodging and meals at the Holiday Inn and arranged for cleanup, mold assessment, plumbing services, flooring and replacement of personal property. The cost was approximately \$4,000. By being responsive and cooperative, the District successfully minimizes what can otherwise turn into an average liability of \$65,000 per occurrence.

The other overflow did not cause any damage to a business but there was a plumbing bill of \$106 because it was determined to be a main line stoppage. Staff will continue to be responsive and cooperative when it comes to sewer overflows that cause distress to residents and business owners. It is in the best interest of the District.

Kingsburg resident Ed Blanton asked about the specific conditions of the stoppage and whether the District still required relief devices when the situation called for them. General Manager Michel stated to the Board that the District staff has continued its practice of requiring such devices where applicable.

Chairwoman Case commended staff on the way it handles these overflows so as to address the needs of the affected resident.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Director Waterston asked that the subjects of solar energy and cogeneration be placed onto a future agenda. Kingsburg resident Norman Krebs said that he wanted the operational audit to include a financial review. General Manager Michel reported the following in a newsletter:

CASA Meeting - Director Cardenas will attend the upcoming meeting of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies in mid-January. General Counsel Hargrove also will attend, including an additional day representing the District at the Risk Management Association meeting and a day as Chairman of the Attorneys' Committee.

Operational Audit - Responses are due January 19, 2007. Fresno County Administrative Officer Bart Bohn and Fresno County Director of Public Works Alan Weaver visited the treatment plant on 1-10-07 and interviewed General Manager Michel and Assistant Manager Ben Muñoz. They discussed county planning, growth, operations, maintenance, reserves, capital funding, rates, debt, sewer collection system planning and treatment plant capacity. Chairwoman Case commented that Mr. Weaver reported that he had a pleasant tour of the facility and suggested that the District be more pro-active on utilization of energy.

The Board needs to decide who, in addition to Chairwoman Case, will be on the selection committee. Director Tow had volunteered if Director Bergstrom did not want the assignment. Director Bergstrom declined and Director Tow accepted.

Board Meeting Time of 4:00 p.m. - In November and December, 1999, Board members made various suggestions regarding setting Board meeting times earlier in the day. The meetings of 11/99, 12/99 and 01/00 were all special meetings held at 4:00 p.m. In February, 2000, the Board set the regular time at 4:00 p.m. on a motion by Board member Case. The time is entirely at the discretion of the Board.

## **ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS**

In response to a question from Director Tow, General Manager Michel stated that the monthly water bill has been reduced because staff changed over the auger monster comminution device from fresh water to plant water. Director Tow said that was good and he was glad to see that. Kingsburg resident Norman Krebbs asked why it took 20 months to do that. Kingsburg resident Ed Blanton said that the CASA bills used to be around one thousand dollars and that salaries are not supposed to be included in the calculation. Chairwoman Case asked General Manager Michel to check into it.

There being no further comments from the public, a motion to accept the warrant list report showing checks issued in the amount of \$991,947.58, was made by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Tow, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cardenas, Tow, Bergstrom, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Chairwoman Case called for a closed session at 5:45 p.m. to confer with legal counsel and staff regarding Fowler Tract 5212, DR Horton. The Board returned to open session at 6:09 p.m. There was no report in open session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairwoman Case declared the meeting adjourned on a motion duly made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote at 6:10 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

David Michel, General Manager/  
Secretary of the Board

Judith G. Case  
Chairwoman of the Board