

**SELMA-KINGSBURG-FOWLER  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**

**February 7, 2008**

The Adjourned Board Meeting of the Selma-Kingsburg-Fowler County Sanitation District was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by the Chairwoman, Judith Case.

**DIRECTORS' ROLL CALL**

Leland Bergstrom, Vice-Chairman (present)  
David Cárdenas (present)  
Dennis Lujan (present for Don Tow)  
Bob Waterston (arrived 4:15 p.m.)  
Judith Case, Chairwoman (present)

**STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

David Michel, General Manager/ Board Secretary  
Ben Muñoz, Jr., Assistant General Manager  
Kevin Briggs, Acting District Counsel  
Veronica Cazares, Supervising Engineer  
Bob Whitley, Consulting District Engineer  
Jimmy Garcia, Maintenance Supervisor  
Bob Currie, Laboratory Director  
Walt Schmidt, Plant Operations Supervisor  
David Bacon, Information Systems Analyst  
Steve Samuelian, California Consulting  
Sonia Hall, California Consulting

**OTHERS PRESENT**

David Weisser, City of Fowler  
Ed Blanton, Kingsburg Resident

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

General Manager Michel reported that Norman Krebbs had left him a voicemail disagreeing with page 4, Public Comments, second paragraph, last sentence. There being no further comments from the public, a motion to have staff listen to the tape and bring the minutes back to the Board, was made by Director Cárdenas, seconded by Director Bergstrom, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Cárdenas, Bergstrom, Lujan and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	Director Waterston
ABSTAIN:	None

## CONSENT CALENDAR

There being no comments from the public, a motion to approve the six consent calendar items and the staff recommendations as described below, was made by Director Lujan, seconded by Director Bergstrom, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Lujan, Bergstrom, Cárdenas and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	Director Waterston
ABSTAIN:	None

### Letters from Students at Selma Jackson Elementary School

Staff presented seven letters that were representative of the 30 received from Ms. Sommers' sixth grade class at Jackson Elementary School in Selma. District Supervising Engineer Veronica Cazares, a former student at Jackson Elementary, had given a presentation in early December as part of the District's public relations activities, which also include information days at Cities, parades, student tours, service club presentations, and community leaders tours. No action required.

### FY 2007-08 Budget Preparation Schedule

Staff presented the schedule that staff uses to prepare the draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09. The fiscal year begins July 1, 2008. There are two significant changes this year. Firstly, DTAC has been included in the development process and will be included in the review process. Secondly, the budget will be presented in advance of the April 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. At that meeting, the Board does not take any action on the budget, but the Board does decide the maximum potential rate increase to be stated in the Proposition 218 letters that must be prepared shortly after the Board Meeting. No action needed.

### Six Month Summary Financial Report

Staff presented the summary financial report for the O&M fund for the period July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. It is not a full accrual audited financial statement and does not contain fiscal year-end audit adjustments. It's preparation is consistent with the six-month summary financial reports from prior years. Interest earnings are favorable. Industrial revenue is sluggish. The first tax roll revenue apportion has been received based on a County estimate. Expenditures appear to be generally on track overall. Engineering services may exceed the budgeted amount and may require an adjustment due to extra work with DTAC, planning criteria and the industrial baseline discharge policy revision. General Manager Michel stated verbally that housing starts are way down and therefore connection fee revenue in the Expansion fund is down. DTAC will take that into consideration when developing the financing plan for expanding the plant. No action required.

### District Technical Advisory Committee (DTAC) Report

The Board received the minutes of the DTAC meeting of January 16, 2008. No action required.

### Consultant District Engineer Report

Consultant District Engineer Whitley provided a letter stating that the following presents a summary of the activities that he has been engaged with on behalf of the District.

#### 6.3 Improvement Project

Bottleneck No. 1-Secondary Clarifier Capacity- District operations personnel completed the operational stress test in September. Received comments from staff on draft report and preparing final report.

Bottleneck No. 2A-Pond No. 6- Construction of Pond No. 6 remains as the critical path action item. The Fresno County amended Conditional Use Permit for Pond No. 6 & No. 7 and CEQA Initial Study are in public review.

Bottleneck No. 3-Solids Thickening (DAFT)-Began investigation of potential issues effecting capacity of the existing DAFT unit.

Bottleneck No. 4-Hydraulic Modifications-Continuing to prepare engineering drawings for a new effluent pump station and the renovated effluent pipeline that will provide for conveyance to all of the percolation ponds.

#### Centrifuge No. 2 Installation

Continued to provide advice on new centrifuge performance and manufacturer's assistance on an as-requested basis.

#### 10 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)-Refurbishment and Replacement

Continued to review a 10-year CIP with the District's Technical Advisory Committee (DTAC).

### Authorization to Apply for State Revolving Fund Loan for Facilities Construction

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that one option for construction of treatment plant facilities is a low-interest State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan. The District has already submitted the one-page information sheet and has been placed on the waiting list. The next step is to submit a more detailed application. Some engineering time will be needed. To keep this option open during the multiple-years long process, the application should be submitted at this time.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize staff and Consultant District Engineer to submit an application for a State Revolving Fund Loan to construct treatment and disposal facilities for capacities beyond 6.3 MGD.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (first call)**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Land Clearing Re-Bid Results

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that staff solicited bids from approximately 15 potential bidders for land clearing for the following four 20-acre parcels owned by the District: former Helm North property at 14720 S. Del Rey; former Helm South property at 15532 S. Del Rey; former Juarez property at 11067 E. Conejo; and former Scarry property at 11497 E. Conejo Avenue. The bid results were as follows:

1. ALW Enterprises (Fresno)	\$ 35,833.00
2. Selsor Construction & Demolition (Fresno)	\$ 53,889.00
3. Statewide Excavation (Fresno)	\$ 67,220.00
4. Serna Construction Inc. (Fresno)	\$ 74,000.00
5. MJ Avila Co. (Fresno)	\$ 172,287.00
6. Agristruction (Selma)	\$ 473,000.00

The apparent low bidder is ALW Enterprises in the amount of thirty- five thousand eight hundred thirty-three dollars and no cents (\$ 35,833.00). It includes \$1,850 for item 2B which is removal of the two 50-foot tall shade trees on the former Juarez property that are attractive nuisances.

ALW Enterprises had the following note at the bottom of the proposal, “Job was bid as a non-prevailing wage job, nothing was stated as a public works. This appears to be an Ag-Maintenance, if different please state”. At the bottom of their supplemental letter listing references, they stated “ Please keep in mind that I bid this job non-prevailing wages and if it is different please inform me of that.” On the advise of Acting General Counsel Marshall, the Request for Bids stated “If the described work is a public project under Labor Code section 1720, then contractor must pay prevailing wages”.

The license of the apparent low bidder is current and active. One reference was checked with positive results. Subject to concurrence by legal counsel, staff recommended that the Board award the land clearing contract to ALW Enterprises of Fresno in the amount of \$35,833, authorize the General Manager to issue the Notice of Award and execute the necessary documents, and amend the budget to add \$35,833 to item 7730-103-00 Repairs/Maintenance – Outside Services to be taken from O&M reserve.

Acting General Counsel Briggs said that the District’s position remains the same as stated in the RFP’s “If the described work is a public project under Labor Code section 1720, then contractor must pay prevailing wages”. The contractor is responsible to determine if it is applicable. The District should not make any representation one way or the other. The onus is on the contractor.

There being no comments from the public, a motion to award the land clearing contract to ALW Enterprises of Fresno in the amount of \$35,833, authorize the General Manager to issue the Notice of Award and execute the necessary documents, and amend the budget to add \$35,833 to item 7730-103-00 Repairs/Maintenance – Outside Services to be taken from O&M reserve, was made by Director Lujan, seconded by Director Cárdenas, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Lujan, Cárdenas, Bergstrom and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	Director Waterston
ABSTAIN:	None

#### Storage Building Rental Proposals

In a written memo, General Manager Michel reported that staff advertised in the local newspapers for proposals to rent the 3,000 square foot steel building on the former Scarry property. Letters were sent to all the District’s tenants, to Fred Swanson and to Steve Safarjian. There were no proposals received. Staff recommended that the Board authorize District staff to store District equipment and materials, some to be declared surplus, in the building. It will free up space in the equipment storage buildings to get more wheeled-equipment under cover.

There was some discussion among Board Members regarding the possibility of setting a fair market value and advertising for rent, rather than for proposals. Further discussion included the possibility of selling the building to a City. Board Members commented that the District should serve its own needs first.

There being no comments from the public, a motion authorizing staff to use the former Scarry steel building for storage, was made by Director Bergstrom, seconded by Director Cárdenas, and approved by the following vote:

AYE:	Directors Bergstrom, Cárdenas, Lujan, Waterston and Case
NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

#### Consultant District Engineer Technology Report

Consultant District Engineer Whitley gave a power point presentation regarding anaerobic digestion. It is 100 year old technology with new applications in capturing gas for electrical generation. Undesired results include explosive, corrosive and noxious gasses plus corrosive liquids. The benefits

are better sludge de-watering characteristics, combustible gas for heat and electricity, and lower electrical consumption. The capital cost would be over ten million dollars.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### California Consulting 12-Month Report

General Manager Michel reported that, when the Board engaged Steve Samuelian of California Consulting (CC) to search for grants and loans for the District, the Board asked for a review at 12 months to determine whether to continue using their services. In calendar year 2007, the cost for CC's services was \$24,524. During the year, they researched a dozen or so possible grants and loans, assisted in preparing a preliminary information sheet for a State Revolving Fund Loan, participated in several conference calls and scheduled meetings in Sacramento with Consultant District Engineer Whitley.

Mr. Samuelian described activities in support of treatment plant expansion, energy projects, and water recycling. He acknowledged the Board's action to apply for the State Revolving Fund Loan program, which he had recommended. He recommended applying for the California Energy Commission \$20,000 technical assistance grant. He recommended that the District apply for the \$75,000 water recycling facilities planning grant for a feasibility study. It was the consensus of the Board that a resolution applying for the \$75,000 water recycling facilities planning grant be brought back to the Board at the next meeting. It was the further consensus of the Board that the contract with California Consulting be brought back for renewal and comparison to the terms of other contracts.

### Annual Maintenance Department Report

Jimmy Garcia, Maintenance Supervisor, gave a report on the activities of the department for the year 2007. He emphasized the dual nature of the department's responsibilities, both sewer system maintenance and treatment plant maintenance. He attributed the reduction in sewer stoppages for 2007 to a program of cleaning trouble sections of sewer pipes more frequently. He described the new requirements for reporting sewer system overflows. He explained how much equipment the plant has added over the years and the increased need for maintenance of the 34 year old facilities.

### Annual Laboratory Department Report

Laboratory Director Bob Currie summarized the activities of the laboratory in providing physical, biochemical and chemical analyses to give the operators information to control the treatment plant. He also described the activities in monitoring the industrial dischargers for accurate billing and to protect

the facilities and personnel from hazardous discharges. He emphasized that when it saves money, the lab outsources certain analyses.

### Annual Operations Department Report

Plant Operations Supervisor Walt Schmidt reviewed the cover letter to the comprehensive 2007 Monitoring Report which was distributed to the Board. The report is required by the state permit to operate the treatment plant. Discharge requirements were met 97.5% of the time, with a BOD removal rate of 99.2% and a suspended solids removal rate of 94.2%.

### Public Member's Request for Sewer Planning Study

Kingsburg resident Ed Blanton commented by reviewing the following letter which he had previously submitted:

January 10, 2008

Governing Board of Directors  
SELMA-KINGSBURG-FOWLER, CO. SANIT. DIST.  
P, O. BOX 158  
KINGSBURG, CA 93631-0158

RE: SUGGESTION FOR TECH. ADVIS. COMMITTEE REVIEWS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR: STUDIES OF I & I and COROLLO MASTER PLAN

Dear Chairwoman Case and Honorable Directors Bergstrom, Cardenas, Tow and Waterston

Please request the DTAC to perform the items 1) & )2 described below

1) Staff to perform I/I (Infiltration/Inflow) study of sewers Corollo Master Plan identified storm water intrusion.

2) Review and contrast the Corollo and the Whitely, Burchett & Associates reports and request Corollo's calculations and decision notes on setting future growth of the three communities.

REASONS FOR SUGGESTION:

Millions of dollars of proposed Capital Projects are being rushed into the budgetary and Bartle-Wells CIP processes based on projects described in the new master plan which by my cursory review has errors in the factors used to determine pipe sizes, in the ignoring the effects I & I maintenance projects would have on the flow calculations and

the apparently excessive acreage of the three cities future growth not to mention these areas inclusions into the cities is subject to many political and environmental reviews and approvals. There are far too many hurdles and hoops to jump for the ratepayers to begin buying tickets on this express and the fare is beyond our fiscal ability. I believe these considerations require full compliance with CEQA and that means public hearings in each city at times convenient to the public.

District staff, and perhaps WBA assisting, should compare the two plans to tabulate their differences and the data and factors used by both for the areas of difference. In my opinion many of the plant and infrastructure projects now being tossed into the budget and rate structures are not well foundationed on accurate knowledge of the existing facts. Who performed the detailed review of the Corollo report before its acceptance, and why was the earlier WBA report deficient? Couldn't the WBA report have been revised to eliminate any problem sections, surely, the report could not have been totally in error? I have spent some number of hours going through the WBA 2001 Master Plan and found it only had no access to a short two month (DEC. 2005 & Jan. 2006) study performed by a third party, but had many pump stations pump run time and station pump down rating data in their analyses. I also could find no reference to the water supply shortages in this area that will seriously influence the projected growth. It is terribly imprudent to begin any capital projects based upon this "ESTIMATED" growth plans and certainty not its estimated project descriptions and costs. Much more engineering and value engineering as well as CEQA tasks must take place when the specific needs and project description is decided.

My objections to the Corollo plan is that on Page 4-11 it asserts a value for daily discharge per residence used for sizing pipes and pump stations taken from the S-K-F "STANDARDS" was 270 MGD, a value 20.5% greater than Section 2 Pg. 2-1 of the June 3, 1982 document states, (224 GPD).

I strongly encourage the evaluations of the two plans proceed ANY further "fast track" financial procurement activities and any design-construct work.

Sincerely submitted,  
R Ed Blanton  
2301 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Kingsburg, CA 93631-0615

General Manager Michel recommended that the matter be referred to the District Technical Advisory Committee (DTAC).

There being no further comments from the public, a motion to refer Mr. Blanton's letter to DTAC, was made by Director Lujan, seconded by Director Waterston, and approved by the following vote:

AYE: Directors Lujan, Waterston, Bergstrom, Cárdenas and Case  
NO: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairwoman Case suggested several dates for the next Chairwoman Barbecue with staff. General Manager Michel said that he would pick one and notify the Board Members.

### **ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS**

Chairwoman Case requested that copies of invoices from Whitley, Burchett & Associates be placed in each agenda packet from now on.

There being no comments from the public, a motion to accept the warrant list report showing checks issued in the amount of \$821,414.88, was made by Director Cárdenas, seconded by Director Lujan, and approved by the following vote:

AYE: Directors Cárdenas, Lujan, Bergstrom, Waterston and Case  
NO: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS (second call)**

None.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### **Public Employment of General Counsel**

Chairwoman Case called for a closed session at 6:00 p.m. to continue to discuss the public employment of General Counsel pursuant to section 54957 of the California Government Code. The Board reconvened to open session at 6:19 p.m. There was no report out of closed 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 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

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David Michel, General Manager/  
Secretary of the Board

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Judith G. Case  
Chairwoman of the Board