



101 Lucas Valley Road, Suite 300
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MANAGEMENT TEAM
 General Manager, Curtis Paxton
 Plant Operations, Mel Liebmann
 Collections/Safety/Maintenance, Greg Pease
 Engineering, Michael P. Cortez
 Administrative Services, Dale McDonald

DISTRICT BOARD
 Megan Clark
 Craig K. Murray
 Barry Nitzberg
 Gary E. Robards
 Crystal J. Yezman

The Mission of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District is to protect public health and our environment, providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and resource recovery.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

December 5, 2024

MATERIALS RELATED TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 101 LUCAS VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 300, SAN RAFAEL, OR ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE WWW.LGVSD.ORG

Estimated Time

4:00 PM

OPEN SESSION:

4:05 PM

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for people desiring to address the Board on matters not on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. Presentations are generally limited to three minutes. All matters requiring a response will be referred to staff for reply in writing and/or placed on a future meeting agenda. Please contact the General Manager before the meeting.

4:10 PM

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

These items are considered routine and will be enacted, approved or adopted by one motion unless a request for removal for discussion or explanation is received from the staff or the Board.

- A. Approve the Board Minutes for November 21, 2024
- B. Receive and Ratify the Check Warrant List
- C. Approve Murray attending CASA 2025 Washington DC Policy Forum Feb 24-25

Possible expenditure of funds: Yes, Item B and C.

Staff recommendation: Adopt Consent Calendar – Items A through C.

4:20 PM

3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

STAFF/CONSULTANT REPORTS:

- 1. General Manager's Report

- 5:00 PM** **4. 2025 WINTER NEWSLETTER**
Board to review and approve Winter Newsletter.
- 5:20 PM** **5. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**
- 1. CLARK
 - a. NBWA Board Committee, Operations Control Centers Ad Hoc Committee, Fleet Management Ad Hoc Committee, FutureSense Ad Hoc Committee, Energy Ad Hoc Committee, CASA Workforce Committee, Other Reports
 - 2. MURRAY
 - a. Marin LAFCo, Flood Zone 6, Biosolids Ad Hoc Committee, CASA Energy Committee, Development Ad Hoc Committee, San Francisco Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee, Energy Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports
 - 3. NITZBERG
 - a. Operations Control Centers Ad Hoc Committee, Fleet Management Ad Hoc Committee, McInnis Marsh Ad Hoc Committee, San Francisco Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports
 - 4. ROBARDS
 - a. Gallinas Watershed Council/Miller Creek, NBWRA, Engineering Ad Hoc Committee re: STPURWE, McInnis Marsh Ad Hoc Committee, Development Ad Hoc Committee, FutureSense Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports
 - 5. YEZMAN
 - a. Flood Zone 7, CSRMA, Ad Hoc Engineering Committee re: STPURWE, Marin Special Districts, Biosolids Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports
- 5:45 PM** **6. BOARD REQUESTS:**
- A. Board Meeting Attendance Requests – verbal
 - B. Board Agenda Item Requests – verbal
- 5:50 PM** **7. VARIOUS INDUSTRY RELATED ARTICLES**
- 6:00 PM** **8. ADJOURNMENT**


FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES:

DECEMBER 19, 2024, JANUARY 16, & JANUARY 23, 2025

AGENDA APPROVED:	Craig K. Murray, President	Patrick Richardson, Legal Counsel
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CERTIFICATION: I, Teresa Lerch, Board Secretary of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that on or before December 2, 2024 4:00 pm I posted the Agenda for the Board Meeting of said Board to be held on December 5, 2024 at the District Office, located at 101 Lucas Valley Road, Suite 300, San Rafael, CA.

DATED: December 2, 2024



Teresa Lerch
Board Secretary

The Board of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District meets regularly on the first and third Thursday of each month. The District may also schedule additional special meetings for the purpose of completing unfinished business and/or study sessions. Regular meetings are held at the District Office, 101 Lucas Valley Road, Suite 300, San Rafael, CA.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Board Secretary at the District at (415) 472-1734 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. **Notification prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, to help ensure accessibility to this meeting.**

AGENDA ITEM 1

12/5/2024

PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address the Board on matters not on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. Presentations are generally limited to three minutes. All matters requiring a response will be referred to staff for reply in writing and/or placed on a future meeting agenda. Please contact the General Manager before the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE LAS GALLINAS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT MET IN OPEN SESSION AT 4:00 PM AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 101 LUCAS VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 300 CONFERENCE ROOM, SAN RAFAEL, CA. 94903

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Megan Clark (arrived at 4:04 pm), Craig Murray, Barry Nitzberg, Gary Robards and Crystal Yezman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Curtis Paxton, General Manager; Teresa Lerch, Board Secretary; Dale McDonald, District Treasurer; Mike Cortez, District Engineer; Mel Liebmann, Plant Manager;

OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Richardson, District Counsel;

ANNOUNCEMENT: President Murray announced that the agenda had been posted as evidenced by the certification on file in accordance with the law.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CLOSED SESSION:

ACTION:

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LAS GALLINAS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION ON NOVEMBER 21, 2024, AT 4:02 P.M. AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 101 LUCAS VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 300, CONFERENCE ROOM, SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA.

Lerch, Liebman and McDonald left the meeting at 4:02 pm.

2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Gov. Code Section 54956.9 – One potential case.

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION:

The Board of Directors of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District reconvened the Regular Session on November 21, 2024 at 4:32 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Megan Clark, Craig Murray, Barry Nitzberg, Gary Robards, Crystal Yezman

STAFF PRESENT: Curtis Paxton, General Manager, Teresa Lerch, Board Secretary; Dale McDonald, District Treasurer; Mike Cortez, District Engineer, Mel Liebmann, Plant Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Richardson, District Counsel; Justin Wilcock, Patty Garbarino, Peggy Clark and Jason Raleigh from Marin Sanitary Service; Jim Howison, Libby Costello from R3 Consulting; Tim Holmes from Kenwood Energy.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION: President Murray reported that there was nothing to report.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR:

These items are considered routine and will be enacted, approved, or adopted by one motion unless a request for removal for discussion or explanation is received from the staff or the Board.

- A. Approve the Board Minutes for ~~October 17, 2024~~ November 7th, 2024
- B. Receive and Ratify the Check Warrant List
- C. Approve Board Compensation for October 2024
- D. Approve Murray attending CASA Winter Conference January 29-31 in Palm Springs
- E. Approve Modification to the January 2025 Board meeting schedule

Item A -Board Secretary Lerch mentioned that there was a typographical error on the agenda. Consent item A should have read November 7 and not October 17. The November 7th minutes were indeed included in the agenda packet for approval. This correction is now noted in these minutes.

ACTION:

Board approved (M/S Robards/Yezman 5-0-0-0) the Consent Calendar items A through E with the correction to Item A.

- AYES: Clark, Murray, Nitzberg, Robards and Yezman
- NOES: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- ABSTAIN: None.

4. REVIEW OF THE GARBAGE AND REFUSE RATE FOR 2025, RESOLUTION 2024-2344 AND SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 196

The Board reviewed the proposed Garbage and Refuse rate for 2025, Resolution 2024-2344 and the proposed Third Amendment to the Revised and Restated Exclusive Franchise Agreement between LGSVD and Marin Sanitary Service. Jason Rawley, Justin Wilcock, Patty Garbarino and Peggy Clark from Marin Sanitary Service attended and answered questions from the Board. Discussion ensued. The Board set a public hearing date of December 19, 2024 to discuss the proposed rate increase and adopt Ordinance 196.

ACTION:

Board approved (M/S Clark/Robards 5-0-0-0) the statement that the District complies with Senate Bill (SB) 1383 regulations.

- AYES: Clark, Murray, Nitzberg, Robards and Yezman
- NOES: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION:

Board approved (M/S Clark/Robards 5-0-0-0) Resolution 2024-2344 approving the Third Amendment to the Revised and Restated Exclusive Franchise Agreement between LGSVD and Marin Sanitary Service to Collect, Transfer, Process, Market and Dispose of Solid Waste, Recyclable and Organic Materials.

- AYES: Clark, Murray, Nitzberg, Robards and Yezman
- NOES: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION:

Board approved (M/S Robards/Clark 5-0-0-0) setting a Public Hearing date for December 19, 2024 to allow discussion and input from the public regarding the proposed rate increase to be adopted by Ordinance 196.

- AYES: Clark, Murray, Nitzberg, Robards and Yezman
- NOES: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- ABSTAIN: None.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS:

STAFF / CONSULTANT REPORTS:

1. General Manager's Report – Paxton reported.
The Board agreed to a Multi-purpose Lab Building Workshop (Special Meeting) on January 23, 2025 at 4:00 pm.
2. Solar Project Update – Tim Holmes from Kenwood Energy gave the Board an status update presentation.
3. Engineering Department Report – District Engineer Cortez reported.
4. Operations Department Report – Plant Manager Liebmann reported.

6. SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT NO. 3 BETWEEN LAS GALLINAS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT AND OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL NO. 3.

The Board reviewed the Side Letter of Agreement No. 3 to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LGVSD and Operating Engineers Local No. 3 (OE3) incorporating language on irrevocable election of vacation cash out. Discussion ensued.

ACTION:

Board approved (M/S Clark/Yezman (5-0-0-0) the Side Letter of Agreement No. 3 to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District (LGVSD) and Operating Engineers Local No. 3 (OE3) amending Section 15.3, Vacation Cash Out, to incorporate language on irrevocable election of vacation cash out.

- AYES: Clark, Murray, Nitzberg, Robards and Yezman
- NOES: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- ABSTAIN: None.

Yezman left the meeting at 6:30 pm

7. BOARD REPORTS

1. CLARK
 - a. NBWA Board Committee – verbal report
 - b. Operation Control Centers Ad Hoc Committee – verbal report
 - c. Fleet Management Ad Hoc Committee – no report
 - d. FutureSense Ad Hoc Committee – no report
 - e. Energy Committee Ad Hoc Committee – no report
 - f. CASA Workforce Committee – verbal report
 - g. Other Reports – none
2. MURRAY
 - a. Marin LAFCO –verbal report
 - b. Flood Zone 6 – no report
 - c. CASA Energy Committee – verbal report

- d. Biosolids Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- e. Development Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- f. SF Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- g. Energy Ad Hoc Committee – verbal report
- h. Other Reports- written in the packet

3. NITZBERG

- a. Operation Control Centers Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- b. Fleet Management Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- c. McInnis Marsh Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- d. SF Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- e. Other Reports – no report

4. ROBARDS

- a. Gallinas Watershed Council/Miller Creek – verbal report
- b. NBWRA – no report
- c. STPURWE Engineering Ad Hoc Committee –no report
- d. McInnis Marsh Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- e. Development Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- f. FutureSense Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- g. Other Reports – none

5. YEZMAN - absent

- a. Flood Zone 7– no report
- b. CSRMA – no report
- c. Marin Special District Association – no report
- d. STPURWE Engineering Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- e. Biosolids Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- f. Other Reports– no report

7. **BOARD REQUESTS:**

- A. Board Meeting Attendance Requests – Murray requested to attend a virtual SDLA workshop on Boards' Role in HR.
- B. Board Agenda Item Requests – Yezman requested to review the Kennedy Jenks Phase 3 of the Integrated Wastewater Master Plan. Clark requested pending agenda item requests be on the Board Agenda.

8. **VARIOUS INDUSTRY ARTICLES**

Discussion ensued.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

ACTION:

The board approved (Clark/Robards 4-0-1-0) the adjournment of the meeting 7:05 p.m.

AYES: Clark, Murray, Nitzberg, Robards and Yezman.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Yezman

ABSTAIN: None.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm at the District office.

ATTEST:

Teresa Lerch, Board Secretary

APPROVED:

Gary E. Robards, Vice-President

Report Criteria:
 Report type: GL detail
 Check Detail.Input date = 11/21/2024

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount
A and P Moving Inc						
30000840						
11/24	11/21/2024	4067165	Document Storage- Nov 24	10-400-5451	96.80	96.80
Total A and P Moving Inc:						96.80
ADP Inc						
20241115						
11/24	11/15/2024	675136602	Labor Manager Software - Nov 24	10-400-5303	71.80	71.80 M
202411151						
11/24	11/15/2024	675135875	Payroll processing fees Comprehensive Services Bundle - Nov 24	10-400-5303	2,098.55	2,098.55 M
Total ADP Inc:						2,170.35
Bank of Marin						
202411121						
11/24	11/12/2024	LOAN PAYME	Recycled Water Loan Payment- Interest Nov 24	10-699-5524	6,508.51	6,508.51 M
11/24	11/12/2024	LOAN PAYME	Recycled Water Loan Payment- Principal Nov 24	10-699-5514	21,214.94	21,214.94 M
Total Bank of Marin:						27,723.45
Blocka Construction, Inc.						
30000841						
11/24	11/21/2024	PAYMENT 8	Digester MCC-2 Upgrade	10-747-5601	290,966.00	290,966.00
Total Blocka Construction, Inc.:						290,966.00
BMO Bank N.A.						
30000878						
11/24	11/21/2024	ESCROW RET	Escrow retention #3.1 JD Force Main Access Structures	10-752-5601	2,275.68	2,275.68
Total BMO Bank N.A.:						2,275.68
Byers Law Office						
30000842						
11/24	11/21/2024	14793	Legal Counsel - Oct 24	10-400-5351	13,460.00	13,460.00
Total Byers Law Office:						13,460.00
California Water Environment Association						
21397						
11/24	11/21/2024	R. BUCHHLOZ	CWEA Membership - R. Buchholz	10-460-5461	239.00	239.00
Total California Water Environment Association:						239.00
Cal-West Rentals						
21398						
11/24	11/21/2024	421293	Aerial Work Platform	10-600-5311	6,500.00	6,500.00
Total Cal-West Rentals:						6,500.00
Carollo Engineers						

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount
21399						
11/24	11/21/2024	FB57357	Alternatives Evaluation for Nitrogen Removal in Aeration Basin	10-937-5601	18,258.12	18,258.12
11/24	11/21/2024	FB58290	Alternatives Evaluation for Nitrogen Removal in Aeration Basin	10-937-5601	16,776.00	16,776.00
Total Carollo Engineers:						35,034.12
Caselle Inc						
21400						
11/24	11/21/2024	136927	Caselle contract support and maintenance for December	10-400-5362	1,918.00	1,918.00
Total Caselle Inc:						1,918.00
Central Marin Sanitation Agency						
30000843						
11/24	11/21/2024	INV01803	FOG Program Activities	10-560-5327	894.22	894.22
11/24	11/21/2024	INV01804	FOG Program Activities	10-560-5327	953.16	953.16
Total Central Marin Sanitation Agency:						1,847.38
Cintas Corporation						
21401						
11/24	11/21/2024	4210310152	Laundry Service for week of 11.03.24	10-600-5334	403.80	403.80
11/24	11/21/2024	4210310152	Laundry Service for week of 11.03.24	10-460-5334	403.80	403.80
11/24	11/21/2024	4211003086	Laundry Service for week of 11.10.24	10-600-5334	403.80	403.80
11/24	11/21/2024	4211003086	Laundry Service for week of 11.10.24	10-460-5334	403.80	403.80
Total Cintas Corporation:						1,615.20
City National Bank						
21402						
11/24	11/21/2024	DECEMBER 2	Marin Finance Corp. Loan Agreement 04-01-2014	10-699-5511	690,000.00	690,000.00
11/24	11/21/2024	DECEMBER 2	Marin Finance Corp. Loan Agreement 04-01-2014	10-699-5526	23,245.20	23,245.20
Total City National Bank:						713,245.20
Clark, Abraham						
30000844						
11/24	11/21/2024	2024 WELLNE	2024 Wellness Reimbursement	10-600-5170	139.00	139.00
Total Clark, Abraham:						139.00
Contractor Compliance and Monitoring, In						
30000845						
11/24	11/21/2024	22609	STPURWE Labor Compliance Services - Myers & Sons	10-902-5601	23.00	23.00
11/24	11/21/2024	22610	STPURWE Labor Compliance Services - Kennedy Jenks	10-902-5601	86.25	86.25
11/24	11/21/2024	22611	Standby Generators System Replacement	10-805-5601	224.25	224.25
11/24	11/21/2024	22612	STPURWE Labor Compliance Services - DAC	10-902-5601	23.00	23.00
11/24	11/21/2024	22613	Venetia Harbor Pump Station Concrete Slab Repair	10-810-5601	54.00	54.00
11/24	11/21/2024	22614	On-Call Contract for Labor Compliance Services (2024-2025)	10-420-5342	7,134.00	7,134.00
11/24	11/21/2024	22619	Labor Compliance Services for Solar Photovoltaic System Replacem	10-830-5601	201.50	201.50
Total Contractor Compliance and Monitoring, In:						7,746.00
Core Utilities, Inc.						
30000846						
11/24	11/21/2024	42882	IT Services - Administration - Oct 24	10-400-5361	745.00	745.00
11/24	11/21/2024	42882	IT Services - Plant - Oct 24	10-600-5361	525.00	525.00

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount
11/24	11/21/2024	42882	Server Replacements FY 24.25	10-749-5601	270.00	270.00
Total Core Utilities, Inc.:						1,540.00
Custom Tractor Service						
30000847						
11/24	11/21/2024	LGVSD1704	Irrigation Maintenance @ Reclamation - Ditch Cleaning, Pivot Mainte	10-580-5323	27,500.00	27,500.00
11/24	11/21/2024	LGVSD1705	Biosolids Land Application Services 2024	10-580-5325	112,500.00	112,500.00
Total Custom Tractor Service:						140,000.00
Cutting Edge Parts						
21403						
11/24	11/21/2024	31282ARIES	Tractor Parts and Repair	10-460-5317	4,007.74	4,007.74
Total Cutting Edge Parts:						4,007.74
Data Instincts						
30000848						
11/24	11/21/2024	3249	Provide Public Information & Awareness FY 25	10-400-5347	3,627.50	3,627.50
Total Data Instincts:						3,627.50
Direct Dental Administrators LLC						
202411123						
11/24	11/12/2024	202410300000	Admin Fees - Plant	10-600-5117	80.00	80.00 M
11/24	11/12/2024	202410300000	Admin Fees - Lab	10-560-5117	16.00	16.00 M
11/24	11/12/2024	202410300000	Admin Fees - Maintenance	10-480-5117	18.00	18.00 M
11/24	11/12/2024	202410300000	Admin Fees - Collections	10-460-5117	65.00	65.00 M
11/24	11/12/2024	202410300000	Admin Fees - Engineering	10-420-5117	26.00	26.00 M
11/24	11/12/2024	202410300000	Admin Fees - Admin	10-400-5117	56.00	56.00 M
202411143						
11/24	11/14/2024	D20241115-28	Dental Payment - Admin	10-400-5117	200.00	200.00 M
Total Direct Dental Administrators LLC:						461.00
Du-All Safety LLC						
30000849						
11/24	11/21/2024	25677	Safety & Training - Sept 24	10-460-5241	4,728.00	4,728.00
11/24	11/21/2024	25734	Safety & Training Oct 2024	10-460-5241	4,728.00	4,728.00
Total Du-All Safety LLC:						9,456.00
FedEx						
21404						
11/24	11/21/2024	8-675-98336	Misc. Mailings - Employment Packet	10-400-5221	105.46	105.46
Total FedEx:						105.46
Fisher Scientific Company LLC						
21405						
11/24	11/21/2024	6492547	Thermo Scientific Heratherm Advanced Protocol Security Incubator	10-769-5601	6,056.68	6,056.68
Total Fisher Scientific Company LLC:						6,056.68
Freyer & Laureta Inc						

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount
30000850						
11/24	11/21/2024	24-600	Automatic Transfer Switches for Pump Stations	10-825-5601	8,266.63	8,266.63
11/24	11/21/2024	24-600	Emergency Bypass Pumping Analysis & Rseponse Plan	10-903-5601	4,673.59	4,673.59
11/24	11/21/2024	24-600	Emergency Bypass Pumping Analysis & Response Plan	10-903-5601	1,157.04	1,157.04
11/24	11/21/2024	24-600	Emergency Bypass Pumping Analysis & Response Plan	10-903-5601	4,610.74	4,610.74
11/24	11/21/2024	24-689	Graphic Design - Reimbursable Expense	10-806-5601	52.50	52.50
Total Freyer & Laureta Inc:						18,760.50
Grainger						
30000851						
11/24	11/21/2024	9304885933	Misc. Supplies	10-480-5315	339.98	339.98
11/24	11/21/2024	9306234965	Lifting and Handling Tools	10-480-5222	1,028.37	1,028.37
11/24	11/21/2024	9314252082	Load Binder 6 TON, Grab-Hook Yellow	10-480-5222	222.35	222.35
Total Grainger:						1,590.70
Hazen and Sawyer						
21406						
11/24	11/21/2024	20148-003-38	Digester Room MCC #2 Upgrade	10-747-5601	1,110.00	1,110.00
11/24	11/21/2024	20148-008-3	On-Call Contract for Engineering Services (2024-2025)	10-745-5601	1,395.00	1,395.00
Total Hazen and Sawyer:						2,505.00
JDB Systems						
21407						
11/24	11/21/2024	8679	Level instruments for chemical tanks	10-600-5283	11,398.55	11,398.55
11/24	11/21/2024	8691	Install, Figure, and Start-Up Secondary Clarifier Effluent Flow Totaliz	10-600-5315	1,421.20	1,421.20
Total JDB Systems:						12,819.75
Lingo Telecom Inc						
21408						
11/24	11/21/2024	51633773	Trunk Lines - 101 LVR	10-400-5423	349.68	349.68
Total Lingo Telecom Inc:						349.68
Marin Ace						
21409						
11/24	11/21/2024	77793	Misc Supplies	10-460-5317	19.65	19.65
Total Marin Ace:						19.65
Marin Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control						
21410						
11/24	11/21/2024	1709	Mosquito Control @ Ponds Oct 24	10-580-5312	618.45	618.45
Total Marin Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control:						618.45
Mathews Mechanical						
21411						
11/24	11/21/2024	5564	Installation of One Water Technologies Flo-Clip Baffle System	10-935-5601	25,885.13	25,885.13
Total Mathews Mechanical:						25,885.13
McMaster-Carr						

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount
21412						
11/24	11/21/2024	35037274	Thick-Wall Plastic Pipe Fitting	10-600-5317	590.86	590.86
Total McMaster-Carr:						590.86
Medical Center of Marin						
21413						
11/24	11/21/2024	00189684-00	Pre Employment Testing - R Gondoli	10-480-5337	242.00	242.00
11/24	11/21/2024	00189684-00	Pre Employment Testing - J. Etienne	10-480-5337	170.00	170.00
Total Medical Center of Marin:						412.00
Murray, Craig						
30000852						
11/24	11/21/2024	HEALTH REIM	Health Reimbursement - Nov 24	10-440-5115	125.00	125.00
Total Murray, Craig:						125.00
Nitzberg, Barry						
30000853						
11/24	11/21/2024	HEALTH REIM	Health Reimbursement Nov 24	10-440-5115	200.00	200.00
Total Nitzberg, Barry:						200.00
Noll & Tam Architects						
21414						
11/24	11/21/2024	0061079	Multipurpose Laboratory Building	10-764-5601	74,459.25	74,459.25
Total Noll & Tam Architects:						74,459.25
Oberkamper & Associates						
21415						
11/24	11/21/2024	24-1014	Boundary Survey for Rafael Meadows Pump Station	10-819-5601	5,394.50	5,394.50
Total Oberkamper & Associates:						5,394.50
One Water Technologies						
21428						
11/24	11/21/2024	1021	Flo-Clip Flocculation Baffle Systems for Secondary Clarifiers 1 & 2	10-935-5601	396,000.00	396,000.00
Total One Water Technologies:						396,000.00
Operating Engineers Local No 3						
21416						
11/24	11/21/2024	11-2024-1	Union Dues 11-1-2024 Paydate	10-000-2129	732.55	732.55
11/24	11/21/2024	11-2024-2	Union Dues 11-15-2024 Paydate	10-000-2129	732.55	732.55
11/24	11/21/2024	11-2024-3	Union Dues 11-29-2024 Paydate	10-000-2129	732.55	732.55
Total Operating Engineers Local No 3:						2,197.65
Orion Protection Services Group Inc						
30000854						
11/24	11/21/2024	13993	Nightly Patrol- Smith Ranch Dec 24	10-600-5337	379.94	379.94
Total Orion Protection Services Group Inc:						379.94

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount
PACE Supply						
21417						
11/24	11/21/2024	049977383	Misc Supplies	10-600-5317	471.64	471.64
Total PACE Supply:						471.64
Pacific Gas & Electric - 0580531718-6						
21418						
11/24	11/21/2024	9-25-24 TO 10-	Electricity - Plant	10-600-5425	54,827.34	54,827.34
Total Pacific Gas & Electric - 0580531718-6:						54,827.34
Pacific Gas & Electric - 1991349158-5						
21419						
11/24	11/21/2024	09-17-24 TO 1	Electricity @ Pump Stations - 9-17-24 to -11-15-24	10-500-5425	12,098.36	12,098.36
Total Pacific Gas & Electric - 1991349158-5:						12,098.36
Pacific Gas & Electric CDX7397590484						
21420						
11/24	11/21/2024	9-25-24 TO 10-	Electricity @ Reclamation 9-25-24 to 10-23-24	10-500-5425	2,873.24	2,873.24
Total Pacific Gas & Electric CDX7397590484:						2,873.24
Pacific Metal Buildings, Inc.						
30000855						
11/24	11/21/2024	ORDER #0030	Collections System Pump Storage Metal Structure - Deposit	10-460-5311	1,141.00	1,141.00
Total Pacific Metal Buildings, Inc.:						1,141.00
Rathlin Properties LLC						
30000856						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Monthly Rent - Dec 24	10-400-5451	9,965.00	9,965.00
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC '19-DEC '	Dec '19 - Dec '23 Rent Shortfall Accrual	10-400-5451	2,967.98	2,967.98
Total Rathlin Properties LLC:						12,932.98
Regional Government Services						
30000857						
11/24	11/21/2024	17703	Financial Management Services for Oct 24	10-400-5342	2,400.75	2,400.75
Total Regional Government Services:						2,400.75
Retiree Augusto						
30000858						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-600-5111	184.72	184.72
Total Retiree Augusto:						184.72
Retiree Burgess						
30000859						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-600-5111	167.79	167.79
Total Retiree Burgess:						167.79
Retiree Cummins						

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount
30000860						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-400-5111	167.79	167.79
Total Retiree Cummins:						167.79
Retiree Cutri						
30000861						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-600-5111	526.44	526.44
Total Retiree Cutri:						526.44
Retiree Emanuel						
30000862						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-400-5111	291.15	291.15
Total Retiree Emanuel:						291.15
Retiree Gately						
30000863						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-400-5111	291.15	291.15
Total Retiree Gately:						291.15
Retiree Guion						
30000864						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-600-5111	291.15	291.15
Total Retiree Guion:						291.15
Retiree Kermoian						
30000865						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-600-5111	167.79	167.79
Total Retiree Kermoian:						167.79
Retiree Mandler						
30000866						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-460-5111	167.79	167.79
Total Retiree Mandler:						167.79
Retiree Memmott						
30000867						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-400-5111	229.55	229.55
Total Retiree Memmott:						229.55
Retiree Petrie						
30000868						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-400-5111	184.72	184.72
Total Retiree Petrie:						184.72
Retiree Pettey						
30000869						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-600-5111	209.01	209.01

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount
Total Retiree Pettey:						209.01
Retiree Reilly						
30000870						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-600-5111	167.79	167.79
Total Retiree Reilly:						167.79
Retiree Vine						
30000871						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-400-5111	167.79	167.79
Total Retiree Vine:						167.79
Retiree Wettstein						
30000872						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-600-5111	826.00	826.00
Total Retiree Wettstein:						826.00
Retiree Williams						
30000873						
11/24	11/21/2024	DEC 24	Retiree Health Reimbursement - Dec 24	10-400-5111	826.00	826.00
Total Retiree Williams:						826.00
Ridgeline Municipal Strategies						
21421						
11/24	11/21/2024	23007-03	FY 24 Annual Dept Transparency Reports	10-400-5355	1,090.00	1,090.00
11/24	11/21/2024	23007-03	FY 24 Marks-Roos Yearly Fiscal Status Report	10-400-5355	545.00	545.00
Total Ridgeline Municipal Strategies:						1,635.00
Riedinger Consulting						
21422						
11/24	11/21/2024	2024-971	STPURWE Additional PCO Support	10-902-5601	4,112.50	4,112.50
Total Riedinger Consulting:						4,112.50
Robards, Gary						
30000874						
11/24	11/21/2024	HEALTH REIM	Health Reimbursement - Nov 24	10-440-5115	200.00	200.00
Total Robards, Gary:						200.00
Satcom Global						
30000875						
11/24	11/21/2024	AI11240197	Satelite Phone Service - Administration	10-400-5243	77.69	77.69
11/24	11/21/2024	AI11240197	Satelite Phone Service - Collections	10-460-5243	77.69	77.69
11/24	11/21/2024	AI11240197	Satelite Phone Service - Plant	10-600-5243	77.69	77.69
Total Satcom Global:						233.07
Sun Life Financial - LIFE & ADD						
202411141						
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	Life & ADD - Laboratory	10-560-5150	45.00	45.00 M

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount	
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	Life & ADD - Plant	10-600-5150	221.00	221.00	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	Life & ADD - Maintenance	10-480-5150	64.50	64.50	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	Life & ADD - Collections	10-460-5150	159.50	159.50	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	Life & ADD - Engineering	10-420-5150	114.50	114.50	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	Life & ADD - Administration	10-400-5150	565.00	565.00	M
Total Sun Life Financial - LIFE & ADD:						1,169.50	
Sun Life Financial - LTD							
202411142							
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	LTD - Plant	10-600-5160	946.86	946.86	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	LTD - Laboratory	10-560-5160	215.47	215.47	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	LTD - Maintenance	10-480-5160	179.54	179.54	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	LTD - Collections	10-460-5160	757.87	757.87	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	LTD - Engineering	10-420-5160	367.78	367.78	M
11/24	11/14/2024	NOV 24	LTD - Administration	10-400-5160	600.31	600.31	M
Total Sun Life Financial - LTD:						3,067.83	
Titan Environmental USA LLC							
21423							
11/24	11/21/2024	IN35763	Sludge Lagoon Liner Supply & Installation	10-925-5601	47,377.25	47,377.25	
Total Titan Environmental USA LLC:						47,377.25	
United Site Services							
21424							
11/24	11/21/2024	INV-4922792	Porta Potties at plant	10-600-5339	1,363.35	1,363.35	
Total United Site Services:						1,363.35	
Univar USA Inc.							
30000876							
11/24	11/21/2024	52555977	Sodium Hypochlorite	10-600-5281	16,626.23	16,626.23	
Total Univar USA Inc.:						16,626.23	
Verizon Wireless							
21425							
11/24	11/21/2024	9977263055	District Cell Phones	10-440-5423	38.01	38.01	
11/24	11/21/2024	9977263055	District Cell Phones	10-600-5423	698.48	698.48	
11/24	11/21/2024	9977263055	District Cell Phones	10-460-5423	521.37	521.37	
11/24	11/21/2024	9977263055	District Cell Phones	10-480-5423	260.95	260.95	
11/24	11/21/2024	9977263055	District Cell Phones	10-420-5423	52.19	52.19	
11/24	11/21/2024	9977263055	District Cell Phones	10-560-5423	52.19	52.19	
Total Verizon Wireless:						1,623.19	
Vision Service Plan							
20241101							
11/24	11/01/2024	NOV 2024	Vision Coverage - Plant Nov 2024	10-600-5119	125.80	125.80	M
11/24	11/01/2024	NOV 2024	Vision Coverage - Laboratory Nov 2024	10-560-5119	39.04	39.04	M
11/24	11/01/2024	NOV 2024	Vision Coverage - Collections Nov 2024	10-460-5119	147.49	147.49	M
11/24	11/01/2024	NOV 2024	Vision Coverage - Engineering Nov 2024	10-420-5119	39.04	39.04	M
11/24	11/01/2024	NOV 2024	Vision Coverage - Administration Nov 2024	10-400-5119	104.12	104.12	M

M = Manual Check, V = Void Check

GL Period	Check Issue Date	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice GL Account	Invoice Amount	Amount	
Total Vision Service Plan:						455.49	
WEX Health Inc.							
20241113							
11/24	11/01/2024	11.10.24 FSA	FSA Reimbursement 11.10.24	10-000-2130	1,405.00	1,405.00	M
202411012							
11/24	11/01/2024	10.31.24 FSA	FSA Reimbursement 10.31.24	10-000-2130	82.04	82.04	M
202411122							
11/24	11/01/2024	11.8.24 FSA	FSA Reimbursement 11.8.24	10-000-2130	51.74	51.74	M
Total WEX Health Inc.:						1,538.78	
Woodland Center Auto Supply Inc.							
21426							
11/24	11/21/2024	902774	Vehicle Battery	10-460-5310	240.15	240.15	
11/24	11/21/2024	903017	Battery Maintenance Charger	10-480-5310	43.69	43.69	
Total Woodland Center Auto Supply Inc.:						283.84	
WRA INC							
21427							
11/24	11/21/2024	26227-3-55168	Lower Miller Creek Rock Weir and Vane Repair Permitting	10-812-5601	1,772.00	1,772.00	
Total WRA INC:						1,772.00	
Yezman, Crystal							
30000877							
11/24	11/21/2024	HEALTH REIM	Health Reimbursement - Nov 24	10-440-5115	200.00	200.00	
Total Yezman, Crystal:						200.00	
Grand Totals:						1,985,808.59	

Board Member: _____

General Manager: Cot R. [Signature] 11/25/2024

Finance Manager: [Signature] 11/24/24

AGENDA ITEM 2C
DATE December 5, 2024



BOARD MEMBER CONFERENCE/ MEETING/WEBINAR ATTENDANCE REQUEST

Date: 11/25/24 Name: MURRAY, Craig K.

I would like to attend the 2025 Washington DC Policy Forum

Meeting of CASA

To be held on the 24th day of Feb from 8am a.m. / p.m. to
5pm day of 25th from 8am to 5pm a.m. / p.m.

Location of meeting: Washington DC

Actual meeting date(s): 2/24-25/2025

Meeting Type: (In person/Webinar/Conference) In Person

Purpose of Meeting: DC Updates, Federal Admin. & Rep. Mtgs., Joint efforts with NACWA on CA Policy Priorities for 2025

Meeting relevance to District: Rep. for WW Governance & Funding

Board Members to register for Webinars and Meetings

YES NO

Request assistance from Board Secretary to register for Conference only:

Board Directors to make their own Hotel Reservations and book their own transportation including airfare, taxi and/or shuttles.

Frequency of Meeting: _____

Estimated Costs of Travel (if applicable): _____

Date submitted to Board Secretary: _____

Board approval obtained on Date: _____

Please submit this form to the Board Secretary no later than 1 week prior to the Board Meeting.

12/5/2024


General Manager Report

- Separate Item to be distributed at Board Meeting
- Separate Item to be distributed prior to Board Meeting
- Verbal Report
- Presentation



Item Number _____ 4 _____
GM Review _____ CP _____

Agenda Summary Report

To: Board of Directors
From: Dale McDonald, Administrative Services Manager 
(415) 526-1519 dmcdonald@lqvsd.org
Meeting Date: December 5, 2024
Re: Approve Winter 2025 Heron Newsletter
Item Type: Consent Action _____ Information _____ Other _____
Standard Contract: Yes _____ No _____ (See attached) Not Applicable

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the publication of the Winter 2025 Heron Newsletter.

BACKGROUND

The District produces a newsletter approximately every six (6) months to update customers regarding subjects of interest about the District. Each newsletter typically has one main topic and three to four smaller articles. A primary theme throughout the newsletter is the critical need to continue investing in capital improvements to maintain and protect the District’s infrastructure to meet the District’s goals of providing reliable service while protecting the environment.

The newsletter will be mailed in December.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

On October 17, 2024, the Board discussed potential newsletter topics and gave staff direction to develop the newsletter. The following topics were chosen:

- Board of Directors Election Results
- Wastewater Surveillance for COVID-19 and Other Pathogens
- Engineering Department Spotlight
- Pollution Prevention FOG (Fats Oil and Grease), Flushable Wipes, No Drugs Down the Drain
- New Hires in 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

The newsletter is budgeted in the 2024-25 Budget as part of the District’s public outreach.

THE HERON

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District

Winter 2025

Nicholas Lavrov Elected to District Board of Directors



The Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District welcomes Nicholas Lavrov, who was elected in November to serve on its Board of Directors. As a Board member, Mr. Lavrov will help represent the District's community and ratepayers in the critical areas of water management, environmental protection, and sustainable operations. Mr. Lavrov will serve the remaining two years of this seat's four-year term, continuing his service through December 2026. Incumbents Craig Murray and Gary Robards ran unopposed in this election and will continue to serve as directors for their next terms.

Mr. Lavrov's experience includes over 25 years in the public sector, with a deep background in water, wastewater, and sustainable power systems. He's held numerous roles spanning various agencies, including the National Park Service, San Francisco Water Department, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Currently, he serves as Environmental Protection Specialist at the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Oakland, helping the states of California, Nevada, Hawaii, and territories located in the U.S. Pacific Islands rebuild after disasters.

Continued on page 4...

Do You Know What Items Should NOT Go Down YOUR Drain?

NO fats, oil, grease, wipes, or prescription drugs!

You already know that everything you put in the sink drain or toilet goes into the sewer system. But, did you know that some typical household substances should not go down the drain, because they can cause a sewer overflow or other problems? Here's an overview of how you can help with pollution prevention, and do your part to keep such materials from getting into the system in the first place.

Prevent FOG

Many of us may enjoy a nice, foggy Sunday morning — but there's a different kind of FOG that is not so enjoyable for drains and sewers. **FOG** stands for "Fats, Oil, and Grease" and those are all things that should **not** be put down the drain. They can pollute our waterways and easily build up in drains and the sewer lines, causing restrictions and overflows in your home or further down the line. And, they cause problems at the treatment plant. FOG includes substances like cooking oil, lard,

butter/margarine, shortening, bacon grease, some sauces and salad dressings, cheese, and meat fat trimmings.



Here are some tips for preventing FOG from entering the sewer system:

- Never pour fats, oil, or grease down the drain.
- Use a paper towel to wipe cooled oil and grease from cooking pans before hand washing or putting into the dishwasher — put the paper towel in your green organics cart.

Continued on page 3...



Easy Sign-Up for District Information

Get the District information you want via email! Just click on the QR code at left to subscribe to timely emails including news and updates, links to our newsletters, and agendas for our Board of Directors' meetings. And don't worry — we'll never sell or give your email to any third party.

Department Spotlight: Engineering

The District's Engineering Department is pivotal in ensuring environmental compliance, upgrading critical infrastructure, and advancing sustainability initiatives. Responsible for managing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the team oversees essential projects that modernize facilities and enhance LGVSD's capabilities in wastewater management, safeguarding the environment, and benefitting the community.



District's Wastewater Treatment Plant — upgrade completed June 2023.

A recent highlight for the department was the completion of a ~\$70 million upgrade to LGVSD's wastewater treatment plant. This major improvement increases treatment efficiency and capacity and supports regulatory compliance, addressing the high standards required for safe and effective wastewater processing. With several follow-up projects underway, the team is also preparing for extensive upgrades to the wastewater collection system, aiming to rehabilitate sewer mains and modernize the largest pump station in the district. This station, built in the 1960s, will soon undergo upgrades to its electrical systems and conveyance infrastructure, including critical pipelines that run under a freeway and a creek.

A unique aspect of LGVSD's operation is its reclamation area, where treated water is stored during certain times of the year when discharge to the Bay is restricted

by their regulatory permit. The Engineering Department plays a vital role in developing projects for proper operation and maintenance of the infrastructure supporting these holding ponds, ensuring they function properly throughout the year.



Mike Cortez,
District Engineer



Irene Huang,
Associate Engineer



Patty Quinn,
Civil Engineering Technician

The department's core team includes the District Engineer, an Associate Engineer, and a Civil Engineering Technician. Together, they manage an impressive workload of 47 CIP projects for fiscal year 2024-2025. Of these, 44 are currently active, with a mix of large-scale upgrades and smaller initiatives. Additionally, the department is reviewing more than 40 private land development and building renovations, ensuring the projects integrate seamlessly into the LGVSD sewer system.

From issuing Requests for Proposals and managing consultant bids and work, to overseeing project construction, the Engineering Department ensures each project meets LGVSD's sustainability standards and regulatory requirements. Thoughtfully incorporating sustainable design elements into every project, the team continuously strengthens LGVSD's infrastructure to support long-term community needs and environmental stewardship. Through careful planning and dedication, the Engineering Department is a driving force in the district's commitment to reliable, compliant, and sustainable wastewater management.

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District's Role in COVID-19 Detection

When the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread, researchers drew on their existing knowledge of detecting viruses and pathogens in wastewater to start looking for and identifying the presence of the virus. That capability opened a new frontier in tracking the virus as it spread through human populations, by tracking its presence in the sewage systems. This approach, known as wastewater-based epidemiology, allowed for early detection of the disease, giving health authorities vital information to identify "hot spots" and work to reduce localized outbreaks.

In early 2020, the District was approached by researchers from UC Berkeley, Stanford, and other institutions to support COVID-19 detection efforts in wastewater. The District quickly joined the effort, providing samples and contributing to the nationwide push to curb the pandemic. This work, completed at no additional cost to ratepayers, underscored LGVSD's commitment to leveraging wastewater science for the public good—from local residents to the wider population.



In the fall of 2021, LGVSD's contributions were formally recognized by the California State Water Resources Control Board in a resolution honoring wastewater treatment utilities for efforts in helping to better track the virus. This recognition highlighted the District and other agencies as early trendsetters in implementing wastewater-based epidemiology well before formal

- You can also pour cooled grease from pans into disposable containers, and place them in your green organics cart.



No Wipes in the Toilet

Please remember that disposable wipes of any kind, even those advertised as "flushable," should never be flushed down the drain. These wipes, or anything other than toilet paper (including personal wipes, baby wipes, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, and other paper products — and, kitty litter!) can cause obstructions in the sewer collection system — and some of them must be physically removed at the wastewater treatment plant. Flushing wipes may also damage the plumbing system in your own home, potentially resulting in significant repairs and homeowner costs.

When it comes to your toilets, just keep in mind that the only things to be flushed are the **Three Ps** — **P**ee, **P**oop, and (toilet) **P**aper!

Don't Put Meds Down the Drain

Flushing your unused prescription pills down the toilet can cause water quality issues because wastewater treatment plants are typically not equipped to remove pharmaceuticals from the wastewater. Those medications could affect the environment and endanger public health. Instead, you can safely dispose of your unused pharmaceuticals by dropping them off at an authorized site (see sidebar at right).

Also, check tinyurl.com/scriptakeback for drop-off locations during each fall's annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

By taking these easy steps, everyone is helping prevent FOG, wipes/paper products, and prescription drugs from entering our drains and sewers. This helps to keep the system running smooth and prevent environmental impacts and overflows — at home, at the treatment plant, and in the collection system. Thank you for doing your part!



Pharmaceutical Drop-Off Locations*

Your local CVS or Rite Aid Store

San Rafael Police Department

1400 Fifth Ave.
San Rafael
(415) 485-3000

Kaiser San Rafael (Los Gamos) Pharmacy

1650 Los Gamos Drive,
Floor 2, Room 2600
San Rafael
(415) 444-2000

Marin County Sheriff's Office

1600 Los Gamos Drive,
Suite 205
San Rafael
(415) 473-6043

Kaiser San Rafael

99 Montecillo Road
San Rafael
(415) 444-2980

County of Marin Probation Department

3501 Civic Center Drive,
Room 266
San Rafael
(415) 473-6310

Kaiser San Rafael Downtown

1033 3rd Street, First Floor
San Rafael
(415) 482-6900

Be sure to call your preferred location first to confirm they continue to accept drug drop-off.

For the most updated list, visit med-project.org/locations/marin-county.

*Location sources:

- County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services
- Marin County Environmental Health Services
- Med-Project, Medication Education & Disposal



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Board of Directors

Megan Clark
Nicholas Lavrov
Craig K. Murray
Gary Robards
Crystal J. Yezman


Board Meetings are

held at 4:00 PM on
the first and third
Thursday of each month
at the District offices.

District Administration: Curtis Paxton, General Manager

The District received the following awards and certificates:

- Recycled Water Agency of the Year 2023 (Small Category) from the California WaterReuse Association
- District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation for 2022-2025 in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2023 from Government Finance Officers Association.

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"Nicholas Lavrov" continued from page 1

As a lifelong resident of San Rafael, Mr. Lavrov notes his long-time commitment to the community served by the District, saying, "I am excited to join the LGVSD Board of Directors and bring my wide experience in water and wastewater, clean power, and protecting the environment to the service of the District." He noted that he looks forward to working with the other Board members and staff to address key initiatives such as upgrading aging infrastructure, increasing the use of recycled water, and expanding the low-income program for the disadvantaged in the community.

The District's Board of Directors holds the significant role of shaping policies that safeguard public health and environmental resources while ensuring efficient management of wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 30,000 customers. With a current annual operating budget of \$41 million, the District maintains approximately 105 miles of wastewater pipelines, and actively contributes to Marin County's sustainability goals

"Covid -19" continued from page 2

State and Federal programs were developed. The Water Board expressed "profound appreciation" for LGVSD's voluntary efforts and investments, underscoring the importance of wastewater monitoring for informing public health responses and safeguarding California's communities.

Today, with the "new normal" of COVID and its variants, the District continues to work with its partners in gathering information about the virus's presence in wastewater. Through this work we are making important contributions to the knowledge base toward a better understanding of COVID and its variants.

through recycled water production and renewable energy initiatives like solar and biogas.

With his expertise and commitment to public service, Mr. Lavrov is contributing to the District's operational excellence and environmental stewardship as it addresses emerging challenges in water and resource management,

District Welcomes New Team Members

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District is excited to welcome Angela Beran as the new Grant Management and Procurement Specialist, a position added in 2024 to meet the growing needs of the District. We are also pleased to announce the hiring of Brendan Pankow as Electrical Instrumentation Technician, and Russell Gondoli as Skilled Maintenance Worker, filling existing positions that recently became vacant. Welcome to the team!



When done reading this newsletter, please put it in your blue recycling bin with other recyclable paper items.

infrastructure, and community engagement.

Please join us in welcoming Director Lavrov as he steps into this vital role, helping guide our District toward a sustainable future.

12/5/2024

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

CLARK

NBWA Board Committee, CASA Workforce Committee, Operations Control Centers Ad Hoc Committee, Fleet Management Ad Hoc Committee, FutureSense Ad Hoc Committee, Energy Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports

MURRAY

Marin LAFCO, Flood Zone 6, Biosolids Ad Hoc Committee, CASA Energy Committee, Development Ad Hoc Committee, SF Trail Ad Hoc Committee, Energy Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports

NITZBERG

Operations Control Centers Ad Hoc Committee, McInnis Marsh Ad Hoc Committee, Fleet Management Ad Hoc Committee, SF Bay Trail Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports

ROBARDS

Gallinas Watershed Council/Miller Creek, NBWRA, Engineering Ad Hoc Committee re: STPURWE, McInnis Marsh Ad Hoc Committee, Development Ad Hoc Committee, FutureSense Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports

YEZMAN

Flood Zone 7, CSRMA, Ad Hoc Engineering Sub-Committee re: STPURWE, Marin Special Districts Association, Biosolids Ad Hoc Committee, Other Reports

MCSDA Mtg. Notes
November 22, 2024
Craig K. Murray



Marin County Special Districts Association

An organization to propose and advocate constructive means for the improvement and functioning of Special Districts within the County of Marin, State of California, and to assist such Special Districts and their governing bodies to provide a more effective and efficient government at the closest level to the citizens of Marin County that will result in benefit to the public.

MCSDA Meeting Friday, November 22, 2024 3:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88965094231?pwd=p9tOaabaoCaiL26t8tIVoQbaNHNeCl.1>

Meeting ID: 889 6509 4231

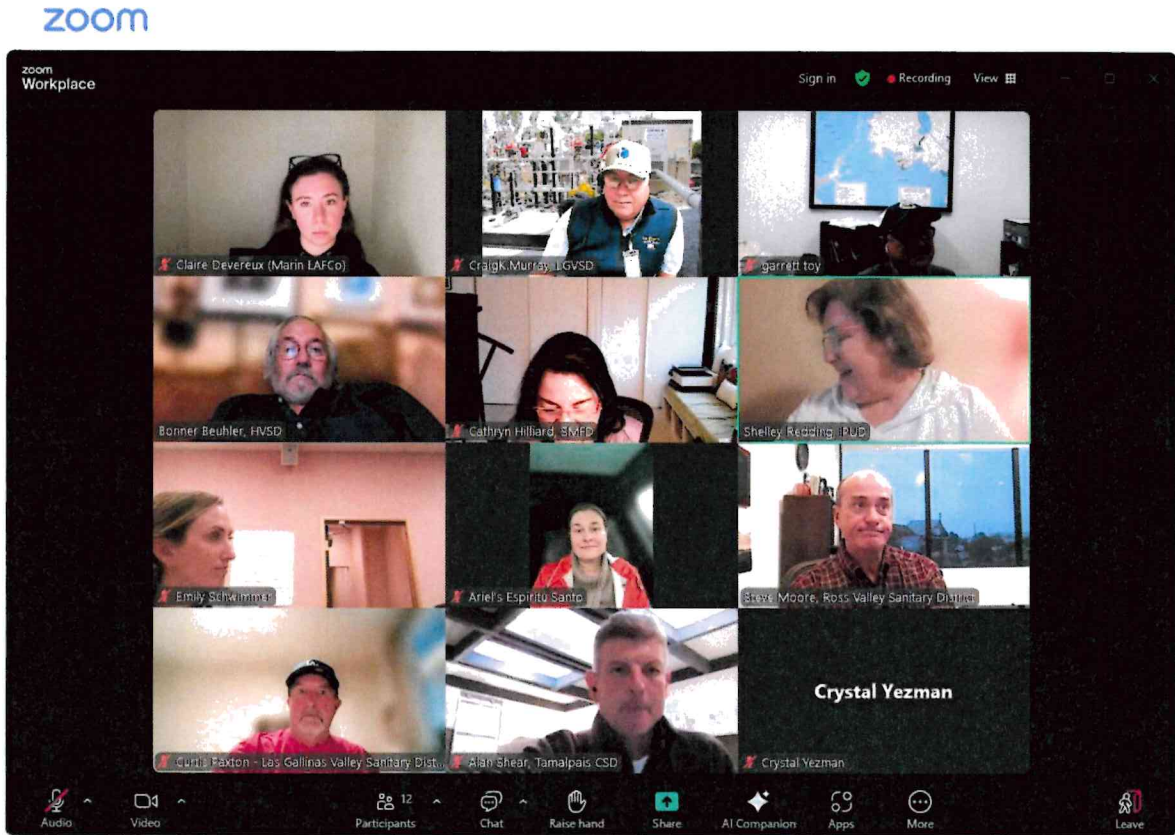
Passcode: 723545

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kYT7C7YS9>

President: Garrett Toy, Tamalpais Community Services District
Vice President: Lew Kious, Board Director, Almonte Sanitary District
Secretary: Shelley Redding, General Manager, Inverness Public Utility District
Treasurer: Crystal Yezman, Board Director, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District
Past President/ Officer At Large: Bill Hansell, District Manager, Alto Sanitary District

Agenda

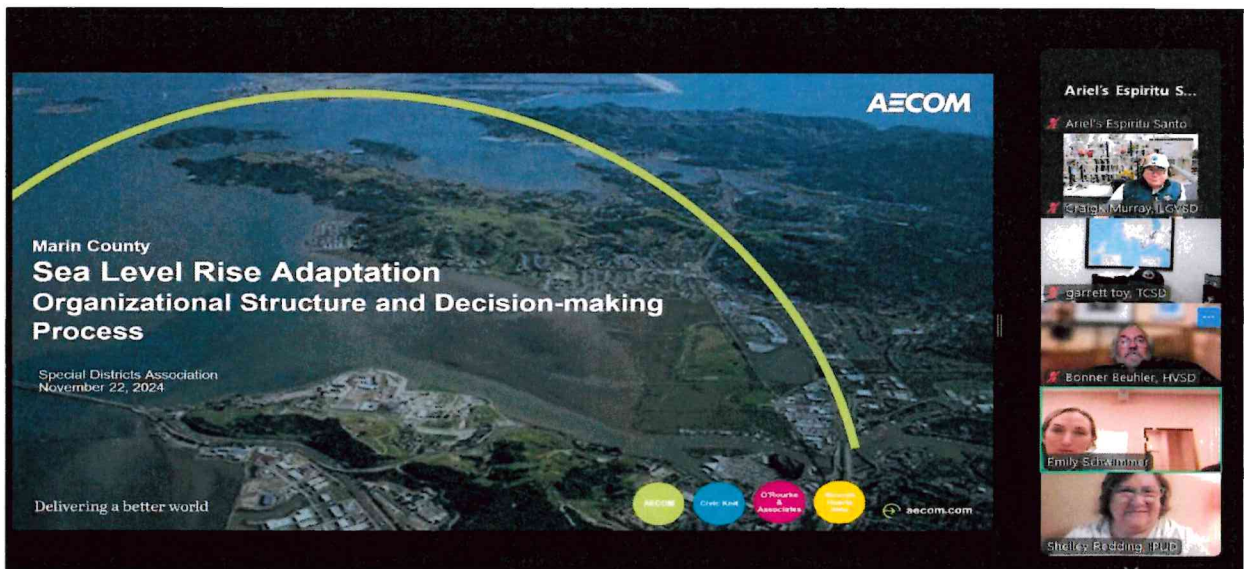
1. (3:00 PM) Roll Call
2. (3:05 PM) Updates/Presentations
 - a. Marin County Sea Level Rise Governance Project- Ariel Espiritu Santo - Assistant County Executive
3. (3:35PM) Informational Items
 - a. LAFCo update – Election Schedule of Special District Representatives to LAFCo Board (One Regular Seat and One Alternate Seat)
 - b. California Special Districts Association Update, Legislation Opportunities
 - c. How to increase attendance at MCSDA meetings by staff and elected members
 - d. Next MCSDA meeting to be in-person to meet newly elected Board members- hosted by TCSD
 - e. 2025 Chapter Officer Selection: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President/Officer-at-Large
 - f. Member Good of the Order (time permitting)
4. (3:55PM) Board Requests - Future meeting topics and dates
5. (4:00PM) Adjournment



Garrett Toy:


Dane Wadle for Shelly (out of leave):

Emily Schwimer & SLR presentation w/ Ariel Espiritu Santo: How County collectively be responding to SLR threats and actions to take as county. County and AECOM study, beginning phases.




Introductions


Meet our team




Ariel Espiritu Santo
County of Marin




Emily Schwimmer
AECOM




Steve Kinsey
CivicKnight




Chris Choo
County of Marin




Christine O'Rourke
O'Rourke & Associates




Ricardo Huerta Niño



Ariel's Espiritu S...




Ariel's Espiritu Santo

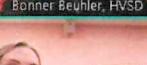


Ralph Murray, LGVSD


garrett toy, TCSD




garrett toy, TCSD



Bonner Beuhler, HVSD



Emily Schwimmer



Shelley Redding, PUP

Ariel, Emily & Steve today. Aecom.com Why County wide to SLR?

Why Do We Need a Countywide Approach to Sea Level Rise?

Project Overview

- 1** Much of Marin County's 110-mile shoreline is in low-lying areas that are susceptible to the threats of SLR
- 2** SLR doesn't adhere to boundaries – it requires a collaborative response between stakeholders
- 3** Everyone will be impacted by sea level rise - it will impact critical assets like roads, wastewater and water infrastructure, schools, property owners, and equity priority communities

Sea level rise adaptation requires:



 aecom.com

How to see esp. unincorp. To be better organized at county. Adaptation Planning & sourcing funding. Supported by tech. advisory committee: muni finance, CIP, slr experts, people that know their communities well. Stakeholder Engagement/Technical Adv. Committee/Steering Committee (Each Coastal town, 2 Supv...). Recommend a preferred governance structure. Multi-discipline governance structure. Eg Marin Co. Wildfire Prevention Authority; OneShoreline; OaklandAlameda Adaptation Committee.

Multi-Jurisdictional Governance Case Studies

Project Overview

Marin County Wildfire Prevention Authority
Joint Powers Authority

Purpose

- Support communities to be well-informed, prepared, and resilient in the face of wildfires.
- Improve capacity to withstand major fires.
- Minimize loss of life and property damage.
- Preserve environmental diversity.

Relevance

- Successful multi-jurisdictional collaboration in Marin County
- Secured dedicated, multi-year funding.
- Demonstrated project delivery and implementation.

OneShoreline
Special District

Purpose

- Improve resilience to the climate change-related impacts of sea level rise, flooding, and coastal erosion.
- Establish a unified vision for the future
- Secure funding to for project implementation.

Relevance

- Multi-jurisdictional funding agreement
- Established a countywide vision for SLR adaptation and flooding response
- Delivers capital projects
- Includes both Bay and ocean shorelines

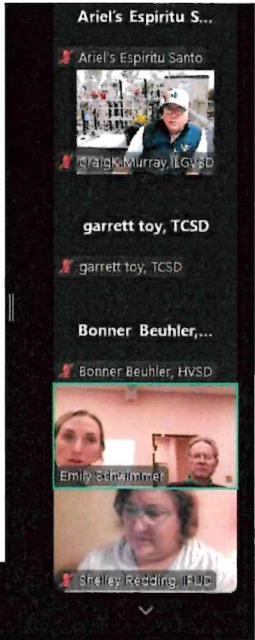
Oakland Alameda Adaptation Committee
Committee

Purpose

- Coalition of shoreline communities and stakeholders.
- Aims to accelerate sea level rise adaptation.
- Protect and restore water quality.
- Promote community resilience.

Relevance

- Inclusive community engagement planning process between municipalities, county agencies, and community-based organizations.



OneShoreline adapted San Mateo flood control district to plan and act collaboratively.

What is Governance?

Project Overview

The word governance comes from the Greek word "*kubernaein*" and the Latin verb "*gubernare*" which means "**to steer**".

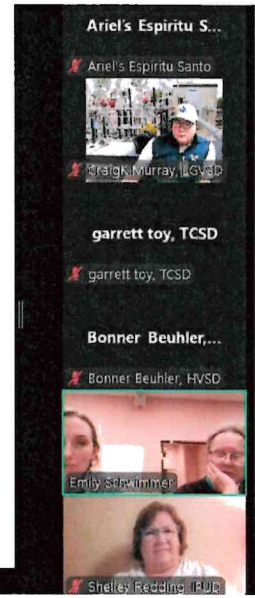
Governance refers to all processes of governing, the institutions, processes and practices through which issues of common concern are decided upon and regulated.

Components of Governance:

- **Authority:** who will be held accountable for decisions and actions?
- **Formation process:** are the relationships and structures in place to support formation?
- **Leadership & decision-making:** who has the authority to make decisions and how are decisions made?
- **Roles & responsibilities:** what are the functions of the entity and how are those functions monitored and evaluated?
- **Funding & resourcing:** where will funding for the organization come from?

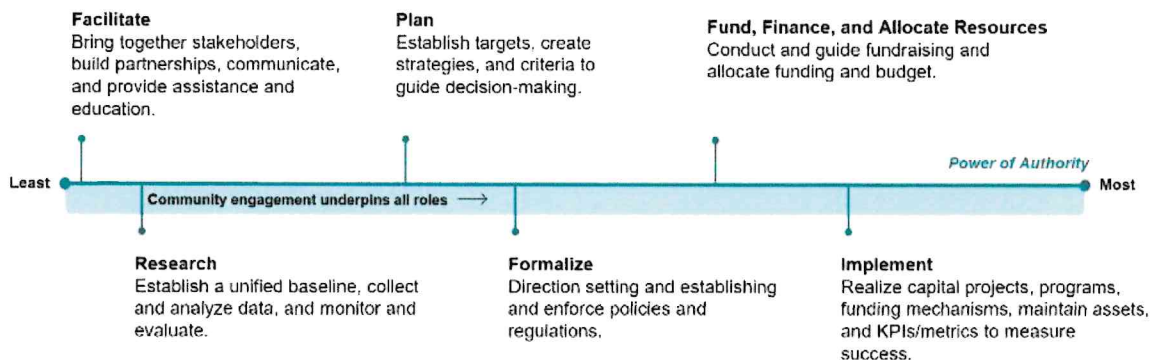
Principles of Good Governance include:

- Transparency
- Participation
- Accountability
- Coordination
- Capacity
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness



Roles & Responsibilities

Project Overview



 aecom.com

Ability to facilitate and bring people together. Ability to source and allocate funding.

Curtis: NBWRA SLR for Gallinas area along with Marin Co Parks & Open Space. Similar work going on but a component as a whole. Emily: Countywide effort slr and flooding. SR, Sausalito, Tam and County efforts. Goal to build off the findings. Actual Adaptation Plan, funding and AECOM at 30k level and should County approach. Steve Kinsey: Good to ID what are your needs. Shelley Redding: IPUD on Tomales Bay, County Hazard Mitigation Plan has ID'd some Special Districts Bolinas has but Inverness has not. What is best approach to take (grants support and eligibility). Garrett Toy, TCSD: Collaboration among Special Districts, what are key issues Bohin Marsh, Manzanita Parking Lot w/Cal Trans. Even of SB 1383, Garbage coord. A regional group. Craig: LGVSD developing CIP needs with heat map of priorities. Curtis: provided current work status. Steve Moore: Ross Valley SD: Risk Based CIP, SLR rise to top. Current City of Larkspur to raise a pump station out of the slr area. Ross Valley incl. shoreline like Larkspur Landing. WW enterprise keep electrical out of flood, worked for Knut Engineering for number of years. V. Community Service Districts (Broader Range). Not as much a special district issue but a city and county issue. Emily: how are you resourcing? Is there a need for collaboration. Shelley: Regional: west marin – stinson beach and Bolinas.

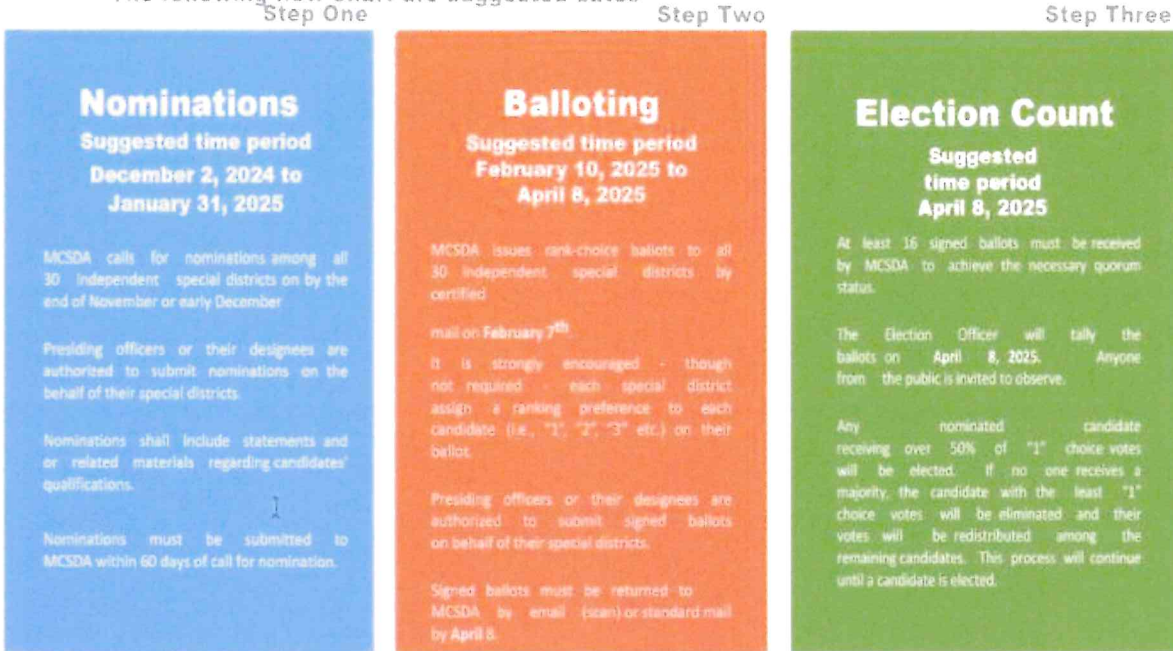
LAFCo Process – Claire Devereux Clerk, Jr. Analyst Only re-elect Regular Member. Commissioner Hilliard re-elected as alternate last year.



Special District Election to Seat a Regular Member

Regular Member | Four-Year Term | Commences on May 1, 2025

The following flow chart are suggested dates



Term is expiring end of May. Call 60 days. Start Mid December. All nominations to Garrett by Jan. 31. References and qualifications. Within 5 days ballots to Special Districts. Min. 60 days for balloting. April 8 hold the meeting, count ballots and elect. Shelley: Mailing by LAFCo. Claire: Drafted all necessary templates and can help. Here to assist throughout the process.

Election Rules:

1. The Marin County Independent Special District Selection Committee (CISDSC) shall consist of the presiding officer of the legislative body for each agency who is a paying member of Marin LAFCo or an alternate board member as appointed by each body. Upon notification by the Marin LAFCo Executive Officer of a term expiration or vacancy, the CISDSC will convene per the timetable minimally required by §56332 to fill the vacancy, vacancies as described below:

1. When notified, the MCSDA shall initiate the ballot process for special district members prior to the pending expiration of the term of a special district member or immediately upon notification that the eligibility of a special district member will be ending prior to the expiration of his or her term.
2. The MCSDA shall initiate the ballot process by emailing each member agency of the CISDSC a Call for Nominations including a schedule of the selection process and a copy of this policy. Nominations must be submitted in writing via email by special district governing boards within 60 days of the date of the Call for Nominations. The submittal of a nomination must include a statement of the candidate's qualifications.
3. Should the number of candidates nominated be equal to the number of seats available the nominated candidate(s) shall be deemed the winner(s), no ballots created and the membership of CISDSC informed of the winning candidate appointment to LAFCo.
4. Within five working days after the close of the nomination period, the MCSDA shall email a ballot to each independent special district. The distribution of ballots shall include a statement of qualifications for each candidate as provided by the candidate(s).
5. The MCSDA Local Government Committee shall appoint a person to be the election officer for any election where more candidates are running than there are seats available. The person appointed must either be a board member, staff of a CISDSC jurisdiction or staff for Marin LAFCo. The person appointed cannot be a candidate for a seat that is up for election or come from a jurisdiction that has a candidate on the ballot. The election officer's sole responsibility is to conduct the counting of ballots and determine the winner of the election.
6. The MCSDA shall call for a meeting of the CISDSC to be held not less than 60 days after the distribution of ballots. Selection Committee meetings can be held concurrent with MCSDA meetings or at the same location and either immediately before or after the MCSDA meeting. Per §56332(a), members representing a majority of the eligible districts shall constitute a quorum. For districts not able to send a representative to the meeting the paper ballot shall count as that jurisdiction's attendance and count towards quorum.
7. At the CISDSC meeting, in-person ballots will be collected and tallied with all ballots sent in prior to the counting of ballots. A majority of independent special districts must cast ballots to select a special district member.
8. Ballots cast by each special district must bear the signature of the district's presiding officer or by another board commission member as approved by that group's governing body. Ballots submitted by a



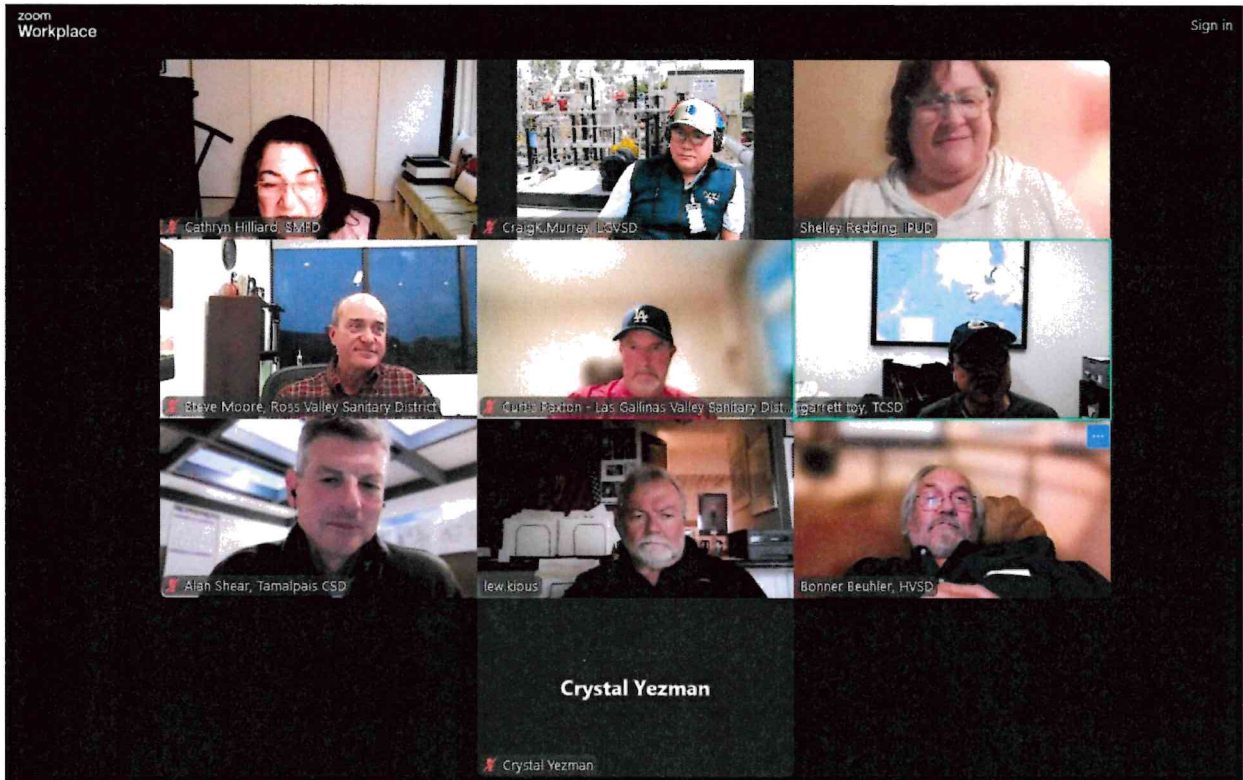
Garrett: Can be hybrid or in person? Claire: could be on zoom, ballots emailed.

Garrett to group on how to have more Special District Members attend. CKM suggest asking each District to designate their representative to participate and report back to their respective boards.

CSDA Report. Dane (for Carlene Haley on leave & had baby boy earlier this month). CSDA: want to thank for calls to action, support. HR 7525 National Bill, Special Districts passed out of House, on Senate Floor now, lame duck for 3 weeks congress. Trying to get off senate floor and to president. No guarantees. Statewide: first article link to legislation report. CSDA: 120 bills supported, 55% became law. Opposed 80 and 15% became law. Sigf. Turnover 35 of 120 in State Assembly, Senate. Really imp. To build relationships with new legislators. CSDA trainings in 2025. CKM thanked Dane and CSDA and Staff for choosing San Rafael, Marin to host the recent Special District Leadership Academy this month. Craig attended and it was great training. CSDA always has well organized events and trainings and fun to speak with attendees from all over CA attending and also talk about the many areas of interest in Marin.

Shelley send out a newsletter for MCSDA. CKM: recommend consider joint annual in person mtg with Sonoma and Marin b/c leg area and colleagues. Cathryn: meet in person and each person bring their one issue : who is doing what. Feb. be a good time? Garrett: in person and exec. Meeting. Shelley : MOU for emergency mgt purposes. Cathryn: Supv. Involved with SLR: Stephanie Moulton Peters. How can our assoc put pressure on Cal Trans, Co PW. Steve Moore:

Good to bring in County. Shelley : invited all County Supervisors to this meeting so may have been too quick. W/Rosemary at County, Steve M. : give a hot topic to engage. Curtis: County and City Housing element and general plans rely on us for support. HVSD Bonner Beuhler.



Curtis Paxton indicated that Craig put in chat that LGVSD is experiencing certain intensity in reliance by City and County on District to deliver its Housing Projects in response to AECOM SLR presentation and Emily Schwimmer’s question to Marin’s Special Districts on how do they see working with City and County on the SLR issue.

###



BOARD MEMBER CONFERENCE/ MEETING/WEBINAR ATTENDANCE REQUEST

Date: _____ Name: _____

I would like to attend the _____ Meeting
of _____

To be held on the _____ day of _____ from _____ a.m. / p.m. to
_____ day of _____ from _____ a.m. / p.m.

Location of meeting: _____

Actual meeting date(s): _____

Meeting Type: (In person/Webinar/Conference) _____

Purpose of Meeting: _____

Meeting relevance to District: _____

Board Members to register for Webinars and Meetings

YES NO

Request assistance from Board Secretary to register for Conference only:

Board Directors to make their own Hotel Reservations and book their own transportation including airfare, taxi and/or shuttles.

Frequency of Meeting: _____

Estimated Costs of Travel (if applicable): _____

Date submitted to Board Secretary: _____

Board approval obtained on Date: _____

Please submit this form to the Board Secretary no later than 1 week prior to the Board Meeting.

12/5/2024

BOARD AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

Agenda Item 6B

- Separate Item to be distributed at Board Meeting
- Separate Item to be distributed prior to Board Meeting
- Verbal Report
- Presentation

EDITORIAL

New reservoir expansion plan deserves a look

Marin Municipal Water District directors are making diligent progress toward increasing the district's water-storage capacity.

This strategy is in response to the crisis the district faced several years ago when back-to-back years of drought reduced the district's supply to levels where MMWD officials warned of possibly running out of water — even with customers following strict conservation measures.

The crisis fueled voter frustration that led to a turnover of a majority of the district's board.

Since then, the new majority has been making slow, steady progress toward increasing the district's storage.

The process takes time and money.

Among the strategies the board is advancing is possibly increasing the capacity of Nicasio Reservoir, the district's second-largest reservoir.

According to engineers' estimates, modifying the reservoir's spillway could add 3,000 acre feet to its maximum capacity — a roughly 13% increase.

The district says the improvement is part of its "roadmap" toward making MMWD's supply more resilient to future prolonged droughts. The spillway is one of the near-term, lower-cost tasks on a roadmap of measures that, if completed, could nearly double MMWD's capacity by 2035.

That "if," however, is significant, as the project cost and potential environmental consequences may take some of the proposals off the table.

Other proposals, such as significant expansion of the capacity of some of the reservoirs, are a lot more expensive and more complex.

It has been nearly 50 years since the district constructed any large addition to its rain-driven water-supply network, building Soulajule Dam in 1979.

It has connected with the Lake Sonoma reservoir, importing water that comprises about 25% of the district's supply and has twice explored — and shelved — plans to build a desalination plant.

The district's next step for the Nicasio spillway plan is a \$1.9 million study of potential environmental impacts of the Nicasio improvement, complying with state law.

That examination will include a fisheries study of Nicasio Creek, which runs from the reservoir to Lagunitas Creek, a focus of efforts to restore habitat for spawning coho salmon, a federally protected species.

Potential impacts on creeks are among the key environmental issues facing attempts to bolster the capacity for any of the district's seven reservoirs, which collect and hold 75% of the district's water supply.

A thorough analysis at the front end of the decision-making could save the district from costly and time-consuming legal entanglements later.

The roadmap also includes potential capacity-increasing improvements at Soulajule Reservoir, as well as Kent and Alpine lakes.

Plans to enlarge Soulajule, one of the lower-cost projects among the larger-capacity options, have already drawn protests from nearby ranchers who fear they could lose land, if not their homes.

The board is continuing to deepen its review of those options, but it is also taking the map one step at a time, initially focusing on “near-term” strategies.

That’s a sound and steady approach and the kind of progress voters said they wanted to see when, in 2022, they voted out two veteran directors. Essentially, voters called for a move away from the district’s primary reliance on conservation.

The board is moving forward, looking at short- and long-term options with the goal of increasing the district’s capacity and, together with the district’s longstanding work in conservation, provide greater protection from facing a repeat of the recent threat that its supply wouldn’t withstand a prolonged drought.

SMART ROUTE

Milestone attained for bike-pedestrian path

San Rafael stretch part of north-south network



A SMART train passes the new pedestrian bridge along the multiuse path between McInnis Parkway to Smith Ranch Road in San Rafael. SMART plans to hold a celebration ceremony once the path opens in January. PHOTOS BY ALAN DEP — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL



A newly built pedestrian bridge spans the South Fork of Las Gallinas Creek in San Rafael.

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

ARODRIGUEZ@MARINIJ.COM

There's a new path along the SMART rail line in San Rafael, closing another gap in the north-south bicycle and pedestrian network.

This month, Sonoma-Marina Area Rail Transit completed the \$4.8 million, 1-mile path from McInnis Parkway just north of the Marin County Civic Center to Smith Ranch Road near McInnis Park.

An opening celebration that had been planned for Friday has been postponed to Jan. 25 because of the heavy rain this week.

“This postponement ensures the safety and enjoyment of all attendees as well as the opportunity to properly celebrate this milestone in more favorable weather conditions,” Eddy Cumins announced at the SMART board meeting on Wednesday.

San Rafael Mayor Kate Colin, a SMART board member, said she looks forward to gathering for the celebration.

“I am delighted to have this pathway be completed as it provides a critical connection for residents who want to traverse north San Rafael on a class 1 bike path,” Colin said.

The new path is part of the Great Redwood Trail, also known as the North-South Greenway. It begins with a crossing of the existing route on McInnis Parkway over South Fork Gallinas Creek to the train tracks. The path runs north along the tracks until it reaches Gallinas Creek, where cyclists will be diverted to the frontage road near the San Rafael Airport and Smith Ranch Road.

SMART, which operates passenger rail service from Larkspur to the Santa Rosa airport, has long planned to build a bicycle and pedestrian path along its planned route from Larkspur to Cloverdale.

SMART has allocated funds to complete the initial design and permitting work for the remaining sections of the path in Marin County.

Overall, SMART has completed more than 28 miles of path, of which 21 miles are class 1 paths along the train tracks separated from vehicular traffic.

Construction is underway on about 8 miles of other path segments in Sonoma County as well.

Once all segments are complete, the Great Redwood Trail will be a 307-mile multiuse path connecting San Francisco and Humboldt bays, according to the SMART website.

Bicycle and pedestrian groups are excited about the new path in San Rafael.

“It creates a really great connection between the Civic Center area and McInnis Park and the Gallinas Creek nature area there,” said Warren Wells, policy and advocacy director of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition.

Wells said the alternative route between the Civic Center area and Smith Ranch Road involves cycling or walking through the busy Freitas Parkway crossing that intersects with Highway 101 traffic and the Redwood Highway Frontage Road.

“This route is safer, faster and more pleasant,” Wells said. “Overall, it’s a very substantial improvement.”

Wells is also excited about other new paths in the works, including a new multiuse path along the south side of the SMART Civic Center Station tracks under Highway 101 between Merrydale Road and Civic Center Drive. That project is expected to be completed in 2026.

Matthew Hartzell, planning director at the group WTB-TAM, said officials have plans for a path from the top of Puerto Suello Hill to North San Pedro Road, and another through downtown San Rafael.

“When those two segments are complete, the North-South Greenway will run continuously all the way from Larkspur to McInnis Park,” Hartzell said.

Another segment in the planning will connect the new McInnis path north of Smith Ranch Road and beyond.

Marin County Supervisor Eric Lucan, chair of the SMART board, said the completion of the McInnis path illustrates the rail agency’s “commitment to creating a sustainable and connected transportation corridor.”

“Projects like this are integral to promoting a healthier, more environmentally friendly future for our communities,” Lucan said.

More information about SMART’s path projects is at sonomamarintrain.org/smart_pathway.

Record return?

Marin's early season salmon activity raises hopes of seeing largest run in the watershed in decades



Chinook salmon swim in Lagunitas Creek near the Ink Wells in the San Geronimo Valley. Biologists are seeing signs that the salmon run is primed to be one of the best in decades. ALAN DEP — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL



Elena Campell of the California Conservation Corps follows ecologist Eric Ettlinger of the Marin Municipal Water District as they survey Lagunitas Creek for salmon and their nests. SHERRY LAVARS — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

BY ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ

ARODRIGUEZ@MARINIJ.COM

Marin biologists say an early abundance of salmon returning to nesting grounds in local creeks is signaling that this year's spawning season could be one for the record books.

"We saw more chinook salmon in a single day than we've ever seen before," said Eric Ettlinger, aquatic ecologist for the Marin Municipal Water District. Ettlinger and his team monitor activity at the county's main salmon stronghold at Lagunitas Creek.

As of Tuesday, biologists had already discovered 169 live adult chinook salmon in the creek and its tributaries, breaking a previous record of 134 in a single season. There were also 60 chinook redds, or nests, also surpassing the previous record of 49 in a season. The salmon are listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

What's more, the team observed 37 adults of the endangered coho salmon, and six of their redds. Chum salmon, which are rare for Marin, are also spawning: Five adults and two redds were discovered.

"To see multiple salmon species returning to Marin is a good sign of the health of the ocean and of possibly regional conservation efforts," Ettlinger said.

"I think of salmon as ecological ambassadors," he said. "When they show up, they offer an opportunity to learn about not just the salmon life cycle, but water scarcity, water pollution, food webs — even things like our dietary choices — whether we eat wild salmon or farmed salmon. I think the best thing about salmon returning to urbanized watersheds is the environmental education that they provide."

Marin County has the largest population of wild endangered coho salmon from Monterey Bay to the Mendocino County-Sonoma County line. Once believed to have numbered in the thousands, coho populations dwindled to the hundreds during the 20th century because dam construction blocked miles of former spawning grounds and tributaries.

The Marin Municipal Water District has embarked on a multiyear, multimillion-dollar restoration project to reverse the adverse impacts of dams by recreating habitat that used to occur naturally. Coho salmon require deep, cool pools of water in gravelly creeks to spawn, and for the juvenile fish to grow in during their 16-month stay in freshwater. The dams prevent debris — large pieces of wood and gravel — needed to naturally create the habitat from moving downstream where spawning happens. The project will add up to 4,450 linear feet of the channel, more than 270 logs and 12,000 tons of gravel to create the bed.

Coho salmon generally have three-year life cycles. After hatching, the fry rear in freshwater for up to a year and a half before heading to the ocean as smolts. After another 16 or 18 months in the ocean, they return as adults to the same streams where they were born to spawn and then die.

A few indicators have led biologists to believe the salmon run is primed to be one of the best in decades, Ettlenger said.

First, in the 2021-22 salmon spawning season, nearly 700 adult fish returned to nesting grounds, well above the average of around 400.

Secondly, a record 50,000 juvenile coho salmon known as smolts migrated from Lagunitas Creek to the ocean in 2023. That is nearly 400% of average, Ettlenger said.

Now the fish that have survived the past year and half in the ocean are making their way back, Ettlenger said.

“A good survival rate for coho salmon would be about 5%,” Ettlenger said. “And if 5% survive, they’re still going to be a lot of fish coming back.”

In order to overcome their federally endangered status, the Lagunitas Creek coho must lay at minimum 1,600 nests for three winters in a row. For the past quarter century, district counts have not reached 800.

Ettlenger said he hopes to see around 400 coho salmon redds this year, which would be well above the average of 240 redds in a season.

“We would like to see Lagunitas Creek produce tens of thousands of salmon every year,” he said.

Biologists with the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network, a nonprofit group based in Olema, survey activity in the upper tributaries of San Geronimo Creek, the higher streams in the watershed. Because of the recent storms, the team has yet to do an official survey this season.

However, Ayano Hayes, a biologist for the organization, said, “A storm at the magnitude we just experienced allowed access for salmon to migrate into the upper watershed, beyond the Ink Wells, the confluence of Lagunitas and San Geronimo creeks, which can be a barrier if flows aren’t high enough.”

“There are chinook and coho salmon actively spawning at Leo T. Cronin Fish Viewing Area, and with less rain in the forecast, and time for sediment to settle, more fish will be spotted in other areas of the watershed,” Hayes said. “Salmon were seen jumping up the Ink Wells, so we can guarantee coho have made their way into San Geronimo Creek and potentially the smaller tributaries too.”

The nonprofit hosts creek walking tours every winter to view the spawning salmon. Event dates and registration information are online at seaturtles.org/creekwalk.

National Park Service fishery biologist Michael Reichmuth surveys salmon activity in Redwood Creek, which runs from Muir Beach to Muir Woods, and in Olema Creek.

So far, his team has observed observed eight adult chinook, which are more rare in Redwood Creek, and six coho, Reichmuth said.

Also, a higher-than-average number of smolts — about 22,000 — migrated to the ocean from Olema Creek in 2023. By comparison, about 5,000 smolts migrated from Redwood Creek.

“We’re encouraged that we’ll see a big return this year,” Reichmuth said.

Northgate team must be ready to share news

The closing of local movie theaters is nothing new these days.

The convenience of streaming movies on our TVs and tablets, soon after they are shown on the big screens, has taken its toll on the economics of theaters.

In recent years, theaters in Corte Madera and San Rafael have been shuttered.

Now the Northgate mall's theater has closed.

San Rafael residents had to drive out of town — Marin's largest city — to see "Wicked," the promised blockbuster musical that recently opened in theaters.

Cinemark, the national movie theater giant and parent company of Northgate Century Theater, is not renewing its lease with the mall. Cinemark has closed many of its theaters in a "review" of its real estate holdings.

For north San Rafael, it's a one-two punch.

The six-screen Regency theater on Smith Ranch Road turned off its lights last November.

The mall's owner, Merlone Geier, is not ruling out finding a new theater operator. An upgraded cinema has been a central part of its plans to redevelop the mall.

That's good news.

For Terra Linda residents, the theater's demise came as a surprise.

The future of the mall and Merlone Geier's plans to redevelop the shopping center into a large housing and retail complex are headed to the San Rafael City Council for its initial round of approvals.

Neighbors have raised concerns about the size of the project — including 1,422 residences.

The closure of the mall's theater — which had not been mentioned in the plans — surprised some neighbors and raised questions about when the mall's ownership and City Hall found out about it.

David Smith, a member of Responsible Growth in Marin, a citizens group that has been scrutinizing the mall's plan, called for greater transparency.

Over its 60 years, the mall — at one time the king of Marin's shopping centers — has been through a lot of changes, changes brought on by shifts in consumers' shopping preferences. The proposed redevelopment of the mall is a big change for the city and the surrounding neighborhood.

Shopping malls are struggling and Marin needs housing.

Not surprisingly, neighbors have wanted a greater say in determining the size and scope of the plan, including the kinds of retail and entertainment offerings the center will offer. While concerned about the number of housing units, they also want the property to be a place they want to go to shop, dine and gather.

They aren't the ones who have to sign the leases, but they are an immediate market that the project needs.

Neighbors should speak out if a local theater is among their priorities.

City Hall needs to make sure transparency is expected, not questioned. Councilmember Rachel Kertz, who represents the area, needs to be a strong advocate for full and timely disclosure of information regarding the plans.

Cinemark's decision was part of its national "review" of its venues and there may be other movie theater firms now interested in moving in, now or as part of the redevelopment.

That could be good news for Northgate and its movie-going neighbors.