

# Minutes of Regular Meeting, Board of Directors October 11, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Porterville Irrigation District met this day in regular session. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20 and social distancing directives, the meeting was conducted by teleconference from the District office at 22086 Avenue 160 in Porterville, California; with District representatives and a few guests on a limited space and first come/first served basis.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

President Borba called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m. after some delays for technical difficulties with the District's Zoom account.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Borba, Chambers, Gisler, McCowan, Witzel

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Sean P. Geivet, District Manager

Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, District Secretary-Treasurer, Assessor/Collector

Numerous guests via Zoom and One tap mobile

# **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION – Review and consider adopting a Resolution approving the 2022-2023 Assessments**

The Board of Directors of the Porterville Irrigation District, acting as Board of Equalization, called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

The Assessor/Collector directed the Board's attention to a report reflecting changes to the Assessed Valuations for the 2022-23 Assessment year. She noted there were few changes in comparison to prior years.

Upon motion by Director McCowan, seconded by Director Witzel, the following Resolution was passed and adopted:

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10-01**

# RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ASSESSMENT FOR 2022-23 FOR PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Directors of the Porterville Irrigation District have met this day as the Board of Equalization in regular session; and

WHEREAS, Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, Assessor of the District, has filed the Assessment Book for assessment year 2022-23 showing the Assessed Valuation of \$1,481,513 for individual billed parcels, plus \$136,402 for properties covered under the Agreement between the City of Porterville and the District concerning City payment in-lieu assessments, for a total Assessed Valuation of \$1,617,915; and

**WHEREAS,** no person has requested, in person or in writing, an equalization of the assessed valuation of their property; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the assessments for the assessment year 2022-23 heretofore prepared and filed with the Secretary by the Assessor are approved.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Borba, Chambers, Gisler, McCowan, Witzel

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

#### CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Porterville Irrigation District, an irrigation district organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a Zoom meeting thereof duly and regularly held by the Porterville Irrigation District at Porterville, California on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022, at which meeting a quorum of said Board of Directors was at all times present and acting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in whole or any part thereof, and remains in force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of the Porterville Irrigation District this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

/s/ Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher
Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, Secretary
Porterville Irrigation District

There being no further business to come before the Board of Equalization, President Borba adjourned the hearing at 9:28 a.m.

AGENDA - There were no changes or additions made to the agenda.

RESOLUTION RENEWING AUTHORIZATION OF REMOTE TELE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS – Consider adoption of a Resolution renewing use of remote teleconference meetings under AB361

Manager Geivet reminded everyone that we will need to renew this action each month.

Upon motion by Director Gisler, seconded by Director Chambers, the following Resolution was passed and adopted:

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10-02**

# RESOLUTION RENEWING AUTHORIZATION OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361

- **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Porterville Irrigation District ("District") have met this day in regular session; and
- whereas, meetings of the Board of Directors of District and its committees are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District's legislative bodies conduct their business; and
- WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e), as amended by Assembly Bill 361 (2021) ("AB361"), signed by the Governor on September 16, 2021, provides for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and
- WHEREAS, the District wishes to invoke the provisions of AB361 to renew authorization of teleconference meetings subject to the modified standard of Government Code section 54953(e); and

#### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

Section 1. Findings. The Board hereby finds as follows:

- (a) As required by Government Code section 54953(e)(1), a proclaimed state of emergency exists under the California Emergency Services Act, as declared by the Governor on March 4, 2020.
- (b) State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, specifically, a state of emergency has been proclaimed in the State of California pertaining to the threat to human health and safety by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- <u>Section 2. Procedures for Teleconference Meetings.</u> The District and its committees shall hold teleconference meetings pursuant to the requirements of Government Code section 54953(e).
- Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Section 4. Renewal. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3), the District will reconsider the state of emergency every 30 days.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11th day of October 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Borba, Chambers, Gisler, McCowan, Witzel

NOES: None ABSTAIN: None

#### ABSENT: None

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Porterville Irrigation District, an irrigation district organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a Zoom meeting thereof duly and regularly held by the Porterville Irrigation District at Porterville, California on the 11th day of October 2022, at which meeting a quorum of said Board of Directors was at all times present and acting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in whole or any part thereof, and remains in force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of the Porterville Irrigation District this 11th day of October 2022.

/s/ Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher
Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, Secretary
Porterville Irrigation District

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – President Borba asked if there was any public comment.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S/U McCowan, Gisler to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of September 13, 2022 as presented.

## **AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

<u>M/S/U Witzel, Chambers</u> to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the District as presented.

#### MONTHLY REPORTS

**Financial Reports:** The Secretary-Treasurer included in the Board meeting packet the August 2022 Balance Sheet, showing status of the banking accounts, and Income Statements for the same period.

M/S/U Gisler, Chambers to accept the preliminary financial reports as presented and to place the reports on file.

**Administration Report:** The Manager reviewed "Monthly Google Analytics Report" on the District's website (Enclosure #6.B.) that is included in the packet quarterly.

Manager Geivet then brought to the Board's attention some questions that have risen as a result of our recent Surface Water Allocation billing. He shared that we have had two customers reach out in response to their invoices. One customer expressed that due to recent medical hardship, they are only prepared to pay for the water that they physically ran during our irrigation run as opposed to the full amount that they were allocated. A second customer, although initially responded to the questionnaire that they would like to receive an allocation and asked that the District run the water on their behalf, has since

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changed his mind and does not wish to participate. Both are minimal amounts of water so the Manager proposed that we dismiss those and will report that water on the District's BasinSafe account. The Manager will continue to monitor on a case by case basis and will only bring the topic back to the Board if there are significant amounts involved.

**Operations/Water Report:** Mr. Geivet reviewed miscellaneous enclosures in the meeting packet that relate to water.

**Status Report of Authorities: DCTRA, TRA, VAWC & FWA:** Manager Geivet brought the Board and guests up to date on DCTRA including final steps for dissolution.

Mr. Geivet then reviewed Friant Water Authority (FWA) topics such as canal fix and an upcoming FWA Board Retreat where he encouraged Directors to consider attending.

Due to further issues with Zoom, the meeting timed out around 9:58 a.m. and a new meeting started around 10:03 a.m.

**Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETGSA):** The Manager and President Borba gave a brief update on ETGSA issues.

Success Reservoir Enlargement Project (SREP) Update: Nothing new to report.

Future Planning: Manager Geivet shared that he's heard from a few landowners regarding future projects.

# BANKING POLICY - Discussion on a revised Banking Policy

Manager Geivet updated the Board and guests on the status of the draft Water Banking Policy document noting that the ball is currently in Arvin-Edison Water Storage District's court while we wait for some recommendations, but he also shared that he believes we are very close.

# LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER REPAYMENT AGREEMENT FOR RECAPTURE OF RESTORATION FLOWS (WY 2022) – Review and consider authorizing participation in a repayment agreement with Friant Water Authority

The Board took under review and held discussion on enclosures that included an email introduction from FWA for the Repayment Agreement for Recapture of Restoration Flows in the lower San Joaquin River.

M/S/U Gisler, Witzel to authorize District participation in the Repayment Agreement for Recapture of Restoration Flows in Lower San Joaquin River for the 2022 Water Year as presented.

All guests departed the online Board Zoom meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9, the Board adjourned into closed session at 10:14 a.m. The Board adjourned from closed session at 10:40 a.m.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] City of Fresno, et al. v. United States of America, Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 16-1276L

No reportable action.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - [Government Code Section 54956.9] (1 Case)

No reportable action.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] Arvin-Edison Water Storage District v. PID, PID Board and Homer LLC, Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-22-100617

No reportable action.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code Section 54957.1

No reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT** - President Borba adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, Secretary