

detail, competence, reliability, dedication, and integrity have greatly contributed to the District’s ability to reliably provide high-quality drinking water to our customers during his 15 years of service. He will be greatly missed by his many friends at the District.

A motion was made by Director Akbari and seconded by Director Huang to adopt a resolution honoring Ramon Gonzalez and expressing appreciation for over 15 years of dedicated service to the District.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-016

OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
HONORING RAMON GONZALEZ UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
DISTRICT SERVICE

The motion was passed by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Akbari, Huang, Weed, and Sethy  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Director Gunther

5.2 RESOLUTION FINDING THE REPAIRS TO GROUNDWATER RECHARGE FACILITIES DAMAGED BY SEVERE WINTER STORMS EXEMPT FROM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND APPROVING THE PROJECT

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Director Weed stated that he holds an interest in a property in proximity to the project and recused himself, as required by law, from any participation in or discussion of Item 5.2. Director Weed left the meeting at 6:07 P.M.

Mr. Awoke reported beginning December 27, 2022, severe winter storms related to a series of atmospheric river events struck California, bringing high winds, substantial precipitation, and river and urban flooding. Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency throughout California on January 4, 2023, due to the severe winter storms. The severe winter storms damaged multiple groundwater recharge facilities owned by the District including Rubber Dam 3, recharge pond embankments, and Vallecitos Channel. A project to repair and restore damaged groundwater recharge facilities resulting from the severe winter storms (Project) is required. The Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) Emergency Projects. The Project and the need for the work was most recently reviewed with the Engineering & Information Technology Committee on March 1, 2023. The Project will help meet numerous District Strategic Plan Goals including 2.1 – Maintain and Enhance Sustainability and Reliability of Local and Regional Water Supplies and 2.2 – Protect Existing Imported Water Supplies.

Multiple atmospheric river events resulting in severe winter storms struck California, bringing high winds, substantial precipitation, and river and urban flooding; including flooding and storm damage occurring in the District’s service area beginning December 27, 2022. On January 4, 2023, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency for the State of California under the

Emergency Services Act (Government Code Section 8550 *et seq*). The severe winter storms damaged multiple District groundwater recharge facilities, including Rubber Dam 3, recharge pond embankments, and Vallecitos Channel. The Project, Job 10139, is required to repair, and restore these groundwater recharge facilities.

Rubber Dam 3 is one of two inflatable dams used by the District to impound water for off-creek diversions to the quarry ponds. Rubber Dam 3 is a critical component of the primary means the District uses to divert water to the Above Hayward Fault (AHF) aquifer. The District's rubber dams, including Rubber Dam 3, are required to be deflated during high flows. Sediment naturally deposits from Alameda creek onto the deflated dam during high flow events and is shed off the dam during routine inflations. Recent high flows in the creek and excessive sediment deposition led to a rupture in the rubber bladder. The Project will repair and restore the damaged rubber bladder and associated appurtenances.

The District manages a series of recharge ponds that are critical to the District's water supply reliability. The recharge ponds percolate creek-diverted water into the underground aquifers for water storage. Substantial run-off from the severe winter storms caused erosion along the embankments around the ponds. This erosion has degraded support of access roads, paths, and structures; and caused property damage to neighboring properties. The Project will repair and restore the recharge ponds and neighboring properties.

Vallecitos Channel is a critical facility for the District's water supply conveyance operations, conveying water from the South Bay Aqueduct to Alameda Creek for groundwater recharge during drought and dry years. Damages to the channel due to the severe winter storms include sediment deposition reducing channel capacity; bank slides, including into neighboring private property; erosion; and damage to drop structures, culverts, and the access road. These damages threaten the District's ability to maintain and convey water via Vallecitos Channel. The Project will repair and restore the Vallecitos Channel.

The Project is exempt from CEQA because the work meets the following Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(3) and 14 CCR Section 15269 (a) Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.

Staff responded to inquiries from the Board.

A motion was made by Director Sethy and seconded by Director Akbari to adopt a resolution 1) finding the Project to repair groundwater recharge facilities damaged by severe winter storms to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, 2) approving implementation of the Project, and 3) authorizing the General Manager or designee to file a notice of exemption for the Project with the Alameda County Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-017

OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT FINDING THE REPAIRS TO GROUNDWATER RECHARGE FACILITIES DAMAGED BY SEVERE WINTER STORMS EXEMPT FROM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND APPROVING THE PROJECT

The motion was passed by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Akbari, Huang, and Sethy  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Directors Gunther and Weed

Director Weed returned to the meeting at 6:11 P.M.

5.3\* AUTHORIZATION OF AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR THE VALLECITOS CHANNEL MAINTENANCE PROJECT AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS PROJECT FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY SEVERE WINTER STORMS

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The Vallecitos Channel is a critical component of the District’s water supply conveyance facilities. In 2021, the Vallecitos Channel Maintenance Project (Project) was completed to restore channel access and capacity. Environmental permits for the Project require ten years of post-construction monitoring and reporting. Horizon Water and Environment, LLC (Horizon) completed the year 1 monitoring report. Additional environmental services are now required to complete the monitoring and reporting activities for the remaining required years. Additionally, beginning December 27, 2022, severe winter storms related to a series of strong atmospheric river events caused significant damage to Vallecitos Channel. Additional engineering, environmental services and permit assistance are now required to support design, permitting, and implementation of repairs to repair and restore the channel to its required long-term flow capacity. The Project and the need for the work was most recently reviewed with the Engineering & Information Technology Committee on March 1, 2023. Board authorization of these amendments will help meet multiple District Strategic Plan Goals including 2.1 – Maintain and Enhance Sustainability and Reliability of Local and Regional Water Supplies, and 2.2 – Protect Existing Imported Water Supplies.

The Vallecitos Channel was constructed in 1965, east of Sunol in Alameda County and is used to convey water from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) South Bay Aqueduct (SBA) to Alameda Creek for groundwater recharge. It serves a key role in water delivery, particularly during dry years when local runoff for groundwater recharge operations must be supplemented with water imported from the SBA. Prior to the 2021 Vallecitos Channel Maintenance Project, the cumulative impacts of storm events and vegetation growth in the channel had resulted in erosion of the channel banks, damage to the adjacent access road, and sediment deposition, and reduced channel capacity to less than 10 cubic-feet-per-second (cfs). The District’s normal recharge operations require a conveyance capacity of approximately 40 cfs.

On June 2, 2015, the Board authorized a professional services agreement with Horizon in the amount of \$545,096 to provide engineering and environmental services to determine the near-term repair and maintenance needs to return the channel to its required flow capacity, assist with the