

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Special Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2021

Windfall Farms Conference Room, 4710 Flying Paster Lane, Paso Robles

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference)
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)
Hilary Graves (by videoconference)
Dana Merrill (by videoconference, joins at 2:06PM)

Others present: Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:03PM by Hilary Graves.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Palla commented about his perception that there was unfair treatment for landowners depending on whether they were currently irrigating or not. Hilary Graves responded that the District was not the determining agency for this and that he should consider contacting the Board of Supervisors to provide his comments. Jerry Reaugh further explained that the ordinance does not parcel out water, only what can be planted. Mr. Palla commented on the exemption increase to 25AF/Y and Hilary Graves explained the District's comments regarding keeping the exemption to 5AF/Y due to the potential for a very large increase in the stresses on the Basin should the 4,900 currently non-irrigated parcels decide to take their 25 AF/Y exemption, and referred Mr. Palla to his supervisorial representative for an explanation about why the County would consider the increase.

ITEM 3: CONSIDER COMMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT OF PASO BASIN LAND USE PLANTING ORDINANCE

Lee Nesbitt commented that the additional time to review the comments was very helpful and suggested moving forward with the draft comments as is. Jerry Reaugh requested a minor change to the letterhead. MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT COMMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO SAN LUIS OBISPO IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT OF THE PASO BASIN LAND USE PLANTING ORDINANCE made by Dana Merrill, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes
Jerry Reaugh – yes
Hilary Graves – yes
Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 4-0.

Staff was directed to prepare the comments and submit by email, with a hard copy to follow by US Mail.

ITEM 4: NEW BUSINESS – REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NEXT AGENDA

It was suggested that Blaine Heely, the new SGMA Coordinator for the County be invited by Dana Merrill to

the January regular meeting.

Jerry Reaugh suggested foregoing the December 8, 2021 meeting.

MOTION TO CANCEL THE DECEMBER 8, 2021 MEETING made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Hilary Graves, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 4-0.

The options for continuing meeting by videoconference (if the County does not change its Order), may require a special meeting in order to meet the 30-day renewal timeframe. Alternatively, the January 12, 2022 meeting can either be an in-person meeting, or can likely be initiated as videoconferenced by establishing a new resolution to invoke AB361 at the time of the meeting.

ITEM 5: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2022

ITEM 6: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Motion passed 4-0.


Meeting adjourned at 2:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,




Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President



Date