

# 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 Executive Officers Meeting Minutes

**DATE/TIME:** November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 2:30PM

**LOCATION:** Via Zoom Recording available [HERE](#) or at: <https://marinsda.specialdistrict.org/>

**PRESENT:** Officers: President Bill Hansell, District Manager, Alto Sanitary District  
Vice-President Lew Kious, Board Director, Almonte Sanitary District  
Treasurer Crystal Yezman, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District  
(Secretary and Past President/Officer At Large are not filled)

Speakers: Marin County Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters, District 3  
Jeren Seibel, LAFCo  
Colleen Haley, CSDA

Others: Marin County Special District Managers and Board Directors  
Kati Martin, President, San Mateo Special District Association

### 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Hansell called the meeting to order at 2:30PM.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

### 3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR (0:01:58):

Hansell noted that the MCSDA is lacking a Secretary and the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting have not been drafted yet. Kious noted the quorum of officers for the meeting and suggested that the draft minutes be considered at a later date.

### 4. UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS (0:03:18):

#### 4a. Marin County Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters, District 3 –

Hansell introduced Supervisor Moulton-Peters and welcomed her to the meeting. Supervisor Moulton-Peters requested that all the attendees introduce themselves. The Supervisor discussed the need for cooperation of water issues between the County and Special Districts, noted the issue of board member recruitments for special districts, and asked about staffing challenges faced by the County. In response, Hansell agreed with the need for water coordination and suggested it be a focus for a future meeting. Kious seconded the notion and referred to the 2014 SASM study to look at wastewater recycling with MMWD, which did not gain any traction. Cathryn Hilliard, SMFD & MWPA, was also involved in a 1984 study by EBMUD, City of San Francisco, and the Contra Costa Water District on reclaimed water and would like to see the issue addressed. Yezman noted current studies and projects under review for costs and benefits, and that a roadmap of options will be presented to the MMWD board in December. She also

mentioned recycled water initiatives and planning for the Northgate development. The Supervisor asked about the development threshold that triggers water supply assessments, which Yezman answered is for projects over 500 units. Yezman explained that there are a number of development projects that will include dual-plumbing. The Supervisor asked Jennifer Blackman, Bolinas Community Public Utility District, and Mary Halley, Muir Beach Community Services District, if desalination studies had been considered by their districts. Halley discussed the impact of water conservation on revenue. Hansell suggested that all of these issues need to be articulated by the operations managers of the various special districts to foster policy discussions & decisions at the Supervisor level. Hansell invited Kati Martin to describe any similar issues with San Mateo County agencies. Martin discussed sea level rise concerns for San Mateo. Yezman raised the topic of recycled water policies for construction projects and for sewer maintenance flushing. Blackman appreciated Supervisor Rodoni's quarterly updates and any opportunities to collaborate, e.g. the creation of a West Marin mutual aid JPA, since some agencies are remote and can have issues with emergency staffing and response. Kious will follow up with Blackman on his experience with mutual aid issues. Hilliard asked about the process for considering the impact of housing requirements on water related services. The Supervisor explained that the County will be bringing a draft EIR on housing in December, and there is a concern about how the state will act in terms of incentives/penalties. Halley pointed out housing requirements in Tomales that could not be accommodated by the sanitary system, and which were subsequently moved to be fulfilled in a different locale. The Supervisor discussed the "Objective Design Standards" under development by the County to put some architecture guidelines on by-right development projects under SB 9. The Supervisor thanked everyone for inviting her to the meeting and their participation. Hilliard thanked the Supervisor for supporting the merger of the City of Mill Valley into the Southern Marin Fire District.

## 5. INFORMATION ITEMS:

### 5a. **LAFCo Update by Jeren Seibel (0:45:05):**

Seibel explained that the merger of the City of Mill Valley into the Southern Marin Fire District is in its final stages and will be heard in the commission's December meeting. Another large project is the "Golden Gate Corridor Study" Municipal Services Review comprehensively looking at eight districts, which hopefully will be released at the end of the year or beginning of 2023. The final update is the 2023 election of the two special district representative LAFCo seats, which the MCSDA will be facilitating. Kious noted that he will be running as an incumbent in the election.

### 5b. **CSDA Update on Legislation Opportunities by Colleen Haley (0:49:00):**

Haley complimented the group on the quality of the discussion with Supervisor Moulton-Peters. She stated that the CSDA was focused on Covid funding for special districts in 2022 and, therefore, other legislative initiatives were light. There were not any major calls for action but there is a concern about the pending California Business Roundtable Initiative (#21-00481), which will be on the ballot on 2024 and will potentially limit districts to collect and keep the minimum amount of funding for doing business (a terminology which is not even clearly defined) and terminates prior approved special taxes. The CSDA is requesting Resolutions in opposition to the initiative as soon as possible. Further info will be sent to all the districts. Haley also pointed out that members should contact the CSDA if training is needed for new elected officials. Hansell

suggested that districts collaborate on training sessions. Haley suggested that one district act as the host in order to facilitate that. Yezman asked if the CSDA could assist districts with legislative initiatives to protect their funding being spent on another agency's assets, for example excessive replacement paving requirements in San Rafael which affect the capital improvement budgets of MMWD. Haley can review that with the CSDA's legislative staff, but questions whether state legislators would support that type of local concern if they represent voters in both agencies. Hansell thanked Yezman for raising the issue as the MCSDA has talked about it before. He suggested that the association should address this further with the Board of Supervisors, as well as looking into "top-down" options with the State. Kious asked if Haley could check with CSDA and return with info for the association.

**5c. Member Round Robin / Networking (1:07:45):**

\_ Blackman said that BCPUD is struggling with the cost of County DPW paving requirements and would like that discussed further. Yezman agreed.

\_ Curtis Paxton, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, also agreed with Blackman and appreciated the discussion on recycled water.

\_ Yezman asked Hansell to review the treasury issues for the association.

\_ Chief Jesse Peri, Stinson Beach Fire, noted that staffing issues are a concern, especially since vacation rentals have taken up housing for volunteer firefighters. He also said the agency needs a new fire station. Hansell offered to speak separately on the latter since he has been managing the renovation of the Kensington Fire Station 65.

\_ Garret Toy, TCSD, offered to provide the perspective of a town manager on paving issues. He said that staffing is full at the current time.

\_ Martin, San Mateo Special Districts Association, appreciated the invitation to participate in the meeting and would like to collaborate more. Hansell noted that the Contra Costa Special District Association has an annual joint meeting with the Alameda Special District Association, so MCSDA should consider similar opportunities.

**5d. Executive Officer Openings for Secretary and Officer-at-Large (1:14:00):**

Kious nominated Garret Toy for Secretary; Hilliard seconded.

Approved by consensus without objection.

The Officer-at-Large position will remain open until a later date.

**6. Board Requests:**

**6a. Future Meeting Dates (1:16:15):**

Kious suggested February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the next meeting and it was agreed to hold it by Zoom starting at 2:30PM.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** Kious motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:22PM; Yezman seconded.

These minutes were prepared by Bill Hansell and approved at the MCSDA Meeting of February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Attest:

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Secretary of the Board