

CONFORMED AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PILOT HILL GRANGE, 1701 HIGHWAY 193, COOL, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

6:00 P.M.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the purpose of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District to:

- Provide reliable water supplies
 - Ensure high quality drinking water
 - Promote stewardship to protect community resources, public health and quality of life
 - Provide excellent and responsive customer services through dedicated and valued staff
 - Insure fiscal responsibility and accountability are observed by balancing immediate and long term needs
-

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – *The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Directors Present: Krizl, Hoelscher, Capraun, Hanschild, Uso. Staff Present: General Manager Wendell Wall, Operations Manager Darrell Creeks, Erik Jacoby. General Counsel: Not present.*

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A. Board Action –

Motion by Director Uso to adopt Agenda, 2nd by Director Hoelscher.

Public Comment: None.

Vote: Motion carries.

Ayes: Krizl, Hoelscher, Capraun, Hanschild, Uso.

3. **PUBLIC FORUM** – Any member of the public may address the Board on matters contained on the agenda that are within the jurisdictional authority of the District. Public members desiring to provide comments must be recognized by the Board President, and speak from the podium. Comments must be directed only to the Board. The public should address the Board members during the public meetings as President, Vice President, or Director followed by the Board members individual last name. The Board will NOT hear communications on matters not on the agenda.

No disruptive conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. Persistence in disruptive conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the President, of that person's privilege of address.

Director Krizl introduced the topic and provided the preferred format of the meeting. He noted that the Board would not be making any decisions on specific water restrictions and that this is only an informational meeting.

4. DROUGHT AND POTENTIAL IMPACT ON DISTRICT RESOURCES AND CUSTOMERS

A. Discussion –

- Recent action by Governor Edmond G. Brown Jr. relative to mandatory water restrictions as identified under Executive Order B-29-15.

General Manager Wendell Wall discussed Governor Jerry Brown's April 1, 2015 Executive Order B-29-15 concerning the drought. The 25% cutback mandated by the State of California is an overall statewide goal. The State water board (Department of Health) will set specific conservation mandates calls in order to achieve the Governor's 25% target. GDPUD is monitoring the situation daily by staying on top of alerts and by participating in conference so that it can keep the community informed and up-to-date with State requirements. Mike Cooper commented on the Sacramento Bee article about a 35% cutback. Director Hoelscher noted that there are differing amounts of cutback required for different communities. Director Capraun clarified, stating that a long email was received from the State which acknowledged that the District had saved 25% and that the State now wants us to increase that to 35%; but the portion that would describe exactly how we would achieve that increase was left off, and it is not yet clear if the District will be held to 25% or to 35%. This issue will be addressed by the State in May. GM Wall said that cutbacks within this district will be predicated on Stumpy Meadows Reservoir. Regardless of what the State mandates, the reality in this community is how much water is available in the Stumpy Meadows Reservoir. The current water level at Stumpy is 12,350 acre feet. On April 14, 2014, the Board will make an official declaration of the District Drought Stage per the GDPUD 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. This year it looks like we will have to go to a Stage 3, with mandatory conservation requirements. There was discussion regarding the irrigation season and how much untreated water should be allowed to flow through the ditch. Due to the antiquated water system, the flow can't be turned off and on. So the only way to reduce water usage (for irrigation) is to shorten the season by starting the flow later in the season or cutting it off earlier at the end of the season, or a little of both. Last year a 20% reduction in irrigation season was undertaken.

- Prior state mandated Emergency Water Use Restrictions of 2014 as identified in District Resolution 2014-07.

GM Wall continued. The State mandated Emergency Water Use Restrictions of 2014 as identified in District Resolution 2014-07 are from last year when the Board adopted Stage 2 water conservation. Reference the GDPUD 2010 Urban Water Management Plan for details regarding the various stages. Currently Stumpy is at 12,350 acre feet. GM Wall stated that he would be bringing a recommendation to the Board on April 14, 2015, as to what stage to adopt based on water storage.

- Current water storage in Stumpy and restrictions under a Stage 3 Drought declaration as identified in the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan.

GM Wall noted that we are in "D-4 – Exceptional Drought" per the Water Management Plan. In April 1977 water storage was at 11,120 acre feet, but with much fewer customers. We are in dire straits. GM Wall invited Operations Manager Darrell Creeks to comment.

Mr. Creeks noted that the treated water customers in March used more water than they did in March 2014 or March 2013. We did good last year and need to do better this year. Last year all 3,800 treated water customers used a total of 1,576 acre feet for the whole year. In addition to treated water, we have irrigation customers who use water for agricultural and other uses. This year we have the potential to drop down to 6,000 acre feet by October.

Director Krizl noted that 1,500 acre feet of water went to domestic customers last year and the rest went to agricultural/irrigation/raw water. There is water loss in the ditch and other factors, but the biggest factor is irrigation. The ditch can't be turned on and off at will. It takes one to two weeks for water to get all the way to the end of the ditch. Everyone needs to participate – we will have to shorten the season, the question is how much. People here need to spread the word to their neighbors.

Mr. Creeks commented on possible curtailments by the State. Director Krizl said that what we can store is not in our control. The State says all options are on the table.

B. Possible Board Action – No action was taken.

Public Comment: Director Krizl invited public comments and specifically asked to hear from irrigation water users to help determine which end of the season to be dry. The Board has to make tough decisions now.

Kathy asked about restrictions and whether the State will provide money in the form of rebates to help with any mandates it might make. Mr. Creeks responded that there may possibly be reimbursement for devices to save water. GM Wall said that grants may become available. Director Uso clarified that these grants have been around for a long time and have nothing to do with the current requirement to reduce water usage. Susan Yule, of Cherry Acres, suggested that the District talk to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and fight the curtailments. Nancy wondered if this happened last year and if agricultural users are switching to treated water. Director Krizl said some ag users are on wells, some on raw water, some use treated water, and some use a combination of sources. Director Uso commented that there should be a discussion about delivering "survival" water and working something out with rates to deliver treated water for customers that have special needs for crops and livestock. Mr. Creeks noted that the treatment plants are small and at maximum production already, and it is not possible to deliver treated water for irrigation. Sheila Larson has both treated and raw water and questioned whether customers should be getting any irrigation water at all. Ms. Larson asked if the District could do a survey to determine how much water people are actually using, and maybe not run as much water through the ditch. Mr. Creeks responded that the District knows how much is being used. But the water cannot be turned off and on at will. It's a ditch system; if it was a pipe system it would be different. Director Uso interjected that the system is very old and needs to be addressed. Every year it gets more expensive. The District needs better fiscal planning and more money. Director Krizl asked those who get irrigation water to please share their experiences from last year: How did the 20% cutback affect them, and can they get by this year with a 30% or 40% cutback? Wally Dubois would like to see a hit list from this meeting and then look at it next

quarter. He noted that the District website is not effective, that progress needs to be publicized. Eileen from Garden Valley asked about the King Fire effects on Stumpy: How much water was pulled out, what about runoff into our water supply from the retardant that was used, and what about next year – if it is this dry and there are more fires? Mr. Creek responded that the amount of water taken from the reservoir was insignificant and didn't affect the water level. There hasn't been any runoff this year because of light rain and snow. Engineering Consultant George Sanders said that they looked at the GPS coordinates from CalFire on its aerial drops, and none of the retardant went into Stumpy. Director Krizl noted that Pilot Creek burned extensively and all the trees that are now gone won't be using water anymore. That water will become available to Stumpy. Ray Paul, Pilot Hill, uses both a well and irrigation and wondered if he can get treated water if his well goes dry. GM Wall responded that if you are in an assessment district, you can get new service. Regarding irrigation water cutbacks, Mr. Paul said that the schedule last year worked well. Mr. Paul would like to see water last longer. Mr. Creeks discussed last year's experience with 70 customers that volunteered to cut back: It didn't work because water needs to be at a certain level in the ditch at all times. Linnea Marengo has cattle on her property and needs to make planning decisions. She feels that a 20% cutback would work, and 40% would work as well, although she would have to cut back on the amount of pasture, and she requested that the season not start too late. Director Uso stated that if the District declares a Stage 3 Drought, the minimum cut will be 50% for raw water. Mr. Creeks advised the audience and Board that we are addressing a moving target. Rain in May could change things. Ms. Marengo asked the Board to keep in mind what kind of community we want to create when making planning decisions down the road. Director Uso said that what is driving the Board this year is how much water is available. Mr. Creeks noted that the Urban Water Management Plan requires the District to help those whose wells go dry by providing water from its hydrants so they can keep their livestock alive. Ms. Marengo thanked the Board and staff for having the community meeting and for everything they are doing. Cindy Stewart is dependent on irrigation water for ponds and irrigation to keep her vineyards alive. She prefers to have the irrigation season start earlier rather than later. Director Krizl discussed uses for irrigation water – livestock, agriculture, esthetics. There is a wide variety of needs for the water, and he expects that the season will be chipped away from the beginning as well as the end. Paul Dahms, Greenwood, has a five-gallon-per-minute well plus ag water. Last year he gave up one inch of ag water and it really affected his ability to get hay. He prefers that the season start in mid-June and go to the end August. If we get rain, he requested that the District be flexible and add onto the season wherever possible. Director Uso said that there needs to be flexibility the other way, too. If the water level at Stumpy is dropping like a rock, we'll have to cut it sooner. It's all about the numbers. We need to be driven by facts and not emotion. Bill Threlkel prefers to have the water cut at the end of the season rather than the beginning because it is easier to keep something alive rather than try to bring it back. As an ag water user, he will have to make up the difference with treated water, and if he is being cut 50% for irrigation water, he doesn't want to also be cut 25% on the treated water because he will need to use it to water his stock and keep it alive. He asked for the Board's thoughts on that. Director Capraun responded that State's restriction on treated water must be complied with. The District is required to comply, and will be fined if it doesn't meet the 25% requirement. On the other hand, the District determines how much irrigation water must be cut, and that determination depends upon the amount of water available. Bob Curry, Greenwood, said that last year he bought water and hauled it in for agricultural use. If the water is not there, it is not there. We can't make it (water). He knows the Board understands that, and he wants the public to understand it, too. Director Hanschild discussed grey water and how we need to

change building permits to allow use of grey water. A customer commented that in 2010 he remodeled his house and could not get a permit for grey water storage. Kathy is an ag customer on a well and she lost trees and her produce was a failure. She asked the Board to let the public know when the water would be turned on and turned off so customers can plan. Directors Krizl and Uso said that we will know on the 14th. Director Krizl said that he hopes everyone understands that we will need to make adjustments. We would be better off starting it late and maybe moving it up. Kathy wants to know about the financial impact on GDPUD. What is the company doing to mitigate the financial impact of reducing water use? GM Wall said that there are funding sources that can be used and surcharges can be assessed. Director Capraun stated that the District cut back \$300,000 because of the drought and will need to cut back further. Director Krizl clarified that treated water is where the state mandated cutbacks are. Dramatic ag water cutbacks will save our skin. Buzz Whitney from Georgetown spoke regarding his experience with getting the District to repair a leak. Operations Manager Creeks addressed Mr. Whitney's concerns describing how leaks are prioritized and what field employees are doing. Rebecca and Ken Bear, Garden Valley, suggested that everyone band together to fight grey water issues. Liz Philips, Christmas Tree Farm, had questions about treated vs. ag jurisdiction. Director Krizl said that ag water will need to be cut back because of the numbers. We need to conserve over and above what the state is mandating in order to get through the current year and next year. Mr. Sanders commented that a merger of ag and domestic water is coming from the State in the very near future. Someone from the audience complained about some flyers that were put on many of the cars in the parking lot. There was some discussion about the ditch and not being able to regulate the flow other than turning it off. Someone from the audience asked about the mandatory release ordered by the State. Mr. Creeks responded that as long as two cubic feet per second is going downstream for the fish, we can use the rest. The person suggested that the ag water start later. Someone from the audience thanked the Board for having the community meeting.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT – Next regular meeting April 14, 2015 at 2:00 PM at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office.

Director Krizl announced that there will be another community meeting Thursday, April 9, at 6:00 PM at the Georgetown Community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Wendell Wall by telephone at 530-333-4356 or by fax at 530-333-9442. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one-full business day before the start of the meeting. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), this agenda was posted in the District's bulletin board at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office, at 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California, on April 3, 2015.

Signed 

Wendell B. Wall, General Manager

Date July 15, 2015