

Del Rey Community Services District
**Minutes of the
 Board of Directors
 Regular Board Meeting
 January 16, 2025
 6:00p.m.**

President Ramirez called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and makes a note of the third Board member, Maria Norma Cisneros.

Directors present: Daniel Ramirez, Joaquin Nunez, Maria Norma Cisneros
 (Stephanie Garza sworn in later in the meeting)

Directors absent: N/A

A-1 The Board leads in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Resolutions for Board Seats (Discussion and Action Items)

B-1 Resolution accepting Board of Supervisors' Appointment in Lieu of Maria Norma Cisneros to District Board (Seat A). Legal Counsel (LC) explains this appointment was in lieu of election as Maria Norma Cisneros was the only one to put in paperwork during the election and there were two board seats up. As she wasn't running against anybody in October, she was appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This resolution acknowledges that fact, so asking the Board to adopt it. District Manager Arias translates for the public. President Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. Public member Rumaldo Reyna expresses he doesn't believe it's right. Leticia Santiago from CRLA speaks in Spanish. DM Arias translates in English and says people were directed to go to Buddy Mendez to ask to see what the process was for people interested in being on the board. Linden explains the matter being spoken of is a matter on the agenda later on – the seat that was vacated by Maria Reyna. It's a different seat than the one Maria Norma Cisneros was appointed to. Asked the Board of Supervisors if it was possible for them to appoint somebody (too late for late December meeting). That seat is still open so tonight that item will be discussed, and the Board will consider what to do. The matter is still open. Public member Maria Reyna says Maria Norma Cisneros put her name on the ballot in November, so she got it. LC Linden explains Cisneros has been appointed; it's a different process. The other seat can remain open possibly until November, but it will be discussed later tonight. Information translated. Rumaldo Reyna states he doesn't mind her being on the Board but technically there wasn't a quorum to begin the meeting, Cisneros was a member because "you let it happen." DM Arias explains "not because we let it happen, she was actually elected." Maria Reyna states nobody ran against her that's why she was appointed. Dictos states the County saved the District money by doing so. President Ramirez made a motion to approve the Resolution. Nunez seconds the motion. All in favor; three ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Cisneros. Motion passed.

B-2 Resolution for Appointment of Qualified Registered Elector to Fill Vacated Seat D on District Board. LC Linden explains this is a different seat. Cisneros' seat fills Seat A. There are two others, but only one the Board can appoint to since it is still within the 60-day period as it became vacant at the end of its term – December 6. The Board has the discretion under the Government Code and Elections Code to appoint somebody. This notice has been posted on the website, the office, and other locations. The Board will consider if anybody would like to be appointed to Seat D which would make four members, and the fifth member will be discussed later on tonight. LC Linden suggests if anybody would like to be appointed, he or she can make their pitch, after public comment the Board can decide how they would like to vote. They need three affirmative votes, so it has to be a unanimous vote of all three, otherwise it would have to come back at

another meeting. DM Arias translates for the public. Linden suggests opening up for public comment and if anybody interested in being considered to come up and give three minutes of presentation. When that's done the Board can consider who to appoint. President Ramirez opens for the public. Public member Eloisa Amaya Caulk states she would like to be considered. She moved here to help take care of her dad. She sees a lot to be done here. She is a Vietnam vet and has lived all over the world. She has seen a lot of different ways towns are run. She has noticed Del Rey has a lot to improve on. Her wish is to help improve Del Rey. Public member Stephanie Garza would like to be a Board member. She has seen the progress and has seen the improvement the Board is trying to make for Del Rey. She was blessed to be apart of it and would like to continue to be a part of it to see all the changes they have made come to fruition. Leticia from CRLA asks a question in Spanish. DM Arias translates and states she asked if someone lives in the outskirts of Del Rey but is out of the boundaries of the District if they can run for the seat. LC Linden responds he doesn't believe so. DM Arias translates. Public member Olga Amaya-Silva would like to be considered. She is outside the water District but would like to advocate for her property to be considered a part of the District and would like to see if they can expand the District. President Ramirez asks if anyone else would like to speak. No public comment. The Board deliberates. President Ramirez announces they would like to vote Stephanie Garza back onto the Board. He explains there will be another opening. They can have an election in March, but it would cost the District a lot of money for the Special Election (\$5,000), but if they wait a few more months, in November, the candidate can file, and the District doesn't have to pay anything. DM Arias translates. President Ramirez made a motion to appoint Stephanie Garza back on the Board. Nunez seconds the motion. All in favor; three ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Cisneros. Motion passed.

Stephanie Garza sworn in by LC Linden. Garza takes her seat with the Board of Directors.

President Ramirez asks if there is any public comment. Public member Fonseca states there needs to be something done to fix and keep the town clean. Ramirez states there's only so much they can do, and if they want the town clean, the community needs to come together. LC Linden clarifies public comment is open for the closed session item only. General public comments can be available later on. No public comment regarding the closed session item. The Board went into closed session at 6:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

Government Code section 54957
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT
Title: General Manager

Report from Closed Session: LC Linden states there were no reportable actions.

OPEN SESSION:

C. SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS:

C-1 Discussion regarding stray dogs in Del Rey. Public member Rumaldo Reyna states he got bit two months ago and was surrounded by dogs. He made a report to the SPCA. He states something needs to be done about it. Ramirez explains Rumaldo was on the Board for 8 years previously, so he should know that regarding the dog issue, they cannot issue an ordinance, they need to contact Fresno County about it. Leticia from CRLA speaks in Spanish. DM Arias translates that there was a program regarding vaccination and fixation of dogs. The Humane Society would like to do a presentation and is asking if the Board can authorize the Hall be used for the presentation. The Board agrees to it. Public member Olga says she has called Fresno County regarding the dog issue, and they aren't much help. President Ramirez explains he understands the frustration and the issues discussed but being on the Board doesn't give the power to fix everything, as much as he wishes they could. There are things the Board can and can't do. Public member

Maria Reyna emphasizes everyone that has been on the Board previously and currently realize there is only so much they can do. The District is responsible for water, sewer, and trash. Public member Nikiko Masumoto mentions the art festival. In December, they were awarded a grant for \$1,000 for the Cinco de Mayo Arts Festival. They are still putting things and visions together and asks if anyone would like to be involved, there will be a sign-up sheet. Maria Reyna explains they hope to make it an annual thing to give light to the Mexican culture. DM Arias translates. President Ramirez asks if there is any other public comment. No public comment.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- D-1 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – November 2024, a Total Amount of \$136,014.64.
- D-2 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – December 13, 2024, a Total Amount of \$127,258.32.
- D-3 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – January 10, 2025, a Total Amount of \$22,535.49.
- D-4 Approval of Minutes of November 26, 2024, Special Board Meeting.

LC Linden states on the minutes, item A-3, it should say there were “no reportable actions” from closed session. Ramirez opens the item to public for comment. Public member Rumaldo Reyna asks about Sequoia Pumping. DM Arias explains they don’t come on a regular basis, and if he would like to see information regarding it, he can come to the office. Nunez made a motion to approve items D-1 to D-4 together. Ramirez seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Cisneros, Garza. Motion passed.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS (DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS):

E-1 Resolution to Call for Special Election by Mail Ballot on August 26, 2025, to fill District Board Seat B Vacated by Resignation of Maria Reyna. Linden explains Maria Reyna resigned last year. It was within the Board’s discretion to appoint someone within 60 days, but that didn’t happen. The next option would be to get the Board of Supervisors to appoint someone, unfortunately that is very difficult and nearly impossible. There was some discussion about people going to the County to apply. This was in the case the Board of Supervisors would appoint someone but that didn’t happen. Another option would have been brought in December, but that meeting didn’t happen for lack of quorum, so it wouldn’t work now. The only other option would be a special election by mail ballot, which would be prior to the November election. The estimate for this would be about \$5,000. Another option would be to wait until the regular November election. DM Arias translates. President Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. Public member Maria Reyna states considering how everyone complains about how much the District has and spends, she suggests waiting until November. Rumaldo Reyna asks whose seat is up. President Ramirez states Rolando. Rumaldo Reyna says people need to go to Fresno County as soon as possible to be put on the ballot for the Special Election on March 18th for free. LC Linden explains there is no special election on March 18th for this Board. Public member 1 mentions they went to County Board of Elections, and they were informed Carlos needs to submit something to have something placed on the ballot. LC Linden responds the Board is considering their options on what to do. LC Linden also advises the Board if they are inclining not to pass the resolution they have the option to not make a motion at all or to make a motion in the negative – not to have the resolution. Ramirez makes a motion to reject the resolution. Garza seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Cisneros, Garza. Motion passed.

E-2 Action/Consideration to Adopt a Resolution Awarding the Construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Demolition to Ares Eng LLC. for a Bid Amount of \$329,200.00 and to Authorize the District Manager to Sign an Agreement on Behalf of the District. Manrique explains the recommendation is to

approve the resolution awarding to Ares Engineering. It was a grant the District received a couple of years ago – CDBG – it went out to bid in the Summer. The bids were above the original amount, so the County offered to put some more money into the project, from \$3000-400,000. It had to go out to bid again on December 10, they received three bids, and Ares Engineering was the lowest. President Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. No public comment. Ramirez makes a motion to approve E-2. Nunez seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Cisneros, Garza. Motion passed.

E-3 Introduction by Title of Ordinance of the Del Rey Community Services District for Organic Waste Disposal Reduction; Consideration of Waiver First Reading; Consideration of Setting Public Hearing for Adoption of Ordinance. Linden explains this is something required by law having to do with organic waste disposal. It's a very lengthy ordinance based off a model ordinance by Cal Recycle. Suggests waiving the first reading because they'd be there all night getting through it, and to set the public hearing at the next regular board meeting. After that, have it posted, have public comment at that time. Now it is being introduced and letting the public know it will be discussed the next meeting. Ramirez explains the matter will be discussed at the next meeting. Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. Public member Maria Reyna mentions the District is applying for a waiver. Ramirez makes a motion to waive the first reading and set the public hearing for the next board meeting. Garza seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Cisneros, Garza. Motion passed.

F. DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS/AGENDA ITEMS

Nunez addresses the dog issue in the Community – they can't do much to solve the problem but continuing to call it in (911) is important to ensure safety. He even suggests asking the owners nicely if they can tie up their dog. He wishes there were a clean community without the fear of stray dogs. Ramirez urges everyone to call.

G. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

F-1 Report of District Manager (Report by Carlos Arias)

DM Arias thanks the Board, Staff, and community for the time he has worked with them.

F-2 Report of District Counsel (Report by Michael Linden)

LC Linden states there is nothing to report.

F-3 Report of District Engineer (Report by AM Consulting)

Manrique gives updates on projects and reviews the report.

F-4 Report of District Accountant (Report by Paul Dictos)

Dictos presents financial statements for the month of December.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Hernandez

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Del Rey Community Services District

