MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 3
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT
AND AT THE SIGNAL HILL CITY HALL
VIA TELECONFERENCE

February 14, 2024
1:30 o'clock, P.M.

The Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 3 of Los Angeles County met in regular session both in person and via teleconference.

There were present:	Dan Koops, Director from Bellflower Bruce Barrows, Director from Cerritos Ariel Pe, Director from Lakewood Lori Woods, Director from Signal Hill, via teleconference Suely Saro, Chairperson, Alternate Director from Long Beach
Absent:	Paul Krekorian, Director from Los Angeles City Lindsey Horvath, Director from Los Angeles County
Also present:	Kimberly S. Christensen, Secretary to the Board Jessica Lienau, District Counsel

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairperson announced this was the time for any questions or comments by members of the public.

The Secretary advised that there was one member of the public wishing to address the Board. The following individual addressed the Board.

Mr. John Steel, a resident of the City of Cerritos, addressed the Directors regarding the Shoemaker Pumping Plant Station. He stated that there has been an ongoing problem since 1999. The backup generator at the station emits gas and the smell enters his home. He described various issues he allegedly experienced recently regarding gas fumes and loud mechanical sounds that lasts several hours. He claimed that the equipment is not running to order.

RE: ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FROM CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

A copy of an action taken by the City Council of the City of Signal Hill at a meeting held January 9, 2024, was presented to the Secretary stating that Mr. Ed Wilson, a member of the City Council of the City of Signal Hill, was appointed to serve as alternate Director from the city.

Upon motion of Director Woods, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, the action was accepted and ordered filed.

RE: MINUTES

Upon motion of Director Woods, duly seconded and carried by a roll-call vote with Director Barrows abstaining, the minutes of the regular meeting held January 10, 2024, were approved.

RE: DISTRICT EXPENSES

The following expenses for the month of November 2023 were presented and upon motion of Director Woods, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, were approved:

Local District Expenses:	
Operations & Maintenance	$ 6,394
Allocated Expenses:	
Joint Outfall	20,785,308
Total Expenses	$20,791,702

RE: ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 RECEIVE AND ORDER FILED

The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that all of the agendas, except District No. 2, include an item to receive and file the *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, which includes the annual audit required by state and

federal laws. The ACFR was reviewed by an independent Certified Public Accounting firm and there were no findings of concern. The first several pages in the ACFR include a management summary that discusses the Districts' capital projects and goals and gives an overview of the Districts' wastewater and solid waste operations and financial position. This item is consistent with the Districts' Guiding Principles of commitment to fiscal responsibility and prudent financial stewardship; and to protect financial and facility assets through prudent investment and maintenance programs. A recommendation was made to receive and order filed the Districts' ACFR for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Upon motion of Director Woods, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, the *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* for fiscal year ending June 30, 3023, which includes the annual audit required by state and federal laws, and was previously distributed to the Directors, was accepted and ordered filed.

RE: DISTRICTS' OPERATIONS DURING RECENT STORMS - DISCUSS

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that he is providing a detailed report on the February storms discussed in a recent email that included details of various Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and a press release regarding the cause of the SSOs.

He gave some background on the Districts' sewer system. The Districts operates and owns treatment plants and a large, interconnected sewer system, also known as the Joint Outfall System (JOS). All local sewer lines (city and county) connect to the JOS, as was shown on a map. There were unprecedented storms that occurred in early February 2024. The Districts can tie into Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Rain Gauge Data. The cumulative rainfall from February 1-8, 2024, was shown on a map of the JOS. The foothills in the San Gabriel Valley saw rainfall of over 11 inches.

During two storms that occurred on February 1 and 4-6, staff saw significant increases in flow to treatment plants. The Districts' treatment plants remained online 100 percent, handled record flows, and experienced only minor issues. The treatment plants took all incoming flow from the cities and the County of Los Angeles. All pumping plants were online 100 percent with no pumping limitations. There were no blockages or structural failures, as had occurred with the spill in Carson in 2021, that caused issues. He stated that the Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) were caused by stormwater entering the sewer system, not equipment or structural failure.

SSOs occurred in nine locations, as was shown on a map. Most of the overflows were relatively small at 20-60,000 gallons. One SSO located in Rancho Dominguez spilled a total of 8 million gallons, and wastewater ran into the Dominguez Channel, Los Angeles River, and the harbor and ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

The storms caused region-wide street flooding, as was shown in photos. There were advisories to the public against driving during street flooding. When street flooding occurs, staff sees a direct impact to sewer flows. He showed a photo of a service worker from the City of Los Angeles relieving a flooded street during this last storm by opening the manhole cover to allow water to drain into the sanitary sewer. While it may have relieved the problem of flooded streets, it only pushes the problem further downstream, and can lead to SSOs. The stormwater inflow impacts on the Rancho Dominguez Sewer, shown on a line graph, revealed a pattern of increased rain levels and concurrent significant increases in sewer flow on February 1 and 4-6. On February 4, the intense rain caused the sewer level to "skyrocket," which caused pressure to build in the sewer that pushed out water from the manhole and junction structure covers and damaged the surrounding asphalt, as was shown in a photo.

He showed a photo of a typical manhole cover. A manhole cover is designed to provide access to a sewer and can withstand roadway traffic. A manhole has a metal rim and holes to allow for a crowbar to lift the cover. Manholes are not watertight. Ideally, the stormwater and sanitary sewer systems stay separated, as was shown in a photo. Storm drains are located at the edge of the roadway. Some cities install screens to storm drains to filter debris. Sewer manholes are located at the crown or center of the roads. The two systems are completely separate, although there is always incidental water that enters the sewer system. The heavy rainfall and street flooding causes the manholes in many locations to be completely submerged in water, allowing the rainwater to enter the sewer system from the lip or holes of the manhole.

He discussed a bar graph showing the stormwater impacts to peak and average daily flows to JOS treatment plants. In the days preceding the storms of February 1 and February 4-6, the typical peak and average flows were 500 and 380 million gallons per day. However, during the storms, peak and average daily flows to the JOS significantly increased and doubled during the second storm that hit Los Angeles County from February 4-6. When the rainfall subsided then the flows returned to normal.

He showed more photos of street flooding and advised of the importance of preventing flooding, by allowing catch basins to flow unimpeded. He further advised of the importance of the corking and sealing manholes to prevent stormwater inflow. It's a practice that Districts implement in the JOS, and the Districts would offer supplies to the cities and county free of charge for their sanitary sewer systems. He then advised of

two different commonly used methods to identifying sources of stormwater inflow to sanitary sewer systems, which included smoke testing and/or dye testing. Smoke testing involves introducing smoke into the sewer system to see where it may daylight out of the system through connections, while dye testing involves the release of an inert/non-reactive dye to the drain to trace whether it is connected to the sewer system. Districts' staff would be available to support cities and the county in identifying areas of high stormwater inflow for further study. Lastly, he advised that the Districts has sent a letter to City Managers and Public Works Directors regarding action requested to prevent sewer overflows during storms. Hardcopies of the letter were also attached to Directors agendas. He summarized the specific actions as follows:

- Prevent - Keep stormwater catch basins cleared to minimize street flooding.
- Train - Train staff (e.g., Public Works, Police, Fire Department) not to remove a sanitary sewer manhole cover to drain a flooded street.
- Prepare - Seal manhole covers that may become submerged. The Sanitation Districts will provide caulk or silicone and corks free of charge upon request for sealing manhole covers.
- Tell Us - If you are aware of any areas that are subject to flooding during rain events, provide us the location and approximate boundaries so that we can determine if there is potential for inflow of storm flows.

He reiterated that staff can provide support to cities and the county for inflow and infiltration studies that involve smoke or dye tests to show illegal connections. These actions are requested to prepare for this wet season and beyond. This letter to the cities and the county is an important resource for management issues. The Districts can assist cities and the county to identify problem areas.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager reminded the Directors that as a result of a third-party audit (following the 2021 Carson spill), the Districts initiated the development of a sewer flow model and monitoring system. He showed a map of the flow meters recently authorized by the Board for a portion of the JOS. While the monitoring system is necessary for the ongoing development of the sewer flow model, it has already paid dividends by identifying stormwater inflow issues in real-time. The Districts will add more meters in the north portion of the system next year to support the expansion of sewer model. In its entirety, the sewer model and monitoring system will allow the Districts to better manage the sewer system during rainy seasons, and it will be a great tool for staff to identify stormwater inflow hotspots and/or provide cities with information on where to focus their efforts to control inflow. He plans to discuss the matter with the Personnel Committee to determine the best way to assist cities and the county to get ahead of this problem.

He introduced Mr. Andre Schmidt, Wastewater Collections System Manager, who manages 120 staff that provide sewer system response and are available to work with city and county staff on this matter. He stated that Mr. Schmidt's crew provides 24-hour response for SSOs. The crew typically sets up equipment in the middle of the street to work to contain SSOs when they occur. On February 4-5, Mr. Schmidt's office received an alert regarding a potential spill in the City of La Mirada. Mr. Cedric Jefferson, a Supervising Engineering Technician from the Compton Field Office, traveled to La Mirada to investigate. Initially, Mr. Jefferson did not see any active spill, but went above and beyond in his efforts to investigate the spill. Through his additional investigations he discovered elevated sewer levels after opening a manhole cover as well as evidence of an earlier spill found in the street. Mr. Jefferson then called the Assistant Superintendent, and they were able to track that a Fire Department employee had reported the spill earlier that day, which matched the time frame and evidence that Mr. Jefferson had uncovered in his investigations. From a photo taken by the Fire Department, staff was able to estimate an approximate spill rate. The Chief Engineer and General Manager shared that integrity is a core value of the Districts and highlighted Mr. Jefferson's efforts in making sure that this spill was reported accurately.

Upon motion of Director Woods, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

SUELY SARO
Chairperson

ATTEST:

KIMBERLY S. CHRISTENSEN
Secretary
/ee