

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 16  
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

January 26, 2022  
1:30 o'clock, P.M.

The Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 16 of Los Angeles County in regular session via teleconference.

There were present: Katherine Lee, Director from Alhambra  
Victor Gordo, Director from Pasadena  
Susan Jakubowski, Director from San Marino  
Holly Mitchell, Director from Los Angeles County  
Joe Buscaino, Chairperson, Alternate Director from Los Angeles City

Absent: Diana Mahmud, Director from South Pasadena

Also present: Kimberly S. Christensen, Secretary to the Board  
Wes Beverlin, District Counsel

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT  
The Chairperson announced this was the time for any questions or comments by members of the public. There were no public comments or questions to address the Board on any matters.

RE: ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
A copy of an action taken by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles at a meeting held January 11, 2022, stating that Supervisor Kathryn Barger, a member of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, was appointed to serve as alternate Director from the County.

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

RE: MINUTES  
Upon motion of Director Mahmud, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, the minutes of the adjourned regular meeting held December 13, 2021, were approved.

RE: DISTRICT EXPENSES  
The following expenses for the month of November 2021 were presented and upon motion of Director Mitchell, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, were approved:

Local District Expenses:	
Operations & Maintenance (O & M)	\$ 184,126.96
Capital	140,219.83
Allocated Expenses:	
Joint Administration	207,828.65
Technical Support	160,804.86
Joint Outfall	<u>1,175,117.35</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,868,097.65</u>

RE: RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY ON MARCH 4, 2020 BY CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY - ADOPT  
A proposed *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the County Sanitation District No. 16 of Los Angeles County Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 by California Governor and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Body*, was presented. Remote teleconference meetings, during the continued existence of the Governor's proclaimed state of COVID-19 emergency, will be conducted under the provisions of AB 361 which added California Government Code Section 54953(e), to the Brown Act. Under the provisions of AB 361 and Government Code

Section 54953(e), each District must adopt, by majority vote, a resolution making certain findings about the continuing COVID state of emergency and health and safety risks of conducting their meeting in person. By statute, this Resolution and its referenced findings, are only legally valid for 30 days. The Resolution was attached to the agenda. A recommendation was made to adopt the Resolution.

Upon motion of Director Mitchell, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, the following Resolution was adopted:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 16 OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF  
EMERGENCY ON MARCH 4, 2020 BY CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZING  
REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY

WHEREAS, County Sanitation District No. 16 of Los Angeles County (“District”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the District’s Board of Directors and committees; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the District’s Board of Directors are open and public, pursuant to the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 54950-54963) (the “Brown Act”), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, observe and watch the District’s Board of Directors conduct business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Section 54953(e), allows for conducting and participating in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of the Brown Act Section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition under the Brown Act Section 54953(e) is the declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor pursuant to California Government Code Section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within California caused by the conditions outlined and described in California Government Code Section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation of a state of emergency is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the District’s boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-induced disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that the state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or the Board of Directors of the District have held a meeting where it considered and determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the District as Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, in its publication “How to Protect Yourself & Others” updated August 13, 2021, have recommended social distancing practices, including staying 6 feet away from others and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces in order to protect individuals and others from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Order of the Health Officer issued September 17, 2021 (the “County Order”) includes a finding that the existing community transmission of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County remains high and continues to present a high risk of infection and harm to the health of those who are not and cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19 especially when there is an absence of capacity limits and physical distancing requirements for both indoor and outdoor settings. The County Order further finds that COVID-19 infection remains a significant health hazard to all residents; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Directors does hereby find that the ongoing and significant risks associated with COVID-19 infection, especially in the absence of capacity limits and physical distancing requirements for indoor activities, on those who are not and cannot be vaccinated, and that COVID-19 infection remains a significant health hazard to all residents, has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the District that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the District, and desires to proclaim a local emergency and ratify the proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California, and further, ratify the County Order findings related to the ongoing health hazards of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the declared state of emergency and the local emergency, the Board of Directors of the District does hereby find that the District shall continue to conduct its meetings in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the Brown Act Section 54953(e), and that the legislative bodies of the District shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to, and an opportunity to comment at all meetings of the District's legislative bodies in accordance with the requirements of the Brown Act Section 54953(e)(2); and

WHEREAS, the District will continue its practice of live streaming its meetings via the Zoom software platform which allows members of the public to observe and participate in the meetings via video or call-in options, and will continue to offer members of the public an opportunity to make oral comments during the meetings and/or submit written comments before the meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 16 OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true, correct, and are incorporated in this Resolution by reference.

Section 2. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Board of Directors of the District does hereby proclaim that a local emergency now exists throughout the territory of the District and, as described in the County Order, there remains evidence of sustained and high community transmission rates of COVID-19 resulting in high risks of infection and harm to the health of those who are not and cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19, especially when there is an absence of capacity limits and physical distancing requirements for both indoor and outdoor settings, and COVID-19 infection remains a significant health hazard to all residents of the District.

Section 3. Ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The District's Board of Directors hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of a State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Chief Engineer and General Manager, staff and legislative bodies are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, without limitation, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with the Brown Act Section 54953(e) and all other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) 30 days after the date of this resolution, or such time that the District's Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with the Brown Act Section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of the District may continue to teleconference without compliance with the requirements of the Brown Act Section 54953(b)(3).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 16 of Los Angeles County this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Five (5)

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: One (1)

RE: ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE  
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL  
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021  
RECEIVE AND ORDER FILED

Prior to meeting in regular session and as reported in the status report, the Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that copies of the Districts' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, which includes the annual audit required by state and federal laws, were previously distributed to the Directors... 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, 2021.

Upon motion of Director Mitchell, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, which includes the annual audit required by state and federal laws, and was previously mailed to the Directors, was accepted and ordered filed.

RE: WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT  
SEWER COLLAPSE AND SANITARY  
SEWER OVERFLOW THAT OCCURRED IN  
CITY OF CARSON ON DECEMBER 30, 2021  
RECEIVE AND ORDER FILED

A sewer collapse and Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) occurred on December 30, 2021, involving a Districts' trunk sewer located in the City of Carson. The Chief Engineer and General Manager reported on the incident, the Districts' response, and emergency repair. A recommendation was made to receive and order filed

report on sewer collapse and sanitary sewer overflow that occurred in City of Carson on December 30, 2021.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager gave a brief presentation regarding the recent sewer spill and provided an update on preliminary findings on the cause of the spill. The Districts received notice of a sewer spill located at 212<sup>th</sup> Street in Carson at approximately 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 30. Districts' crews responded and, after an investigation, found that over half a mile away a portion of sewer had collapsed. The collapsed sewer is 60 years old and a replacement is currently being constructed one block east on Figueroa Street.

He showed a slide with a map of the path of the spill. When the sewer collapsed, it plugged with soil and debris, causing sewage to back up in the system and overflow at the manholes on the lowest points upstream, which are located at 212<sup>th</sup> Street at the corners of Lynton Avenue and Moneta Avenue. Sewage spilled out of the manholes and ran onto the street (the spill path was shown in green), into a storm drain (at 212<sup>th</sup> and Moneta Avenue) through the underground storm drain system (shown as a dashed blue line), and ultimately out to the Dominguez Channel, the Los Angeles Harbor, then the ocean.

He showed a photo of the overflow at 212<sup>th</sup> Street (facing east) at 6:28 p.m. (a few hours after the spill started). For the most part, the overflow stayed on the street, although some planters, grass parkways, driveways, and parked cars were affected. Next, he showed a photo of the sewer collapse site at 8:26 p.m. The excavation to access the collapsed sewer that runs adjacent to the 110 Freeway is about 25-feet long and 10-feet wide. The collapse occurred next to the A-1 All American Roofing building near the Carson Street exit. He stated that it is not unusual for a sinkhole to be present at a collapse site.

He advised that Districts' crews and third-party contractors immediately responded and worked 24 hours a day at the site. The first call of action is to use bypass lines to convey flow around the blockage and pump it to a manhole downstream. He showed a photo of four temporary bypass lines. Eight approximately 800-foot lines (over a mile) of bypass pipe was used.

He showed photos of the progress of the excavation work between 6:33 a.m. and 6:44 a.m. At the time, the hole was between 15-20 feet deep. The excavator was limited due to the tight space and risk of further damage to the existing sewer. The principle tool used for excavation was a vacuum truck, which used high-pressured water to loosen the debris and a long arm to suction the debris. At the time, there were two bypass lines online. He showed a photo of the site on December 31 at 2:25 a.m. Two simultaneous operations, including bypass and excavation, took place at the collapse site. He stated that a yellow shoring box (steel plates) was installed approximately 15 feet deep to keep workers safe during excavation. By that time, one of the bypass lines was operating.

After the spill was completely stopped on Friday, December 31, at 9:00 p.m., Districts' crews finished cleaning 212<sup>th</sup> Street. He showed a photo of 212<sup>th</sup> Street and Moneta Avenue taken on January 1 at 8:10 a.m. The photo showed a storm drain where the spilled sewage entered the storm drain system. He showed another photo of the collapse site at 8:13 a.m. At this point, there were eight flow bypass pump systems online to convey flow around the blockage to stop the spill, and the work focused on excavation.

On Monday, January 3, he was contacted by Mayor Lula Davis-Holmes of Carson with an invitation to go door-to-door to hear how residents were doing, as shown on a photo. He advised that Genesis Rodriguez, from the Districts' Public Information Office, was at the site every day until January 8 to interact with residents and follow up with the clean-up activities. Approximately half of the residents on 212<sup>th</sup> Street were home at the time.

An additional third-party contractor (Clean Harbors) disinfected the street, sidewalk, and driveways, up to the garage doors. In addition, the Districts replaced grass in the parkway and two inches of dirt and mulch on the opposite side of the street. This work should be completed by the end of the week. The Districts offered to wash and detail residents' cars or provided vouchers for a car wash, if necessary.

Once excavation work was completed, focus switched to a permanent fix to the damaged sewer. The day after the sewer collapsed, staff determined that slip lining, which involves a new pipe within the existing pipe, would be the best method to repair the damaged sewer. Districts' staff worked with a vendor to expedite delivery of the necessary pipe by January 7. On January 8, installation of approximately 200 feet of pipe and backfilling work was completed. On January 13, the collapse site was restored and repaired, as shown on a photo. The Districts worked with Caltrans to street sweep and reopen the offramp, which was closed due to the spill.

There are two primary reasons for the sewer failure, which makes it unique. The first reason is corrosion. The rate of corrosion depends on the type of pipe. He advised that the Districts continued to monitor this sewer including on December 1. The video surveillance showed corrosion, but the pipe was solid with no holes; therefore, the issue was not elevated to an emergency repair. When staff returned after the storm, they noticed significant damage to the sewer and adjacent manhole, as shown on a photo.

After stopping the immediate spill, staff visually inspected and monitored the remaining sewer line. Staff found a second segment (located upstream of the collapse, south of Carson Street) that also needs repair. The Districts is working to install a flow bypass system in the event of another storm and to support the future repair. Districts' staff ordered the necessary materials, which are expected to be delivered in February. The repair is expected to be completed by mid to late February. Staff will accelerate work on a third section, located downstream of the collapse. The condition is not as bad as the second section. The goal is to complete this work prior to the next rainy season. The work will ensure rehabilitation of the sewer and provide a tremendous amount of flexibility to give additional capacity and redundancy.

Regarding water quality, an advisory of beaches from Los Angeles Harbor to Orange County was issued and seven beaches were closed due to the spill. After testing, five beaches were reopened on January 3 and the remaining beaches in Long Beach reopened on January 5. Dissolved oxygen levels remain the same as days prior to the spill. Staff has not detected any odors or anything of concern at the Channel and have been coordinating sampling with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works staff.

The sewer collapse was unexpected and did not follow the historical trends in the agency's sewer maintenance program experience, and it is important to find out why it occurred. The Districts hired GHD, an international engineering consulting firm with expertise on sewer condition assessments, sewer corrosion and mitigation. GHD will perform an audit on the cause of the sewer collapse, review the Districts' current sewer maintenance and evaluation programs, and make recommendations for improvements. GHD is currently looking at flow data, video inspections, and the Districts' maintenance program, and they are researching the specifics of this particular sewer pipe. A grading system is used to prioritize rehabilitation/repair for the sewer system. The Districts spends between \$30-40 million per year from the Capital Improvement Fund to rehabilitate and replace aging sewers.

Preliminary investigation shows that the adjacent manhole may have structurally failed due to corrosion. Other manhole structures are being investigated. The final report is expected in a February, March, or April timeframe.

Upon motion of Director Mitchell, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, the Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 16 received and ordered filed the report on sewer collapse and sanitary sewer overflow that occurred in City of Carson on December 30, 2021.

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

ATTEST:

JOE BUSCAINO  
Chairperson

KIMBERLY S. CHRISTENSEN  
Secretary

/ee