

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

Resolution No. 679

Declaring that an Emergency Exists, Waiving the Competitive Bid Process and Authorizing a Sole Source Contract for the Removal of Azolla from the Woodrat 1 Reservoir and Finding the Project is Statutorily Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), 14 C.C.R., Section 15269 (b) and (c) (emergency repairs to publically owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare; specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency).

The Board of Directors of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District ("BCPUD" or "District") finds and determines as follows:

1. The District is in a prolonged drought. During the 2019-20 "rain year" (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), the District received only 22 inches of rain, or approximately 2/3 of its annual average rainfall of 33 inches, which has resulted in significantly reduced flows in the District's primary water source, the Arroyo Hondo Creek. As a result, the District began to divert water from the Woodrat 1 Reservoir beginning in May 2020 in order to meet customer demand.
2. On June 18, 2020, the BCPUD's Board of Directors updated the District's Water Conservation and Dry Year Water Use Reduction Program, reviewed current water consumption data and water supply indicators (including but not limited to the flows in the Arroyo Hondo Creek), and voted to trigger a community-wide heightened water conservation alert. This alert requested all District customers to reduce their water usage by 20-30%.
3. The District's Woodrat 1 Reservoir is the principal emergency back-up source of water for the community of Bolinas. During the summer of 2020, the reservoir experienced an unexpected exponential growth of the invasive floating plant known as "azolla" on the surface of the lake. At the present time, this plant has completely covered the surface of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir, preventing any oxygen exchange with the atmosphere and any photosynthetic activity within the pond, and the reservoir now is completely anoxic. As a result, raw water diverted from the Woodrat 1 Reservoir is significantly more time-consuming and costly to treat to drinking water standards.
4. Beginning in September 2020, the District experienced a sharp increase in complaints from customers about taste, odor and color problems with their drinking water. Based on laboratory test results, District staff has concluded that the taste, odor and color problems with the District's drinking water are a result of the diversions from the Woodrat 1 Reservoir, which has high levels of precipitated nutrients such as phosphorus, manganese and iron due to the anoxic nature of the reservoir.
5. On September 30, 2020, the BCPUD Board of Directors reviewed an extensive presentation by District staff on the status of the diminishing flows in the Arroyo Hondo Creek as well as the status of the District's stored water supply vis-à-vis District consumption and endorsed staff's recommendation to request all District customers to

6. reduce their water usage to no more than 150 gallons per day per property in order to avoid mandatory rationing.
7. The District's limnology consultant, Eli Kersh of limnology, has advised the District to immediately remove the azolla from the surface of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir -- and in any event prior to December 2020 -- to allow oxygen exchange with the atmosphere and photosynthesis to resume, and also to ensure against the possibility that the mass of floating plants will die-off during the upcoming winter months and deposit at the bottom of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir, which would considerably exacerbate existing water quality problems and treatment challenges.
8. District staff concurs that the azolla covering the surface of the Woodrat 1 reservoir should be removed as soon as possible to ensure the quality and reliability of the district's water supply. This determination is based on consultant Kersh's recommendation, the critical function of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir as the principal emergency back-up source of water for the community, the sharp rise in taste, odor and color complaints from customers, and the additional financial burden on the District to adequately treat the water diverted from the Woodrat 1 Reservoir,
9. At the recommendation of consultant Kersh, District staff contacted Fuentes Lake and Pond Management and requested a site visit to assess the feasibility of and timeframe for the mechanical removal of the azolla from the surface of reservoir. Fuentes Lake and Pond Management has determined the project is feasible and can be accomplished during the week of November 9, 2020.
10. California Public Contract Code section 3400 (c) permits the District to suspend competitive bidding where a particular material, product, thing or service is needed to respond to an emergency. As well, the District finds the emergency nature of this work warrants suspension of the competitive bid requirements under District Resolution 577, section II.D.1.b.
11. The removal of the azolla will help ensure the reliability of the District's water supply, reduce water treatment costs, reduce taste, odor, and color complaints of customers, and allow the District to continue to carry out its mission in a safe and efficient manner.

In consideration of the foregoing finding and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of Directors as follows:

- A. Based upon the preceding findings, the Board of Directors hereby declares that an emergency exists at the Woodrat 1 Reservoir, a critical back-up water source for the District, in the form of the azolla covering the surface of the reservoir, rendering it completely anoxic. The Board of Directors further finds that the reservoir needs to be remediated as soon as possible, and in any event before the anticipated die-off of the azolla which could occur as early as December 2020.

- B. The Board further finds that the quote submitted by Fuentes Lake and Pond Management to remove the azolla from the surface of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir beginning the week of November 9, 2020 is fair and reasonable under the circumstances.
- C. Based upon the preceding findings, any applicable competitive bidding requirements for the Bolinas Community Public Utility District are hereby waived and the General Manager is authorized to engage Fuentes Lake and Pond Management at a cost of \$20,750.00 to perform the azolla removal work during the week of November 9, 2020.
- D. The Board of Directors hereby finds that the removal of the azolla from the surface of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir is Statutorily Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), based on CEQA Guidelines, 14 C.C.R. section 15269 (b) and (c) (emergency repairs to publically owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare; specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency).
- E. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Bolinas Community

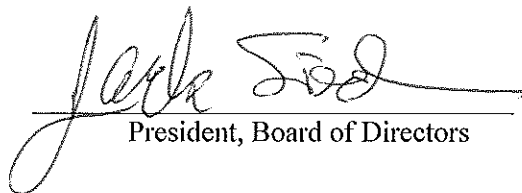
Public Utility District this 27th day of October, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: COMSTOCK, GODINO, SIEDMAN, SMITH

NOES: NONE


ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: AMOROSO



President, Board of Directors

attest:



secretary