

Bolinas Community Public Utility District

A Special Meeting Of The Board Of Directors

October 27, 2020 270 Elm Road, Bolinas

In compliance with local and state shelter-in-place orders, and as allowed by the Brown Act as currently in effect under the State Emergency Services Act, the Governor’s Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19, and the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), the BCPUD did not offer an in-person meeting location for the public to attend this meeting. The meeting was limited to essential district business items and was conducted by the BCPUD Board, staff and public via teleconference.

1. Call to Order.

10:00 a.m.

2. Roll.

Directors Comstock, Siedman and Smith present via teleconference; directors Amoroso and Godino absent. Director Siedman presiding.

3. Community Expression.

None.

4. BCPUD Resolution 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”), 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).

Director Godino joined the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Staff presented draft Resolution 679 for the Board’s consideration, noting the numerous findings set out in the resolution, including but not limited to those about the prolonged drought in the district, the district’s resulting reliance beginning in May 2020 on supplemental diversions of water from the Woodrat 1 Reservoir, the Board’s declaration of a heightened water conservation alert in June 2020, the escalating water quality problems the district experienced over the summer due to the unexpected and unprecedented exponential growth of azolla on the surface of the reservoir, and the district’s current request for voluntary conservation of no more than 150 gallons per day per property. The Woodrat 1 Reservoir is now completely anoxic, resulting in a significant spike in complaints from customers about taste, odor and color problems with their treated drinking water. The district’s limnology consultant and water sample lab results confirm that the high level of nutrients such as iron, manganese and phosphorus in the reservoir and its anoxic status are the cause of the water quality problems; in addition, the reservoir water is increasingly difficult to treat to applicable standards as a result of the azolla.

At this point in time, the district’s limnology consultant advises that the BCPUD remove the azolla from the surface of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir as soon as possible and in any event no later than the beginning of December to guard against the possibility of a massive die-off of azolla in the winter months, which would cause the dead plant material to deposit on the bottom of the lake and greatly exacerbate the current water quality problems. Although chemical treatment is an approved option for this problem, staff does not recommend applying such treatment. Instead, staff has contacted Fuentes Lake and Pond Management, a company specializing in the hand-removal of this invasive plant. Given the emergency nature of the project, applicable public contract law and the BCPUD’s procurement policies allow for the suspension of the competitive bidding process and staff finds Fuentes’ quote of \$20,750 for the work to be fair and reasonable. Finally, staff noted that this emergency project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15269 (b) and (c) because the work is necessary to maintain an essential service (drinking water supply) and prevent a further emergency. Staff therefore recommends that the Board make the findings set forth in Resolution 679 and authorize staff to proceed with the project.

L. Comstock/D. Smith four in favor, director Amoroso absent to approve BCPUD Resolution 679.

5. Adjournment.

10:08 a.m.