

DRAFT
BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

Resolution No. 726

Declaring that an Emergency Exists, Waiving the Competitive Bid Process and Authorizing the Immediate Removal of Azolla from the Surface of 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 publicly 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’s Woodrat 1 Reservoir is the principal emergency back-up source of water for the community of Bolinas. This past winter, the reservoir experienced an unexpected exponential growth of the invasive floating plant known as “azolla” on the surface of the lake. This plant has now covered the surface of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir, preventing oxygen exchange with the atmosphere and inhibiting photosynthesis within the pond. The reservoir is now likely anoxic.

2. Previously, in 2020, when Woodrat 1 experienced a similar blooming of azolla, the District’s limnology consultant, Eli Kersh of *Elimnology*, advised the District to immediately remove the azolla from the surface of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir 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 year and deposit at the bottom of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir, which would considerably exacerbate existing water quality problems and treatment challenges.

3. 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 the critical function of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir as the principal emergency back-up source of water for the community.

4. District staff contacted two potential service providers and requested site visits for them to assess the azolla removal project and provide quotes to perform the work as soon as possible.

5. 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.

6. The removal of the azolla will help ensure the reliability of the District’s water supply. Removal is projected to reduce the cost to treat water and customer complaints about taste, odor, and color of water. Removal will allow the District to continue to carry out its mission to deliver safe and affordable drinking water.

In consideration of the foregoing finding and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of Directors as follows:

A. Based on 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. The Board of Directors further finds that the reservoir needs to be remediated as soon as possible.

B. The Board finds that the quote submitted by Aquatic Resources Management to remove the azolla from the surface of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir beginning the week of July 8, 2024 at a cost of \$7,440.00 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 Aquatic Resources Management at a cost of \$7,440.00 to perform the azolla removal work during the week of July 8, 2024.

D. The Board hereby also 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 publicly 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 19th day of June, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

President, Board of Directors

attest:

secretary