

Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
DELTA DIABLO
June 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Shanelle Scales-Preston at 5:30 pm, on Wednesday, June 26, 2025. Present was Director Monica Wilson and Director Jelani Killings. Also present were Rebecca Hooley, District Counsel; Vince De Lange, General Manager; Brian Thomas, Deputy General Manager; Nitish Sharma, Business Services Director; Murat Bozkurt, Engineering Services Director/District Engineer; Cecelia Nichols-Fritzler, Office Manager/Secretary to the Board; Joaquin Gonzalez, Operations Manager; Jason Piper, IT Manager (MA bargaining unit representative [BU rep]); Trevor Simpson, Acting Maintenance Manager; Jason Booe, Maintenance Mechanic I; Eric Wise, Maintenance Mechanic III (O&M bargaining unit representative [BU rep]); Jeff Beckham, Purchasing Supervisor; Claudia Argenal, Administrative Assistant II; Andrew Hatrick, Utility Laborer; and Samuel Gonzalez, Operator II; and Doug Schreiner, Senior Operator (O&M bargaining unit representative [BU rep]).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Conduct Public Hearing on FY25/26-FY29/30 Capital Improvement Program; Close Public Hearing and Consider Any Testimony Received; Adopt Resolution Approving Program; and Authorize Filing of California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption in Compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21152

Acting Chair Scales-Preston opened the Public Hearing at 5:31 p.m.

Mr. Bozkurt presented an overview of the 5-year Capital Improvement Program, highlighting the significant and critical infrastructure investments that are included as part of the budget totaling \$238.1 million, which is an increase of \$51 million. Mr. Bozkurt noted that the District has identified \$145 million in capital projects to meet the nutrient removal regulatory mandate, and noted that in order to maximize cash funding, the District incorporated \$70 million debt issuance in year 2 of the 5-year CIP. He also reviewed six critical high priority projects comprising 85% of the proposed 5-year CIP. As part of the presentation, he reviewed planned expenditures along with estimated expenditures forecasted for years 6-10.

The Board asked clarifying questions related to annual CIP project costs, the regulatory mandate timeline for nutrient removal, and the impact of algae blooms.

Ms. Nichols-Fritzler stated no public comments were received.

Acting Chair Scales-Preston closed the public hearing at 5:56 p.m.

Director Wilson moved approval of the Item, seconded by Director Killings and by roll call vote (Ayes: *Killings, Scales-Preston, Wilson*; Noes: *None*; Absent: *None*; Abstain: *None*), the Board approved the recommended actions for Item D/1.

Conduct Public Hearing on Sewer Service Charges, Delinquency Charges, Collection System Charges, and Surcharges for FY25/26 and Maximum Allowable Sewer Service Charges for FY26/27 through FY29/30; Close Public Hearing and Consider Any Testimony and Protests; Determine No Majority Protests Exists; Adopt Ordinance Establishing Sewer Service Charges.

Delinquency Charges, Collection System Charges, and Surcharges for FY25/26 and Setting Maximum Allowable Sewer Service Charges for FY26/27 through FY29/30; and Adopt Resolution Approving Final Written Report and Directing Collection of Certain Sewer Service and Delinquency Charges on County Tax Roll for FY25/26

Acting Chair Scales-Preston opened the Public Hearing at 5:57 p.m.

Mr. Sharma provided a presentation on the proposed 5-year Maximum Sewer Service Charge (SSC) Increases for FY25/26-29/30. He reviewed the key drivers necessitating the increase citing infrastructure investment and compliance with the new nutrient removal mandate. Mr. Sharma reviewed historical trends for the wastewater operating budget, CIP, and SSCs and highlighted key considerations related to the SSC increases, while noting that the District could implement lower SSCs each year and will seek Board approval for SSC increases each fiscal year during the 5-year period to place on the tax rolls. He added that most peer agencies utilize the 5-year rate setting process. Additionally, he reviewed the increases for each of the three service areas: Antioch and Pittsburg residential customers rate increase is 8.5% and Bay Point residential customers rate increase is 8.8%. He also reviewed the proposed rate increases for non-residential customers for Bay Point, Antioch, and Pittsburg. Mr. Sharma also highlighted that the District customer charges are near average of peer agencies.

The Board received public comments.

Mr. Mark Linde expressed he was not in favor of a rate increase and commented that in 2008, the District established a fund to mitigate rate increases.

Ms. Faye Linton expressed she was not in favor of a rate increase.

Ms. Dorothy Miller expressed she was not in favor of a rate increase.

Acting Chair Scales-Preston asked clarifying questions related to the Advanced Treatment Fund and if the District has a program to help seniors and low-income residents.

Director Wilson commented on the aging infrastructure and cited an analogy to demonstrate how deferred maintenance increases the cost of repairs.

Director Killings commented that while rate increases are never desirable, he understands the need to address aging infrastructure and would abstain from voting on this Item.

Acting Chair Scales-Preston closed the Public Hearing at 6:32 pm.

Ms. Nichols-Fritzler commented that the District received 18 protest letters and for a majority protest to exist, 28,814 letters were required to be received to establish a majority protest.

Director Wilson moved approval of the Item, seconded by Director Killings and by roll call vote (Ayes: *Scales-Preston, Wilson*; Noes: *None*; Absent: *None*; Abstain: *Killings*), the Board approved the recommended actions for Item D/2.

RECOGNITION

Introduction of Andrew Hartrick, Utility Laborer, to the District

Mr. Simpson introduced Mr. Hartrick, who thanked the Board for the opportunity. The Board welcomed Mr. Hartrick to the District.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Prior to approval of the Consent Calendar, Ms. Nichols-Fritzler noted that a corrected agenda packet was posted and distributed and that no public comments were received on the Consent Calendar.

Director Wilson moved approval of the Consent Calendar, seconded by Director Killings and by roll call vote (*Ayes: Killings, Scales-Preston, Wilson; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None*), the following Consent Calendar items were approved: Approve Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting, June 11, 2025; Adopt Resolution Commending and Congratulating Dean Eckerson, Resource Recovery Services Director, on His Retirement from the District; Authorize General Manager to Execute Amendment No. 8 to Agreement with City of Pittsburg for Street Sweeping Services, Extending Term from July 1, 2025 to October 30, 2025, and Authorize Payment in an Amount Not to Exceed \$150,000; Authorize General Manager to Execute Amendment No. 3 to Agreement for Biosolids Handling Services with Synagro West, LLC, Effective July 1, 2025, to Modify Contract Language, Extend Term for Two Years from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, and Authorize Payment for Services in Amounts Specified in the Agreement, as Amended; Authorize General Manager to Execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement for Class A Biosolids Processing Services with Lystek International Limited, Effective July 1, 2025, to Extend the Term for Two Years, from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, and Authorize Payment for Services in Amounts Specified in the Agreement, as Amended; and Authorize General Manager to Execute Amendment No. 2 to General Services Contract in the Amount of \$105,000, for a New Total Contract Amount Not to Exceed \$200,000, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Labor and Negotiation Services

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Approve FY25/26-FY26/27 Budget and Adopt Resolution Approving FY25/26-FY26/27 Budget Appropriations

Mr. Sharma provided an overview of the two year operating budget highlighting the various revenue sources that include recycled water services charges, sewer service charges, street sweeping charges, and other sources. He also discussed the significant budget increase drivers while noting that despite significant inflationary pressure and cost increases, the District has effectively managed its operating budget with an annualized average increase of 3.4% over the last six years.

The Board asked clarifying questions related to the Advance Treatment Fund. Director Killings asked about the reserve policy.

Ms. Nichols-Fritzler commented that no public comments were received.

Director Wilson moved approval of the Item, seconded by Director Killings and by roll call vote (Ayes: *Killings, Scales-Preston, Wilson*; Noes: *None*; Absent: *None*; Abstain: *None*), the Board approved the recommended actions for the Item.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS – None.

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. De Lange thanked the public speakers for taking time out of their day to address the Board. He also thanked staff for their hard work in preparing the items related to the CIP, SSCs, and FY25/26-FY26/27 Budget.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Wilson thanked the public speakers. Vice Chair Scales-Preston thanked the public speakers noting their engagement is appreciated.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

CLOSED SESSION

Before adjourning to closed session, Ms. Nichols-Fritzler stated there were no public comments received. The Board convened to closed session at 6:49 p.m. The Board reconvened to open session at 7:12 p.m. and noted there was nothing to report out of Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm and noted the next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at 4:30 pm on July 9, 2025.



Monica Wilson
Board Secretary

(Recording Secretary: Cecelia Nichols-Fritzler)