This brief is being provided to inform the board, staff and public of the details of an agenda item that requires no action from the board. The President of the Board will provide board members, staff, and the public the opportunity to ask questions about this topic when this agenda item is announced.

**Date:** 11 December 2020

**Originator:** General Manager

**Agenda Topic Title:**

**Purpose of Brief:** Informational Briefing

**Supporting Documents Included: No**

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1. **COVID-19 Update**

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board has passed emergency temporary standards on COVID-19 prevention in the workplace. The primary requirement is that employers must prepare, implement, and maintain a written COVID-19 Prevention Program ("CPP"). Fortunately, our Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan (IDERP) meets most of the requirements and intent of the described CPP. The GM will update and publish the IDERP to meet all CPP requirements.

1. **GMCSD Rate Study**

The CSD has not conducted a rate study since 2006 and has not levied a rate increase in over 10 years. Cost of living increases in salary, electrical, and cost of supplies, coupled with needed repairs/replacement/maintenance to aging infrastructure have stressed the District’s operating budget to the point we need to assess operating fees.

Cary, Kim, and senior staff participated in CSDA sponsored Rate Study Webinar in November. One of key entry points covered was professional best practice of conducting a rate study at least once every five years to prevent the impact to budget that our District is experiencing today. The primary presenter during the Webinar was Mr. Chris Fisher of Willdan Associates, a company specializing in support to local Government organizations. Mr. Fisher’s subject knowledge including his understanding of the various laws and regulations implemented over the last 10 years which dictate what the District can and cannot do regarding service rates was impressive. Mr. Fisher also distinguished between traditional large water districts and smaller districts such as Gold Mountain.

Our Administrative Manager, Tiana Bradley, had met Mr. Fisher at a previous CSDA event and reached out to arrange a Zoom meeting with Cary and I attending. We summarized the District’s organization, rate structure, and budgetary challenges and had a high-level discussion regarding rate studies. Mr. Fisher will be putting together a proposal to lead such a study for Board consideration. We did not commit to any agreement at this time but left the meeting with a high level of confidence that Mr. Fisher and Willdan would execute a professional and legally compliant study to guide the board in making rate decisions. More information will follow.

1. **Lot 42 – Well 37 Claim**

The owner of lot 42 which was impacted during the drilling operations for Well 36, has submitted a claim against the district for monetary damages. Per State requirements, the District will review the claim and submit to the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) (our liability insurance carrier) for review is disposition.

1. **Things to watch for in 2021**

* State Meteorologists project a dry winter. If this comes about the state will likely institute new mandatory water conservation requirements based on individual use – currently projected at 55 gallons per person per day for domestic use. How these limits will be enacted is not yet known but the CSD as a domestic water provider will be required to implement a compliant program.
* California just passed SB1383, Regulations on Organic Waste. Going into effect on 1 January 2022, the regulations are intended to divert organic waste from landfills. SB1383 specifically requires cities, counties, and special districts to implement enforcement mechanisms. As the District does not currently have any latent powers dealing with waste collection or recycling, I do not believe this bill will impact on the District, but final provisions have yet to be published. More to follow.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors and my excellent staff for all their support throughout 2020. We completed upgrades and improvement to three Booster Stations, completed substantial leach field repairs and upgrades, drilled and have almost finished developing two wells, and purchased property for the long planned high elevation water storage tank, moving the district substantially forward in our march towards buildout and the ability to service all lot owners and commercial customers.

Administratively we passed out annual audit with accolades on our “books” and financial practices. We have an active Firewise effort and a growing cadre of volunteers being trained to jump on any local wildland ignitions, and we hope to complete a major Hazardous Fuel Treatment (HFT) program before the end of the year in conjunction with the HOA and resort owners. This was a team effort, and I am very proud to be associated with this organization.

Thank you,

Rich