

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
GROVELAND, CALIFORNIA
November 10, 2008
9:00 a.m.**

The Board of Directors of Groveland Community Services District met in regular session on the above mentioned date with Directors Richard Lennen, President, Gus Allegri, Wesley Johnson, and Steve Perreira being present. Also present were General Manager Jim Goodrich, District Engineer Randy Klaahsen, District Counsel Dave McMurchie, Secretary to the Board Vicki West, and Administrative Staff Member Lena Spilman.

President Lennen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Approval

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the agenda as written.

Public Comment

A member of the public voiced concern regarding future development at Long Gulch Ranch.

Action Items

Consent Calendar

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Johnson, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the consent calendar.

- A. Approve Minutes of the October 13, 2008 and October 27, 2008 Regular Board Meetings
- B. Waive Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions except by Title

Approve Central Sierra Audubon Society Request to Construct Trails on District Property, per the District's Land Use Study and their Proposal

General Manager Jim Goodrich presented this item to the Board. Mr. Goodrich explained that in February 2006 the Board completed environmental documentation for the Park Corridor Trails Project. In July 2007 the Board approved the GCSD Land Use Study, identifying a 2-mile-long section of trail on GCSD property (as specified in phase 1 and 2 of the Park Corridor Trails Project) looping from Mary Laveroni Community Park to the Baseball Field (via the wetlands), west of Reservoirs 1 and 2, and back to the Park.

Mr. Goodrich explained that, with his approval, the Central Sierra Audubon Society had spent the last year inventorying the different species of birds that either live or migrate through GCSD Property. He informed the Board that The Central Sierra Audubon Society has now volunteered to construct the Corridor trails, benches, and picnic tables, as well as blinds from which they will be able to observe the birds and other wildlife. Yosemite National Park has also offered assistance in developing the interpretive signage for the proposed trails.

On advice from District Counsel, Mr. Goodrich recommended that the District enter into an Easement Agreement with the Central Sierra Audubon Society. This agreement would grant the Society the right to construct the trails and proposed improvements at their expense, and would require the Society to maintain those improvements at their expense. General Manager Goodrich stated that he did not anticipate significant use of the GCSD maintenance staff for this project, and noted that it may be possible to receive assistance from the Sierra Conservation Corp in clearing the necessary land and maintaining the trails.

Bill Zachman spoke on behalf of the Central Sierra Audubon Society. Mr. Zachman displayed a PowerPoint presentation, in which he maintained that the proposed projects would provide educational, recreational, scientific, and social benefits to the community. Mr. Zachman proposed that once constructed, these trails would be used to census the plants, mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles present in the environment. He offered that the abundance of wildlife in the area would provide a wonderful opportunity for cooperation with educational institutions and those students interested in community service projects. The main focus of the Central Sierra Audubon Society will be to create a trail system to allow foot traffic to flow through all areas of the property, however Mr. Zachman noted that the proposal includes amenities such as picnic tables, benches, signage, blinds, and gates.

Director Allegri voiced concern regarding allowing the public access to areas that may contain expensive district owned equipment and materials. General Manager Jim Goodrich informed the Board that while effort is made to supervise sensitive areas, public foot traffic is already permitted on GCSD property.

Director Perreira questioned whether the discovery of certain species could potentially limit the use of areas such as Reservoir 1 and interrupt the regular function of the District. General Manager Jim Goodrich assured Director Perreira that the environmental regulations governing the District's use of facilities such as Reservoir 1 would supersede any concern regarding species found, and Mr. Zachman assured the Board that while there were many animals present he did not anticipate the discovery of any rare or endangered species on District property.

Director Johnson spoke in support of the proposed project, stating that as a public organization funded by taxpayers GCSD property belongs to the people. Director Johnson stated that he is excited to see the taxpayers proposing a constructive use for the land that they have paid for.

Director Lennen moved, seconded by Director Allegri, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Central Sierra Audubon Society Request to construct trails on District property, per the District's Land Use Study and their proposal.

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously, to authorize District Counsel to prepare and the General Manager to execute a form of Easement Agreement or Right-of-Entry Agreement between District and Central Sierra Audubon Society regarding construction and maintenance of trails and improvements on District property with the following amendment: If able, the Central Sierra Audubon Society agrees to pay 50% of the legal fees incurred through the drafting of the necessary legal documentation, not to exceed \$600.

Consider the Following Related to the Fire Fuel Reduction Project on District Property: A) Make a Determination that the Project is Exempt from CEQA Pursuant to Section 15269(C) Emergency Projects, B) Approve the Notice of Exemption and Associated Documentation, C) Direct GCSD Staff to File the Notice at the Tuolumne County Clerks Office, and D) Approve the Fire Fuel Reduction Project.

General Manager Jim Goodrich presented this item. Mr. Goodrich explained that for the last several years, the District has used the services of Sierra Conservation Corp to clear fire fuels from District property at a rate of 3 to 5 acres per year. This was done on a yearly basis as an ongoing maintenance project, and as such did not require CEQA documentation. However, the District has over 165 acres of property in need of periodic fire fuel reduction, and at the current rate of clearing the District will never achieve an adequate level of fire prevention. Given the recent drought and the ever increasing danger posed by wildland fires, Mr. Goodrich explained that the issue of fire fuel reduction for these 165 acres has become critical.

In response to these concerns, the District has identified a project that will reduce fire fuels over the entire 165 acres over the next several years. The FY 2008-09 Budget for this project is \$15,000. At this level, it becomes a project that requires CEQA analysis. The first step in this process is to complete the CEQA Notice of Exemption. Mr. Goodrich also noted that the District has contacted the Department of Forestry to investigate alternative funding sources for this project, including the possibility of receiving Prop 40 funding.

Director Perreira inquired as to the estimated overall costs of this project. General Manager Goodrich responded that staff estimates the average cost for the more aggressive fire fuel reduction efforts to be approximately \$1000.00 per acre, plus an additional \$10,000 for the necessary CEQA documentation. Mr. Goodrich added that, if awarded, Prop 40 may fund 100% of project. If the District fails to receive Prop 40 funding, then the money will be scheduled in the budget over time.

Director Perreira raised some concerns regarding the destruction of wildlife habitat in the areas of the fire fuel reduction effort. General Manager Goodrich agreed that the issue could be taken into consideration, but maintained that while some undergrowth

could be left in densely populated areas, a safe fire buffer would have to be created around District property.

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously, to make a determination that the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15269(c) Emergency Projects, approve the Notice of Exemption and associated documentation, direct GCSD staff to file the Notice of Exemption at the Tuolumne County Clerk's Office, and approve the Fire Fuel Reduction Project.

Award Bid for New Fire Truck to Pierce Manufacturing, Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract Prepared with District Counsel for the Purchase of the New Fire Truck from Pierce Manufacturing, and Authorize the General Manager to Seek Financing for the Fire Truck from Alternative Sources.

General Manager Jim Goodrich presented this item. He reported that staff had sent a Letter of Intent to Golden State Manufacturing, Inc. (the Pierce Manufacturing Dealer Representative) on October 31, 2008, as directed by the Board at the October 27, 2008 meeting. Following further instruction from the Board, staff is presenting the Board with four different financing options for the purchase of the Fire Engine. General Manager Goodrich provided a brief explanation of the differences between the various financing alternatives, and answered questions from the Board and members of the public.

In response to concerns from the public regarding financing, Mr. Goodrich explained that every year for the last several years the District has applied for a FEMA grant requesting funding for the purchase of a new Fire Engine. Although the district has never before received the grant, due to the fact that the District has gotten farther along in the process this year than ever before, they remain cautiously optimistic.

Director Perreira read a prepared statement into the record (attached). Director Perreira addressed concerns regarding the state of the economy, the fire/emergency needs of the community, and the various financing options presented by staff. Director Perreira concluded with the opinion that the purchase of a new Fire Engine would not be the best use of the District's resources.

Director Allegri commented that although he had studied the material, he would trust the expertise of the Fire Department concerning how best to address the fire and emergency services needs of the community.

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed, to award the bid for a new fire truck to Pierce Manufacturing, authorize the General Manager to execute a contract prepared with District Counsel for the purchase of the new fire truck from Pierce Manufacturing, and authorize the General Manager to seek financing for the fire truck from alternative sources.

Ayes: Directors Lennen, Allegri, and Johnson

Noes: Director Perreira

Authorize the General Manager to Authorize Payments of \$5,000 per Year, Starting July 1, 2009 and Waive One-Time Sewer Connection Fee for the Pine Mountain Lake Association – Alternative Water Supply Treatment Plant.

District Engineer Randy Klaahsen presented this item. Mr. Klaahsen explained to the Board that in August 2007 GCSD and the Pine Mountain Lake Association formally adopted an agreement granting the District use of PML's raw water pump station and mile-long pipeline, as well as temporary use of their maintenance yard as the location for the District's new Alternative Water Supply Treatment Plant (AWSTP) and associated equipment. Originally, the District intended to relocate the AWSTP to the GCSD maintenance yard each year after the Hetch Hetchy Mountain Tunnel 60-day shutdown.

As directed by staff, Mr. Klaahsen reported that the cost of the annual relocation would be approximately \$5,000.00. On previous suggestion from the Board, Mr. Klaahsen met with Joe Powell, Manager of Pine Mountain Lake Association, regarding the possibility of renting space in the PML maintenance yard for the permanent location of the AWSTP. Mr. Klaahsen suggested multiple benefits to such an agreement, including the elimination of the risk of breakage or loss of equipment during assembly and reassembly, the efficient use of staff time, the ability to keep the operators trained and the equipment in use by running the plant periodically throughout the year, and the ability of the District to respond more quickly in an emergency situation.

Given these benefits and the cost of yearly assembly and relocation, District Engineer Randy Klaahsen recommended that as of July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter until the shutdowns are over (currently scheduled for ten years), the Board authorize monthly payments of \$5,000 (the approximate cost of relocation) for use of the PML maintenance yard as a permanent location for the District AWSTP. As compensation for the use of the maintenance yard from August 2007 – June 30, 2009, Mr. Klaahsen also recommended that a one-time sewer connection fee of \$7,000.00 be waived for PMLA's maintenance yard and restroom hook-up.

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously, to authorize the General Manager to authorize payments of \$5,000 per year to PMLA, starting July 1, 2009 for use of the PMLA maintenance yard and waive one-time sewer connection fee.

Authorize the General Manager to Accept Project as Completed – Ford Construction – Alternative Water Supply Treatment Plant

District Engineer Randy Klaahsen presented this item to the Board. Mr. Klaahsen stated that on October 8, 2007, Ford Construction was given Notice to Proceed with work on the Alternative Water Supply Treatment Plant (AWSTP). Ford was instructed to substantially complete the project within 300 calendar days, and were successful in completing the project within the specified time. The original contract amount was \$1,435,000.00. While two change orders were processed they amounted to only 3.7% of the total contract amount, which Mr. Klaahsen assured the Board is very good by industry standards.

Mr. Klaahsen reported the quality of the work performed was acceptable, and attributed this fact to a good contractor, good design, and relevant staff input during the construction process. Mr. Klaahsen recommended that the AWSTP work done by Ford Construction be formally accepted by the Board, allowing the release of the 10%

retention that is currently being withheld from the contractor. Mr. Klaahsen also confirmed, that given approval by the Board, staff would also record a Notice of Completion Form with the Tuolumne County Recorder.

Director Johnson moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously to authorize the General Manager to accept project as completed by Ford Construction for the Alternative Water Supply Treatment Plant, and release the 10% retention to Ford Construction.

Information Items

Staff Reports

A. General Manager's Comments

General Manager Jim Goodrich reported that the Auditors will be here from November 24-26th, and that staff has been very busy preparing for their visit. He also informed the Board that he and Director Lennen had met with Brent Ives, a Strategic Planning Partner with CSDA, to discuss the District's planning process. Mr. Goodrich stated that this was only preparation for the development of a rolling 5-year plan for the District, which could then be re-evaluated annually. He announced that details of this process would be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

B. Engineering and O&M Reports

District Engineer Randy Klaahsen updated the Board on engineering activities and reported on recent work at Lift Station 1.

C. Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Shane Warner was absent, and the report was accepted.

D. District Counsels Comments

District Counsel Dave McMurchie had nothing to report.

Director's Comments

None.

Adjournment

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

APPROVED:

Richard Lennen, President

ATTEST:

Vicki L. West, Board Secretary