

**CONFORMED AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Please note alternative meeting location and time:**

**Georgetown Community Center, 6329 Lower Main Street, Georgetown, CA 95634**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017  
5:30 P.M.**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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It is the purpose of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District to:

- Provide reliable water supplies
  - Ensure high quality drinking water
  - Promote stewardship to protect community resources, public health, and quality of life
  - Provide excellent and responsive customer services through dedicated and valued staff
  - Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability are observed by balancing immediate and long-term needs.
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**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.*

*Present: Director Halpin, Director Hanschild, Director Uso, Director Wadle*

*Staff Present: General Manager Steven Palmer, Operations Manager Darrell Creeks, Engineering Consultant George Sanders, Administrative Assistant Christina Cross; Legal Counsel: Robin Baral, Churchwell White, LLP*

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

***MOTION by Director Hanschild to adopt the agenda. Second by Director Halpin.***

***Public Comment: None.***

***Vote: The motion passed unanimously***

- 3. PUBLIC FORUM** – Any member of the public may address the Board on any matter within the jurisdictional authority of the District. Public members desiring to provide comments, must be recognized by the Board President, and speak from the podium. Comments must be directed only to the Board. The public should address the Board members during the public meetings as President, Vice President, or Director, followed by the Board member's individual last name. The Board will hear communications on matters not on the agenda, but no action will be taken. No disruptive conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. Persistence in disruptive conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the President, of that person's privilege of address.

*Potato Richardson asked since he is a treated and irrigation water if he has two votes.*

*Additional questions were raised relative to the rate study and the process for protesting the rate increase. Director Uso stated that this portion of the agenda is to bring up matters not on the agenda. Questions regarding the rate study will be answered when this item comes up on the agenda and the General Manager gives his presentation.*

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approval of Minutes--** Regular Meeting of November 14, 2017.

**B. Financial Reports**

1. Month End Cash Disbursements Report
2. Statement of Cash and Investment Balances

***MOTION by Director Halpin to approve the Consent Calendar. Second by Director Hanschild.***

***Public Comment: None.***

***The motion passed unanimously.***

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. President's Report**

*None.*

**B. Board Reports**

*None.*

**C. General Manager's Report**

*General Manager Steve Palmer summarized his written report.*

**D. Operation Manager's Report**

*Mr. Palmer summarized the Operations Manager's Report since Darrell Creeks had to step out of the meeting.*

*Referring to the General Manager's report, Director Wadle asked Mr. Palmer if the current contract with the financial consultant provides for a full-time Accounts Payable clerk. Mr. Palmer responded that if an amendment is required, he will bring it to the Board.*

**E. ALT Treatment Plant Update**

*Engineering Consultant George Sanders provided a power point presentation (copy attached) to supplement his written staff report.*

*The project is on time and on budget. Director Uso commented that it is difficult for projects to come in on time and on budget and commended Mr. Sanders.*

**6. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. Public hearing pursuant to Proposition 218 (Cal. Const., Art. XIID, Sec. 6), to Consider and Accept Public Comments to Proposed Rates for Treated and Irrigation Water Services.**

**POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION:** Adopt Resolution 2017-29 to accept and close the Proposition 218 Public Notice and Protest Process and adopt Resolution 2017-30 to establish the new rates for treated water and irrigation water services.

*Director Uso explained the ground rules for the public comment period. He invited those wishing to speak to fill out a speaker's card. He indicated speakers would have 3 minutes and urged the audience to be respectful and cooperative during this process.*

*The General Manager provided a power point presentation (copy attached) to enhance his staff report. Mr. Palmer stated it is important for the public to understand why we are where we are today and why we are needing to increase rates.*

After his presentation, Mr. Palmer described the following next steps for the Rate Study process

- The Board will ask questions of the General Manager and Consultant.
- The Board will hear public testimony.
- The Board will close the protest period.

Note: The sealed protest box was placed in front of the room in full view and individuals have been inserting protest letters in the slot. This period of accepting protest letters will end when the Board closes the protest period.

- The Board will recess to allow staff to count the protest letters for an unverified number of protests received. If a majority vote is not received, the rate increase passes. If a majority protest vote is achieved, the protest letters will be placed back in the box and the box resealed. A public process of verifying each protest letter will be scheduled with public notice.

Director Wadle asked about the Court Decision on tiered rates. Legal Counsel Robin Baran stated that tier rates are based on the premise that the more you use, the more you pay. If a water agency is going to charge more for higher usage, they must show that it cost more to provide more water. That does not apply in this district because the water comes from one source. The San Juan Capistrano Court Decision is an example. Mr. Palmer stated that the City of Lincoln just settled a law suit because they couldn't justify the tiered rates and was required to reimburse ratepayers.

Director Uso pointed out that the Rate Study contained proposals that were considerably higher than what is being recommended. The rate was decreased to reduce the impact on the ratepayers by spreading out the improvements over ten years, instead of the five proposed by the Consultant.

Director Uso stated that if the rate increase fails, the Board will go back to work and do the best that we can to meet the needs of the District. He stated that if the rate increase passes, this Board will work very hard to keep everyone informed and use the funds responsibly. He then opened it up for public comment.

The following individuals testified during the public hearing:

Paul Miller, Johanna Friesen, Mark Hardin, Bruce McAdam, Mary Riddle, Cindy Garcia, Mitch MacDonald, Steven Dowd, Trina Burton, Sierra Nyokka, Bev Vietor, Bob Silva, Steven Proe, Ron Sheckler, Bill Johnson, Rena Lowry, Kersin McKay, Don Phillips, Kathy Ardel, and Kathy Otermat. Diana Roser asked that her comments be read into the record.

The public comments are summarized below:

- Understand need for a rate increase. We live in this community by choice; we need to preserve what we have and do something to capture water from disturbed areas.
- A local business owner expressed concerned about neighbors on fixed incomes and how the rate increase will reduce spending by local customers and impact the local economy.
- Not a bad idea if GDPUD is absorbed by EID.
- The District should not be hiring new people. Find ways to save money instead of raising rates.
- People will have to turn off irrigation service. This will create fire risks because people will not be able to keep their property green to protect their homes.
- The District should have a 5-year plan that is accompanied by a 5-year budget.
- Consider having community town hall meetings on a regular basis to allow the public to talk directly to the Board and for greater transparency and accountability.

- *When costs go up, consumption goes down reducing amount of revenue. Lower rates to get people to use more water.*
- *If the District achieves its goal, the Board should consider incorporating a plan to decrease rates.*
- *The public is not getting all the information. The Board should have a social media page where Board actions and information can be posted. (The District has a website [www.gd-pud.org](http://www.gd-pud.org) and a Facebook page.)*
- *Billing for irrigation is for a five-month service period so if you break it down over the entire year, the monthly increase of \$74/month is really not that bad.*
- *Grateful to have clean water that is protected with a good infrastructure that is taken care of knowing that 77M people in the country have horrible water. Willing to pay increase to protect that water.*
- *New meters should be installed by the District. We can do ourselves what we're paying consultants to do.*
- *Ballots should be mailed to customers with a no/yes vote.*
- *CEQA should have been done.*
- *Local elected officials want to see orchards disappear for more housing.*
- *Irrigation comes down the same ditch as our treatment water, why does it cost so much for untreated water? GM: irrigation rate calculated based on what it costs to operate the system.*
- *Irrigation lists...we want to give you money. Fire hazard...ponds are dipping ponds for fire. Harmful increase; you're hurting your customers. We know we need an increase...by increments...not by amounts that will break us.*
- *Understand the need for rate increase, but the process is not fair. Each account should get a vote.*
- *The hydro plant is not yet owned by the District, but receives small amount of revenue.*
- *We have pristine water that is gravity-fed, why does it cost so much?*
- *The State passed Prop 218 in 1998. We are weak for not standing up to the State of California.*

*Director Uso called for a recess to conduct a raw count on the protest letters at 7:35 PM.*

*The process of counting the protest letters was open to the public.*

*Director Uso called the meeting back to session at approximately 10:00 PM.*

*With an unverified count of 1,824, the protest was not successful. Director Uso stated the Board will now consider adopting Resolutions 2017-29 and 2017-30.*

***Motion by Director Hanschild to adopt Resolution 2017-29 to accept and close the Prop 218 hearing, and Resolution 2017-30 to establish the new rates. Second by Director Wadle.***

***Public Comment:***

*Steven Proe asked if the Board would consider sending out ballots. He added that rates need to be increased, but not by this magnitude.*

*It was also pointed out that the Gazette published a wrong date for the hearing and there is perhaps an issue of meddling.*

Mr. Proe stated that he had just turned in 15 pages of documents and advised the Board to review the information he provided before a decision is made.

**Director Uso brought the motion back to the Board for a vote.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

7. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR RESEARCH TO BE COMPLETED BY STAFF** –Opportunity for Board members to discuss matters of interest to them and provide input for future meetings as well as report on their District-related meeting attendance.

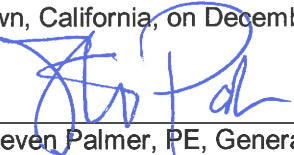
*None. Director Hanschild commented that in the future ballots should be provided. CALL JESSE TO VERIFY.*

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT** – Next regular meeting is January 9, 2017, at 2:00 PM, at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, CA 95634.

A special board meeting is planned for Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 2:00 PM, at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, CA 95634.

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 PM.*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Steve Palmer by telephone at 530-333-4356 or by fax at 530-333-9442. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one-full business day before the start of the meeting. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), this agenda was posted on the District's bulletin board at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office, at 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California, on December 7, 2017.

  
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Steven Palmer, PE, General Manager

  
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Date

**A Presentation for the  
GDPUD Board of Directors  
December 12, 2017**

**Summary of  
Work Activities at ALT Plant  
December 2017**

**ALT Water Treatment Plant Project**



Construction



Engineering  
Support



Materials Testing

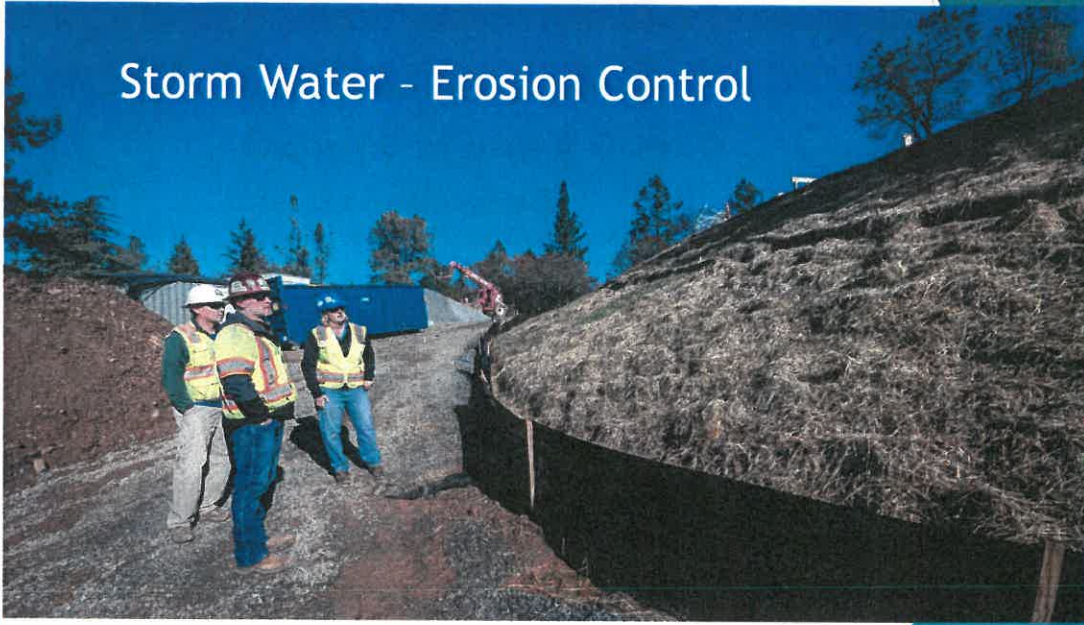


CEQA Compliance and SWPPP.



Construction  
Management

## Storm Water - Erosion Control

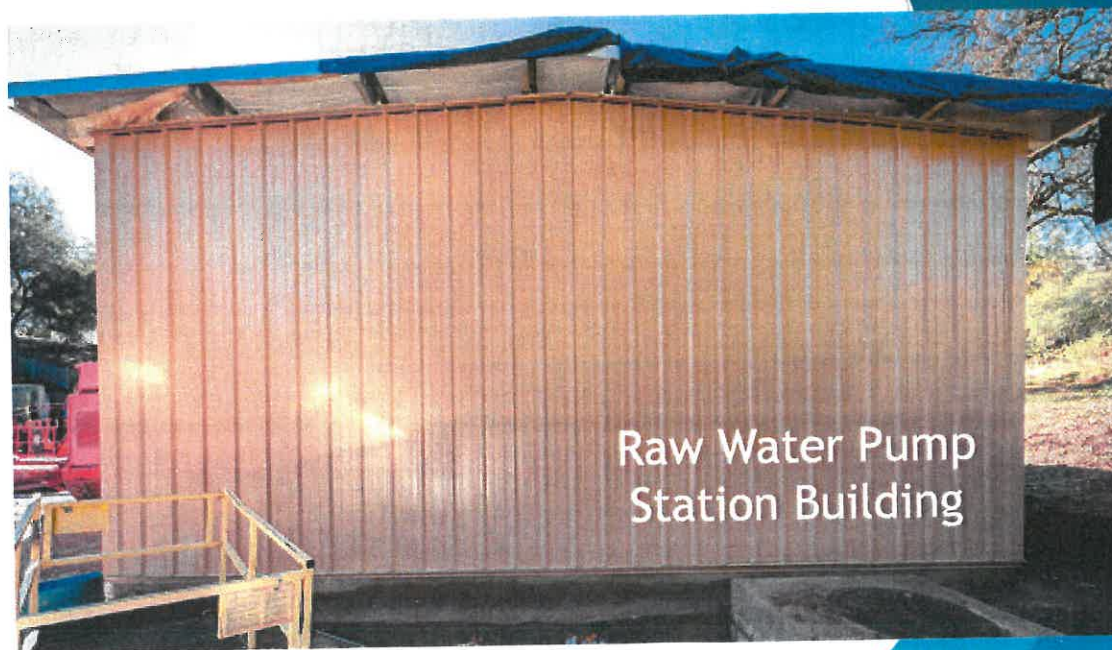


## Erosion Control



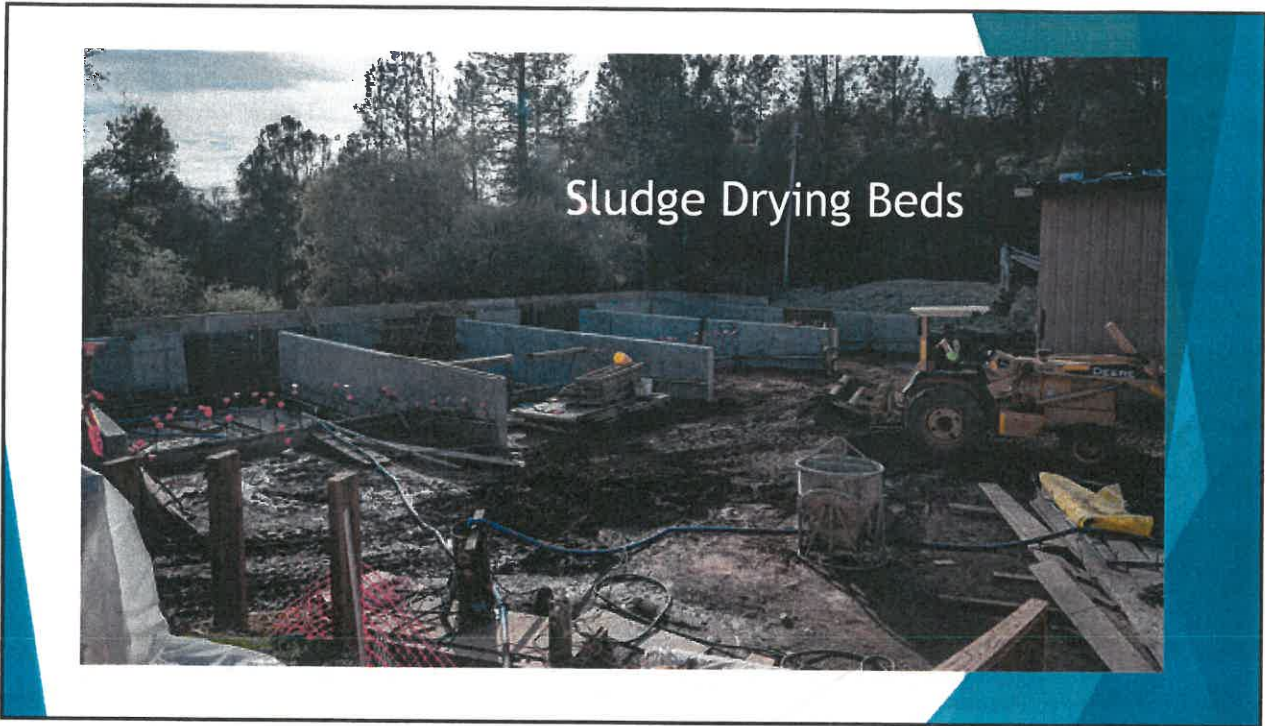


Erecting and fabricating  
the Filter Building.



Raw Water Pump  
Station Building





## STATE SRF PAYMENTS RECEIVED

CLAIM NO.	CONSTRUCTION	CONSTRUCTION MGMT ADMINISTRATION	AMOUNT
1	1,101,614	\$55,527	\$1,157,141
2	\$439,850	\$0	\$439,850
3	0	\$69,594	\$69,594
4	\$540,675	0	\$540,675
5	\$453,965	\$101,200	\$555,165
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,536,104</b>	<b>\$226,321</b>	<b>\$2,762,425</b>
<b>CLAIMS SUBMITTED FOR PROCESSING</b>			
6	550,310	0	550,310
7	952,916	94,404	1,047,320
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,503,226</b>	<b>94,404</b>	<b>1,597,630</b>