

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

6425 Main Street,  
Georgetown, California 95634

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024  
2:00 P. M.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mitch MacDonald, President

Donna Seaman, Vice President

Mike Thornbrough, Treasurer

Michael Saunders, Director

Robert Stovall, Director

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

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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**A full record of this meeting is available on the District's channel:**

<https://youtube.com/live/sChGUsMwxZQ>

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**President MacDonald called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Saunders, Stovall, Seaman, Thornbrough, and MacDonald

**Absent:** None

**Director Saunders led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Public Comment:**

No public comments were received.

**Director Saunders motioned to adopt the Agenda. Director Thornbrough seconded the motion.**

**President MacDonald called for the vote:**

**Ayes:** Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously.**

### 3. PUBLIC FORUM

**Public Comment:**

No comments were received.

### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR

**A. Approval of Minutes**

- October 3, 2024 Regular Meeting
- October 18, 2024 Special Meeting

**Public Comment:**

No comments were received.

**Director Thornbrough motioned to adopt the Consent Calendar items. Director Stovall seconded the motion.**

**President MacDonald called for the vote:**

**Ayes:** Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

### 5. OFFICE/FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Financial Reports
- Investment Report
- Grant Report

General Manager Nicholas Schneider shared background on the two new items appearing on the grant report; 1) the Mark Edson Dam Spillway Inspection Project to conduct necessary safety work and 2) the Walton Lake Sediment Removal Project to address buildup in the lake due to both The Mosquito Fire and historic accumulations. Office Finance Manager Jessica Buckle responded to Board and public inquiries regarding the financial reports.

**Public Comment:**

Cherie Carlyon

### 6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

**A. Board Reports**

**Director Saunders** attended the CALAFCO Conference, where a workshop on mutual water companies provided valuable insights relevant to addressing the Quintette Service Corporation situation. Additionally, the Director was present for the October Quintette Service Corporation meeting. The corporation's engineering report has been completed and will be submitted to GDPUD along with its recommendations.

**Director Stovall** attended the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) conference. The Director provided a report highlighting the event's benefits including training opportunities, assistance with grant acquisition, and elevation of Director skills and knowledge identified as valuable assets.

**Director Thornbrough** participated in the Georgetown Safe and Sound Halloween event, which was reported to have been a success for community engagement.

## **B. Operation Manager's Report**

- Monthly Water Demand Assessment

General Manager Nicholas Schneider delivered the Operations Report. The December meeting will provide a detailed report regarding the 2024 irrigation season and water served. The season concluded with the Stumpy Meadows Reservoir at 81% of its capacity. Unfortunately, there were two large line breaks during October which were addressed by the operations team.

## **C. Water Resources Manager's Report**

Water Resource Manager Alexis Elliott reported the completion of eight annual inspections and ten escrows. Additionally, two new inspections and one escrow were fulfilled and resulted in the installation of a new pump tank. The District recorded nearly 0.2 inches of rainfall in October. The wastewater team participated in a safety day event hosted by the California Water Environment Agency (CWEA) regarding collection systems. There were no new weather forecasting predictions available.

## **D. General Manager's Report**

General Manager Nicholas Schneider highlighted key points from his report. He shared his graduation from the JPIA Leadership Program, a year-long commitment. He also shared positive news, including an update on grant progress. Additionally, he received an invitation to speak at the Associated California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference, where he will discuss rate studies and strategies for community outreach.

### **Public Comment:**

Cherie Carlyon

## **7. COMMITTEES**

### **A. Irrigation Committee – Ray Griffiths, Chairman – Next November 19, 2024**

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors Seaman and Thornbrough

There was no meeting in October on which to report.

### **B. Finance Committee – Andy Fisher, Chairman - Next November 21, 2024**

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors MacDonald and Stovall

There were scheduling conflicts that hindered holding a meeting in October.

### **C. Ad-Hoc Labor Negotiations Committee- Meetings held as necessary.**

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors Thornbrough and MacDonald

### **D. Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee- Meetings held as necessary.**

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors Seaman and Stovall

Director Stovall reported his intent to integrate new materials garnered at the SDLF conference into the strategic plan.

### **Public Comment:**

Cherie Carlyon

Steven Dowd

## 8. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Receive Legislative Update and Develop District Positions

Legislative Liaison Michael Saunders reviewed the report and discussed recent developments. Federal updates from ACWA and Vectis were presented. The Liaison recommended that the District adopt a position of support for the proposed amendments to HR 5664 (WIFIA) and join the coalition letter advocating for these changes. The amendments enhance program accessibility for rural areas and potentially open funding opportunities for the District.

**Public Comment:**

Steven Dowd  
Cherie Carlyon

**Director Stovall motioned to accept the recommended District position of support for HR 5664 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Amendments (WIFIA) for the District to join the coalition support letters. Director Thornbrough seconded the motion**

**President MacDonald called for the vote:**

**Ayes:** Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

### B. Receive Presentation Regarding Georgetown Divide Public Utility District Water Supply

General Manager Nicholas Schneider delivered a presentation, joined by Rebecca Guo of the El Dorado Water Agency. Together, they addressed the Fazio water source responding to related inquiries. The two agencies are collaborating closely to identify solutions for source utilization. However, challenges persist, including restrictions that require the water to be used within the county and exchanged through a federal facility.

Additionally, senior water rights remain under threat from state legislation driven by Southern California interests. These regions, holding more junior water rights, are a significant force behind such legislative efforts. The District continues to actively oppose these measures as they arise, advocating to protect the community's water rights and resources.

**Public Comment:**

Steven Dowd  
Cherie Carlyon

### C. Consider Appointment and Authorization of Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Voting Representative

General Manager Nicholas Schneider explained that for the upcoming December ACWA conference, the District must designate one attendee as the voting representative and another as an alternate. Directors Saunders and MacDonald will be attending the conference, and the Board needs to determine which of them will serve as the authorized voting representative for GDPUD.

**Director Saunders motioned to appoint Director Saunders as the voting representative and Director MacDonald as the alternate. Director Seaman seconded the motion.**

**President MacDonald called for the vote:**

**Ayes:** Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

**D. Discussion Regarding Cost of Service and Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis**

The discussion item was requested with the aim of gaining clarity in preparation for the necessary decisions at the December 12th meeting. The potential rate-setting process was outlined, with the option to adopt the proposed rates initially and establish parameters for adjustments later. Each subsequent year would allow for evaluation and potential rate adjustments, provided they do not exceed the approved maximums. The Board can implement increases incrementally, based on its discretion. Substantively any modifications to the rates must be reviewed by the rate consultant to ensure alignment with the cost-of-service analysis maintaining the proportionality requirements of Proposition 218. Board discussion and inquiry examined the options available for the rate setting and the processes required to establish additional rate options.

**Public Comment:**

Cherie Carlyon

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**President MacDonald adjourned the open session to a closed session at 4:40 p.m.**

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**9. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. Conference with Legal Counsel-Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1))**

**Name of Case:** GDPUD v. PG&E

**B. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Gov. Code § 54957.6)**

**Agency Designated Representative:** General Manager

**Employee Organization:** Local 1

**C. Conference with Legal Counsel-Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1))**

**Name of Case:** Local 1 v. GDPUD (Public Employee Relations Board)

**D. Report Out Of Closed Session-** No report was available out of the closed session.

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**President MacDonald adjourned the closed session to an open session at 4:52 p.m.**

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**10. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS**

The Directors requested a special meeting be scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> to allow for further review of the rate-setting process and options.

## 11. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

A. The next Regular Meeting will be December 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., at the Cool Community Church, 863 Cave Valley Road, Cool, California 95614.

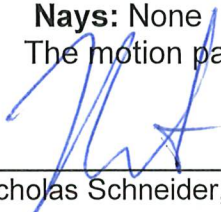
**Director Thornbrough motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Seaman seconded the motion.**

**President MacDonald called for the vote:**

**Ayes:** Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Attachments:

1. Legislative Update November 2024



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT November 2024

### Vectis D.C. Federal Update

Both houses of Congress continue to be in recess until after Election Day and are due to return to Washington for the “Lame Duck” session beginning on November 12. There may of course be some delay given expected close races and rumored challenges to election results in various states and districts that could ultimately decide which party attains the majority in the House and Senate. What gets accomplished during the Lame Duck is partially dependent upon those results.

We anticipate that once Congress does return, leadership in both houses will seek to enact the dozen annual FY 2025 appropriations bills by Christmas. This would clear the decks for the new Administration and 119th Congress to begin work on the FY 2026 budget and spending bills as soon as they take office. Additionally, there will be an attempt to reach House/Senate deals on major policy bills like the National Defense Authorization Act, the Water Resources Development Act, and the Farm Bill. While not necessarily seen as “must pass” like appropriations bills, these are items that traditionally have not carried over from one Congress into another, given their complexities.

As of now, it is anticipated that community funding projects (earmarks) that made their way through Appropriations Committee approval in either chamber will make it into a final budget bill.

### ACWA and Headwaters Federal Updates

ACWA Headwaters workgroup meeting will be held 11/1/2024. Any new information will be updated to the Legislative report.

ACWA Local Government City and County Planning Nexus Subcommittee is working on potential solutions to deal with the impacts of the multiple ADU bills and the disconnect between water/wastewater services and future development planning for availability of these services. Also looking through workarounds for The Mitigation Fee Act (SB 937) which delays payment of new connections and fees for water/wastewater services and other utilities until final inspection or certificate of occupancy.

### CSDA Updates

Top Three Legislative Priorities for 2025 Legislative Session

1. Support equitable access to grants and other funding sources for special districts
2. Protect existing local revenue, including fees/chargers, assessments, and taxes (24
3. Ensure sustainable, reliable, cost-effective infrastructure by opposing overly costly and unnecessary mandates