

**Alameda County Special District Association (ACSDA)
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday November 13, 2024

8:00 A.M.

**Hosted by: Oro Loma Sanitary District (OLSD)
Presiding: Shelia Young, Vice-President**

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Shelia Young ACSDA Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

1.2 Ms. Young welcomed everyone to the meeting and to OLSD.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

2.1 The attendees introduced themselves and shared what their plans were for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

3. SPEAKERS

3.1 Welcome by OLSD Board President Fred Simon.

Mr. Simon welcomed members and introduced the Board Members who were present from OLSD and from Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan). He stated that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is jointly owned by both districts. Mr. Simon provided some highlights about OLSD, noting that the district was founded in 1911 and they have one of the most efficient facilities. He also outlined key projects which include the Nutrient Optimization Project and a Tesla Energy Storage Facility. He stated that OLSD has a staff of 47 employees and he commended General Manager Jimmy Dang for his effective leadership. He added that the building they were meeting in was constructed during the pandemic.

3.2 Presentation Introduction by OLSD General Manager Jimmy Dang: East Bay Dischargers Authority (EBDA) General Manager Jacqueline Zipkin will present on sea level rise and East Bay Regional Park District Principal Planner Devan Reiff will present on the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HASPA).

Mr. Dang recognized Jason Warner as being the former General Manager at OLSD. He provided more information about OLSD, including that they treat 11 million gallons per day of sewage and that their service area is 13 square miles and serves a population of about 135,000. Mr Dang stated there will be two presentations, and that Mr. Reiff will talk about HASPA, which is an agency that focuses on climate change adaptation and then Ms. Zipkin will talk about sea level rise and some multi-benefit solutions.

Mr. Reiff shared a PowerPoint presentation titled Hayward Area Shoreline

Planning Agency and he noted that HASPA was formed in the 1970's. He stated that climate change and sea level rise are greater threats, more than industries are. He presented from the following slide topics: HASPA History; Hayward Shoreline and HASPA Boundary; Hayward Shoreline Ownership; Hayward Marsh Tomorrow: Restoration Plan; City of Hayward Nature Based Solutions – Future Project; HASPA Inundation Map – 2' Sea Level Rise; HASPA Inundation Map – 2' Sea Level Rise with 100-year Storm Surge; HASPA Master Plan; New Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement; HASPA Community Engagement and Agency Outreach; Hayward Shoreline Grant (“Pivot Points”) Awarded From U.S. EPA; HASPA Opportunities to Participate.

CVSan Board Member Ralph Johnson asked what was done to control invasive plant species. Mr. Reiff stated they have pest management staff and use plants such as pickleweed to prevent spread.

East Bay Regional Park District Board Member Dennis Waespi shared that King Tides happen every year and the water washing over the levees are amazing to watch. He noted that the OLSD/CVSan Horizontal Levee is an example of an experiment where nature is being used to help prevent sea level rise.

Hayward Area Recreation and Park District Board Member Peter Rosen noted that it looked like treatment ponds were being converted. Ms. Zipkin stated that the ponds are used for wet weather storage and the idea is to dual purpose them so they can be used to provide treatment as well as store overflow.

Zone 7 Manager of Government Relations Carol Mahoney asked about opposition. Mr. Reiff stated there are a lot of stakeholders that have an interest in this project and there is no opposition, but rather challenges with funding and permitting.

Ms. Zipkin shared a PowerPoint presentation titled First Mile Horizontal Levee Project and noted this was a multi-benefit project to address sea level rise. She presented from the following slide topics: Conventional Levees and Sea Walls; The Horizontal Levee Demonstration Project; Horizontal Levee is Highly Effective at Removing Nitrogen and Trace Organics (e.g. pharmaceuticals); Horizontal Levee 2.0 is testing new configurations and constituents; Scaling up the Horizontal Levee: The First Mile; Alternate Visions of the Future; The Goals of the First Mile Project are to:; Site Constraints; Long Term SLR Adaptation; Permitting Considerations; Treatment Zone and Ecotone Slope Tradeoffs; Consideration of Future Conditions with SLR; First Mile Planning and Design Timeline; Conclusions.

Mr. Johnson noted that from the pictures, it looks like the effluent channel is very large and for flood control, it may be advised to block them off. Ms. Zipkin stated the channels are much smaller than a mile. Mr. Johnson asked how would effluent be delivered to the levee. Ms. Zipkin stated that this has not been worked out yet

but a possibly a pipeline would be needed.

Ms. Mahoney asked what would be required in terms of operations and maintenance and whether anything would need to be replaced in 20 years. A discussion ensued about the difference in size and rise between a horizontal levee and conventional levee. Ms. Zipkin also stated that they had not pursued a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certified level levee. She also stated there is communication with the Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority to repurpose the railway, and there is also outreach with other stakeholders. She noted they will also need to be creative and work out how to pair projects together for permitting and they will need to figure out how to get the state involved too, in order to meet their targets.

Mr. Waespi made a note about Proposition 4 authorizing bonds to protect communities and natural lands from climate risks. Save the Bay Policy Manager Josh Quigley stated they currently have Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding and they could look at other channels as well.

California Special Districts Association Chief Advocacy and External Affairs Officer Kyle Packham asked if nutrients are trapped as they are taken out of the bay. Ms. Zipkin stated the compounds are transformed and they will not be released back into the bay. She added that there will be ongoing monitoring about this to inform management going forward.

4. UPDATES

4.1 Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Chapter Representatives: Ralph Johnson, Mariellen Faria, Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold and Executive Officer Rachel Jones.

Mr. Johnson reported that they continue with negotiations to become more independent from Alameda County.

4.2 East Bay EDA Chapter Representative: Ryan Clausnitzer

No update was given.

4.3 CSDA General Updates: Ryan Clausnitzer

Mr. Packham filled in to provide legislative updates. He shared a PowerPoint presentation titled 2024 Highlights Year-End Legislative Report. He stated that a measure related to the California Business Roundtable had thankfully not been on the ballot this year but they are building a defense and have started planning in case this is brought back to the ballot in 2026; he noted this measure is a threat for special districts. He stated they are confident the President will sign the Special District Grant Accessibility Act and noted this is a big deal and it will be the first time special districts are recognized federally. Assembly Bill 2557 would have made it impossible for districts to contract any work out and this measure was shot down, which leaves districts with having an ability to hire business affiliates and vendors. He stated that

on the financial side, it was a tough budget year with regards to the diversion of property taxes, including a bill proposed by Governor Gavin Newsom that is not favorable for agencies related to builders not having to pay property taxes when they build an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). He noted that with the housing crisis it has been harder for CSDA to be heard when challenging these bills and part of the solution will be to diversify their coalition and include environmental communities and contractors who can help to show how these measures actually hurt the community by jeopardizing the services they currently receive. He noted that California is a progressive state but people vote conservatively when it comes to money.

HARD Board Member Rick Hatcher noted that surveys and collecting detailed data about the services districts offer to the community are an important tool in building communication to support keeping and paying for essential services.

4.4 Livermore Rotary Club Presentation about special districts at Las Positas College, Horticulture Building 3300 on November 19th at 8:00 a.m. by Roland P. Williams, Jr.

Ms. Young stated that this is an announcement about a presentation that will be made to the Livermore Rotary Club by CVSan General Manager Roland Williams.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Approval of September Membership Meeting Minutes

Mr. Johnson moved approval of the minutes, and Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5.2 Financial Report: Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, Treasurer

No report was given.

5.3 Announcement of Park Advisory Committee Reappointment of Roland P. Williams, Jr for 2025 – 2026.

Vice President Young stated that President Williams had been appointed for a second term to the Park Advisory Committee.

6. UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

6.1 Wednesday January 8, 2025.

Host and Topic: TBD

Location: CVSan Office

ACSDA Coordinator Purvi Solanki stated that the next meeting will take place at CVSan's office but a host is still needed. The host coordinates the meeting presentations.

6.2 Thursday, March 13, 2025

Annual Dinner: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Wedgewood at Redwood Canyon Golf Course

Ms. Young stated they are excited about having Comedian Brian Copeland who has been scheduled as the speaker for the event.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.