



2.b.
5/26/2022

**SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
May 9, 2022**

Present Commissioners

Via Teleconference: Michael Vargas, Chair
Stephen Tomanelli, Vice-Chair
Nancy Wright
Jeff Hewitt
Steve Sanchez
Kevin Jeffries
Phil Williams

Present Staff

In-Person: Gary Thompson, Executive Officer
Elizabeth Valdez, Commission Clerk
Via Teleconference: Melissa Cushman, Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG.

Chair Vargas called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

1.2. ROLL CALL.

2. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Status and Possible Action Regarding the Draft Agreement - "State Water Resource Control Board - Governance and Electricity Service Study - Imperial Irrigation District".

Chair Vargas stated that he called the special meeting on behalf of Commissioner Sanchez to resolve any issues with moving forward with the study.

Mr. Thompson gave a status on the agreement. He stated the current agreement was not acceptable by both Riverside and Imperial LAFCO as discussed at the April 28 Commission meeting. He stated that deadlines could not be met, as the funding would be delayed until August. He stated that the Agreement has gone through many revisions causing a delay in the start of the study. Mr. Thompson stated that all issues

were resolved except the funding timeline and schedule. He stated that an email was received this morning from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and that the funding could be expedited and processed as requested. He stated that the funding agreement and the funding request would be sent within a few days if the Commission decides to move forward.

John Knobel, Assemblyman Mayes office. Mr. Knobel stated that the SWRCB has now agreed to the terms of the two \$250,000 payments for the study. He stated that per the SWRCB payment would be expedited as long as the agreement is signed, and the funding request is made in May. Mr. Knobel stated this timeline is much longer than AB 1021, previously vetoed by the Governor, allowed and the study will move forward to the standards required by LAFCO.

Commissioner Sanchez stated that this study is important. He stated all the agencies involved have put a lot of time and effort into this. He stated that the agreement could be executed now then the study would not have to wait until August to get started. He stated that after recent communication with the SWRCB, the timeline could be met, and LAFCO should move forward rather than terminating the study.

Mr. Thompson stated the dates on the Agreement would have to be changed if all parties agree. He stated that he wanted confirmation in the Agreement that the funding issue would be resolved prior to moving forward.

John Knobel stated that there is a commitment by Mayes and himself to continue to work on this project.

Commissioner Sanchez motioned to move forward with this project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hewitt.

Commissioner Wright asked what the consequences may be if this doesn't work and if there was a need for an extension who would authorize it. Mr. Thompson stated that the delay in the funding would ultimately delay in consultant starting and completing the study. Mr. Thompson stated the Waterboard will not extend the funding once it expires by legislation.

John Knobel stated that the June deadline is due to the budget cycle and in would require another legislative act in order to extend it. Chair Vargas opened public comment.

Linda Evans, Mayor of City of La Quinta. Ms. Evans stated that she was focused to keep this study going and would be proactive for it to be sure it moves forward. She stated the importance of this study for the future of the residents of Eastern Riverside County and

Imperial County. She stated her support in seeing this study completed.

Commissioner Jeffries left the meeting at 1:30 p.m. He sent a message to the Chair stating his support in moving forward with the agreement.

Brad Anderson, resident of the City of Rancho Mirage. Mr. Anderson stated that he would like to see the agreement terminated.

There were no more public comments.

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Hewitt) to approve the Agreement "State Water Resource Control Board - Governance and Electricity Service Study - Imperial Irrigation District," authorize the Executive Officer to modify the appropriate dates within the agreement.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Vargas, Tomanelli, Wright, Hewitt, Sanchez, and Williams.

NOES: None.

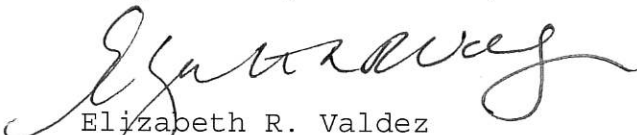
ABSENT: Jeffries.

ABSTAINED: None.

3. ADJOURNMENT.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth R. Valdez
Commission Clerk