

Water Commission's Meetings

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR THE WATER COMMISSION MEETINGS

On March 17, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, relating to the convening of public meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The County of Tulare hereby provides notice that it will continue to convene its regularly scheduled public meetings of the Water Commission in the BOS Conference Rooms A&B at 2800 W. Burrell Ave, Visalia, as provided in the publicly posted agenda notice, and until further notice.

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Office, to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, members of the public are encouraged to participate in the Board meetings in the following ways:

1. REMOTE VIEWING: Listen to the live audio stream of the Water Commission meeting at

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tularecounty-ca.zoom.us/j/97308676203?pwd=bm9tZURaa09kb2FNVnFUSDJOVXIUUT09>

Meeting ID: 973 0867 6203

Passcode: 599334

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 973 0867 6203

Passcode: 599334

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: If you choose not to attend the Water Commission meeting but wish to comment on a specific agenda item we have the following options available:

- a. Submit written comments on an agenda item to the Clerk of the Water Commission at DEngland@tularecounty.ca.gov for distribution to the Water Commission before the meeting. If you would like to support, oppose, or otherwise comment on a Water Commission' agenda item, please consider sending in your comment rather than attending the meeting in person. All communication, whether it is a formal letter or a one-line informal email, is read by the Water Commission. Also, if you are part of a large group that would like to comment on an agenda item, please consider commenting in writing or sending one spokesperson to speak on behalf of the group.

Written comments may also be submitted by U.S. mail, at:

Tulare County Administrative Office

c/o Clerk of the Water Commission

2800 W. Burrell Ave.

Visalia, CA 93291

b. To participate during the Water Commission meeting, please call (559) 636-5000. Each caller will, one at a time, be connected to the Board room to address the Commission in the same manner as if the caller were there in person. The caller will be requested to state his or her name and address for the record, and the caller's statements will go through the PA system in order to be heard by everyone in the room. The statements will go out on the live audio stream. The three (3) minute limit will apply to all public comments.

c. Alternatively, you may participate during the Commission meeting by submitting an email as the item is being heard. Emails should include the sender's name and address for the record. Emails should include the agenda item number and sent to the Clerk of the Water Commission at DEngland@tularecounty.ca.gov. Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received before the end of the meeting.

d. If you attend the Water Commission meeting in person, all attendees will be requested to engage in social distancing measures by maintaining a 6-foot distance from other attendees. Exposed surfaces will be sanitized prior to the meeting and attendees are encouraged to avoid contact with surfaces such as microphones and door handles. Large groups wishing to comment on a common item are encouraged to submit comments in writing or to send one spokesperson to speak on behalf of the group.

Water Commission February 8, 2021 can be viewed live through Zoom. Click here to join the Water Commission Live Stream:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tularecounty-ca.zoom.us/j/97308676203?pwd=bm9tZURaa09kb2FNVnFUSDJOVXIUUT09>

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TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION

3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2021

MEETING NOTES

Members Present:

Pete Vander Poel, Board Representative and Chairman
Dennis Townsend, Board Alternate
Martha Flores, TCAG Representative
Eric Quinley, District 2 Appointee
Jessi Snyder, At-Large Appointee
Mike Lane, At-Large Appointee

Members Absent:

VACANT, District 1 Appointee
VACANT, District 3 Appointee
Chad Wegley, District 4 Appointee*Unable to join via phone due to technical difficulties
Steve Etchegaray, District 5 Appointee
Dominic Fino, At-Large Appointee

Staff Present:

Denise England, Tulare County Administration Office
Aaron Zaheen, County Counsel
Bob Irvine, TCiCT
Jessica Gocke, HHSA-Environmental Health

Members of the Public Present:

Pat Pinkham	John Lollis	Mike Camarena
Jeremy Barroll	Stephanie Baraza	Shane Smith
Tricia Stever Blattler	Staci Ann Silva	Carole Combs
Johnny Gailey	Mike Knight	Ms. Quintana
Rhett Anderson	Michael Prado	Donna
	Richard Garcia	

1. Call to Order
Chairman Vander Poel called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Public Comment Period
There was no public comment.
3. Approve May 10, and July 12, 2021 Minutes
On a motion made by Commissioner Flores and seconded by Commissioner Lane, the minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Drought Update
 - a. Conditions: Dr. Jessica Gocke, Tulare County Environmental Health, provided an update on well permits.
 - b. Funding: Denise England, Water Resources Director, provided an update on available drought funding. Ms. England reported that both the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) received drought funding from the State budget. She went on to explain that the DWR was soliciting projects through their Small Community Drought Assistance program, which has \$200 million available on a first-come-first-serve basis. She explained that both Teviston and Woodville were among the first 20 communities to receive funding through the Program. She reported that an application for Ducor had also been submitted. The DWR will be rolling out additional funding in two programs- the Urban and Multibenefit in mid-October. The DWR is conducting surveys to determine how best to put those programs together. Ms. England reported the SWRCB drought funding was put into their existing programs, which makes it challenging to use for emergency drought response. Ms. England indicated that the County and Self Help are working with the SWRCB to fund a bottled water cache so that an emergency supply can be readily available when people first experience a water outage. That proposal seems to be gaining traction. Another need is non-potable water for sanitation, portable showers, water for pets and livestock, etc. That proposal has not received

positive feedback. Ms. England reported the Tank and Hauled Water and Bottled Water Programs funded by the SWRCB continue and have sufficient funding to meet the immediate need.

5. DAC Project Funding

- a. ARPA: Ms. England reported that several projects were included in the County's American Recovery Plan. The projects are as follows:

Project	Amount
Ivanhoe PUD- Disposal Pond Improvements	\$650,000
Tipton CSD- Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	\$296,000
Earlimart PUD- Sewer Interceptor and Relief Sewer Project	\$1,600,000
Tipton CSD- North Burnett Road Water Line Replacement	\$500,000
Avenue 264 Water Main Extension	\$500,000
Pixley PUD- Water Main Extension	\$2,000,000
Poplar CSD- Well Replacement	\$499,000
Earlimart PUD Front Street Well	\$2,200,000
Tipton CSD- Well No. 6	\$1,700,000
Cutler PUD- Well No. 10	\$700,000
Strathmore PUD Well and Treatment	\$2,150,000
Strathmore PUD Storage Tank Repair	\$150,000
Chinowith Fire Hydrant	\$38,000
Earlimart PUD Clay West Sound Wall	\$75,000
Orosi PUD Well No. 5 Auxiliary Power	\$500,000

- b. Federal Appropriations: Ms. England Reported that several of the ARPA Projects were also included in the Federal Appropriations Bills. She indicated that availability of funding will be known with the passage of the Federal Budget by September 30, 2021.

Commissioner Lane asked about the Fire Hydrant and Sound Wall projects. Supervisor Vander Poel explained that the projects were much needed and difficult to fund from other sources. Commissioner Quinley asked how the projects were prioritized. Ms. England responded that the projects were selected based on shovel-readiness, quickness to construct, drought response, cost, and benefit.

6. Draft Groundwater Management Principles & Strategies to Monitor, Analyze, & Minimize Impacts to Drinking Water Wells

Ms. England provided the Commissioners with the draft report and highlighted some sections that may be of interest. Commissioner Snyder indicated that item 3.4 Informed Well Permitting may be helpful in preventing future scenarios like the one that the community of Ducor is experiencing.

7. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Legislation

Miss England provided an update on the following bills:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| i. SB 559- pulled by the author | iii. SB 776- to Governor |
| ii. SB 403- to Governor | iv. AB 1250- to Governor |

8. Staff Reports

- a. Tulare-Kern DACII Program

Denise England reported the Program is moving forward on schedule. She indicated the DWR may provide additional funding to the Program through the drought budget.

- b. SGMA Implementation

Documents related to the items on this Agenda, submitted to the Board after distribution of the Agenda packet, are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors Office, 2800 W. Burrel Avenue, Visalia, CA during normal business hours. Such documents are also available online, subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting, at the following website: <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/board/index.cfm/committees-commissions/water-commission>

As a courtesy to those in attendance, please turn off or place in alert mode all cell phones and pagers.

Commissioner Lane reported the Mid Kaweah GSA was in the process of adopting a pumping allocation.

9. Commissioners Comments

There were no Commissioner comments.

10. Future Agenda Topics-

There were no future agenda topics suggested.

11. Next meeting – Monday, October 11, 2021 3:00 PM

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's Office at (559) 636-5000

TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION

3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021

MEETING NOTES

Members Present:

Pete Vander Poel, Board Representative and Chairman
Martha Flores, TCAG Representative
Eric Quinley, District 2 Appointee
Dominic Fino, At-Large Appointee
Jessi Snyder, At-Large Appointee
Mike Lane, At-Large Appointee

Members Absent:

Dennis Townsend, Board Alternate
VACANT, District 1 Appointee
VACANT, District 3 Appointee
Chad Wegley, District 4 Appointee*Unable to join via phone due to technical difficulties
Steve Etchegaray, District 5 Appointee

Staff Present:

Denise England, Tulare County Administration Office
Aaron Zaheen, County Counsel
Matt Wang, Tulare County Counsel
Bob Irvine, TCiCT
Jessica Gocke, HHSA-Environmental Health
Ben Guiliani, Tulare County LAFCo

Members of the Public Present:

Pat Pinkham	Jeremy Barroll
Richard Garcia	Tricia Stever Blattler

1. Call to Order
Chairman Vander Poel called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.
2. Public Comment Period
There was no public comment.
3. Approve March 8, 2021 and April 12, 2021 minutes
On a motion made by Commissioner Flores and seconded by Commissioner Fino, the Commission approved the minutes with Commissioner Snyder abstaining.
4. Annual Re-organization of the Water Commission
 - a. Vice Chair
On a motion made by Commissioner Quinley and seconded by Commissioner Lane, the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Lane as the Vice Chair.
 - b. Secretary
On a motion made by Commissioner Lane and seconded by Commissioner Flores, the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Quinley as the Secretary.
5. Subcommittee Appointments
On a motion made by Commissioner Quinley and seconded by Commissioner Lane the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Commissioners Quinley, Lane, and Snyder to the Legislative Subcommittee.
6. State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights and Climate Change Report
Commissioner Lane requested this item be added to the agenda. He explained the Mid Kaweah GSA and Tulare Irrigation District submitted a letter outlining the organizations' concerns with the Report. The Report appears to suggest modifying water rights outside of existing water rights law, including opening up Fully Appropriated Stream Designations. The Commission recommended staff take a letter of concern to the Board of Supervisors for action.

7. Drought Response

Denise England, Tulare County Water Resources Director, provided an update on the County's drought response. She indicated the County declared a local emergency on April 27, 2021. She went on to say the Governor was holding a press conference during the Commission meeting to add Tulare County to his previous drought declaration. She reported that many of the programs were still in place from the last drought, such as household tanks, bottled water, and well assistance, but there was insufficient funding to expand those programs for a more widespread drought response. Commissioner Snyder shared that Tulare Irrigation District offered to use their equipment to assist with bottled water deliveries, as well as provide storage space to stage pallets of bottled water.

8. Subcommittee Reports

a. Legislation

There was no additional information regarding legislation.

9. Staff Reports

a. Tulare-Kern DACII Program

Denise England reported the Program is moving forward on schedule. She indicated there may be money available through the Program to augment the Needs Assessment Tool for drought response.

b. SGMA Implementation

There were no SGMA updates.

c. Form 700

Ms. England reminded the Commissioners, if not already filed, their Form 700s were due April 1, 2021.

d. AB 1234 Ethics Training

Ms. England reminded Commissioners to complete their AB 1234 Ethics training.

10. Commissioners Comments

There were no Commissioner comments.

11. Future Agenda Topics-

Commissioner Fino asked that the Commission consider coordinating water safety with canal safety.

12. Next meeting – Monday, June 14, 2021 3:00 PM

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm

Documents related to the items on this Agenda, submitted to the Board after distribution of the Agenda packet, are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors Office, 2800 W. Burrell Avenue, Visalia, CA during normal business hours. Such documents are also available online, subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting, at the following website: <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/board/index.cfm/committees-commissions/water-commission>

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