

Salton Community Services District

REGULAR MEETING *Minutes*

September 18, 2024

Closed Session 1:00 p.m.

Open Session 2:00 p.m.

1209 Van Buren Ave.

Salton City, CA 92275

www.saltoncsd.ca.gov

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Michelle Gilmore, President
Michael Friese, Vice President
Manuel Ramos, Director
Lidia A. Sierra, Director
Dale Johnson, Director

STAFF:

Emmanuel Ramos, Interim General Manager
Thania Garcia, Board Secretary
Christina Sutton, Finance Officer
Oracio Lemus, Field Foreman
Pascual Muniz, Park Supervisor
Robert Patterson, Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Michelle Gilmore: Present
Michael Friese: Present
Manuel Ramos: Present

Lidia Sierra: Present
Dale Johnson Arrived Late

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.3, the public has the right to address the board regarding any closed session items listed on the **closed session agenda** prior to the board adjourning into closed session. Anyone who wishes to address the Board, please come to the microphone. Public comments are limited to (3) minutes for each person. Comments are not to be directed towards an individual or individuals but to the Board on a specific issue.

No Public Comments

4. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9:(Two potential cases) –

No Reportable Action

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Name of case: DAVID DALE, Petitioner, vs. SALTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, and LIDIA A. SIERRA; CASE NO. ECU003178; SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF IMPERIAL.

No Reportable Action

5. OPEN SESSION: 2:00 p.m.

6. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Michelle Gilmore, President

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS:

8. PUBLIC PRESENTATION:

- The presenter will be Miguel Hernández, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency, with the Salton Sea Management Program.
Mr. Hernandez did not attend to give a presentation, so Board President Gilmore proceeded to Public Comments.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.3, members of the public may address the Board at this time regarding any items of public interest that are within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. The Ralph M. Brown Act, however, prohibits the Board from taking action on any matter not appearing on the agenda. Those who wish to address the Board should come to the microphone. Members of the public will be given three (3) minutes to address the board on any items of public interest. Comments are not to be directed towards an individual or individuals but to the Board on a specific issue.

No Public Comments

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice President Friese – Community residents can apply for an in-home air purifier in the West Shores area and Bombay Beach by filling out an application and providing a bill as proof of residence.

President Gilmore – Expanded on Vice President Friese's comment, Abigail Arballo will be at the District's Office next Wednesday from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm to assist residents with applications. The West Shores Community Center is holding a Craft Fair on Sunday, October 6th, 2024, at 9:00 am 3389 Sea View Ave, Thermal, CA 92274 (Salton Sea Beach)

Director Ramos – I wanted to thank the organization from Imperial County who collected household appliances, and hazardous waste at Salton City Park.

Director Johnson – No

Director Sierra – No

11. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Consent calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, to be acted upon by the board of directors at one time without discussion. If any board member requests that an item be removed from the consent calendar, it will be removed so that it may be acted upon separately.

- A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 17, 2024.
Vice President Friese requested item A be pulled
- B. Approve demands for the month of July 2024.
- C. Approve demands for the month of August 2024
- D. Slovak, Baron, Empey, Murphy, & Pinkney July **(\$3,419.35)**
Director Sierra requested item D be pulled
- E. Slovak, Baron, Empey, Murphy, & Pinkney August **(\$2,396.00)**
Director Sierra requested item E be pulled

Vice President Friese motioned to approve items B and C. Director Ramos seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

**President Gilmore- Yes Director Sierra- Yes
Vice President Friese- Yes Director Johnson- Yes
Director Ramos- Yes**

Motion Passes 5-0

- A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 17, 2024.

Vice President Friese – Resolutions passed at the last meeting on 7-17-01 and 7-17-02; I have not seen the amended Resolutions; specifically, in the minutes, it does not state the amendments that the Board requested. In regards to 07-17-01 that the district is no longer going to collect the \$21.00 Standby Fee and that the district will refund the 3 years. Vice President Friese asked staff to publish the amended resolutions in this meeting’s Agenda under the minutes. Board to be provided amended resolutions directly after meeting is adjourned. President Gilmore stated that any time there are amendments, those amendments are to be noted in the minutes. Vice President Friese – Requested the Board Secretary to note in the minutes item 14D that the district will no longer collect the \$21.00 Standby Fee and reimburse those fees for the 3 years. Vice President Friese – Stated his summarized figures from the previous meeting on Phase II of Desert Shores Soccer Park was not in the minutes. Vice President Friese asked that his summary of the figures be added to the minutes. Vice President Friese requested for the record the reading of his email to staff about this, “This is important for the Secretary to document spoken comments during the deliberation of a specific Agenda item, it is not appropriate to suppress those comments, the argument made that it is an extra effort on part of the

Secretary is specious, as I have provided a prototype text in written form including the numbers and their context. I gave permission that those four paragraphs could be condensed but the numbers and warnings must remain. It is not in the interest of transparency for some of our members to vote on whether other Board Members comments should be suppressed in the minutes. The minutes should record what has transpired at the meeting by all parties, even uncomfortable and unpopular comments must be recorded. The Public should be able to determine the activities of the meeting just by reading the minutes. You stated that anything outside the Public and Board Comment Section is considered a special request and be voted on by the Board at the meeting. This is not a special request; Public Comments are not the only comments that should be recorded in the minutes as it would be inappropriate to comment on Agenda items during the Public Comment Section. Agenda items should only be discussed when that item is being deliberated. Minutes should also briefly record the Directors and Staff comments during that time and everything on topic discussed during that meeting should be documented. I admire Imperial Irrigations District minutes; SCSD should follow this template for full transparency.”

Vice President Friese motioned to approve the minutes with the amendments, Director Johnson seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

President Gilmore- Yes Director Sierra- Yes

Vice President Friese- Yes Director Johnson- Yes

Director Ramos- Yes

Motion Passes 5-0

D. Slovak, Baron, Empey, Murphy, & Pinkney August (\$2,396.00)

E. Slovak, Baron, Empey, Murphy, & Pinkney August (\$2,396.00)

Director Ramos motioned to approve items D and E. Vice President Friese seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

President Gilmore- Yes Director Sierra- No

Vice President Friese- Yes Director Johnson- Yes

Director Ramos- Yes

Motion Passes 4-1

12. REPORTS:

- A. Interim General Manager’s report [Emmanuel Ramos]
- B. Finance Officer’s report [Christina Sutton]
- C. Field Foreman’s report [Oracio Lemus]
- D. Park Supervisor’s report [Pascual Muniz]

13. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEE:

- A. Architectural Committee Report [Thania Garcia]

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and approval of Desert Shores Soccer Park Phase II Grant in the amount of \$250,000.00

Director Johnson motioned to approve with the amendment that the Phase II grass be used to make the soccer field a regulation size field, Director Ramos seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

**President Gilmore- Yes Director Sierra- Yes
Vice President Friese- No Director Johnson- Yes
Director Ramos- Yes**

Motion Passes 4-1

- B. Discussion and approval of the Board to select Imperial County Public Works to assist Salton Community Services District with Desert Shores Soccer Park Phase 2.

Director Johnson motioned to approve Imperial County Public Works to assist Salton Community Services District with Desert Shores Soccer Park Phase 2. Director Ramos seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

**President Gilmore- Yes Director Sierra- Yes
Vice President Friese- No Director Johnson- Yes
Director Ramos- Yes**

Motion Passes 4-1

- C. Discussion and approval to allow the Finance Officer to sign documents for the Phase 2 Desert Shore Soccer Project.

Director Johnson motioned to approve the Finance Officer to sign documents for the Phase 2 Desert Shore Soccer Project. Director Ramos seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

**President Gilmore- Yes Director Sierra- Yes
Vice President Friese- No Director Johnson- Yes
Director Ramos- Yes**

Motion Passes 4-1

15. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion and approval for Halloween movie event at the Salton City Park.

Director Johnson motioned to approve the Halloween movie night. Director Sierra seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

**President Gilmore- Yes Director Sierra- Yes
Vice President Friese- Yes Director Johnson- Yes
Director Ramos- Yes**

Motion Passes 5-0

B. Discussion and approval of amended budget FY 24-25.

Director Johnson motioned to approve the amended budget FY 24-25. Director Ramos seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

**President Gilmore- Yes Director Sierra- Yes
Vice President Friese- Yes Director Johnson- Yes
Director Ramos- Yes**

Motion Passes 5-0

16. Adjournment 3:30 p.m.



Sonia Thania Garcia, Secretary of the Board



Michelle Gilmore, President of the Board

Upon written request, this agenda will be made in an appropriate alternative format to persons with disabilities as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should direct such request to the Secretary of the Board at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any public record relating to an open session agenda item that is distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting is available for public inspection at 1209 Van Buren St, Suite 1, Salton City, California 92275.