RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

4:00 p.m. January 14, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Ramona Municipal Water District will be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 14, 2025 at the **Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant, 260 Sawday Street, Ramona, CA 92065**

The business to be considered and transacted at the meeting will be strictly limited to the following:

1. Call to Order.

2. Public Comment on any Item Described in this Notice.

3. **Informational Item: Completion of Santa Maria Water Reclamation Plant Effluent Transmission Main and Headworks Projects**

   Recommendation: No action required. Item is informational only.

4. Adjourn.

DATED: January 10, 2025

Kellie Barclay

Clerk of the Board
Ramona Municipal Water District

Ramona Municipal Water District in complying with the Americans with disabilities Act (ADA), requests individuals who require specific accommodations to access, attend or participate in the Board Meeting, due to a disability, to please contact the Administrative Services Department prior to the scheduled meeting to ensure that the District may assist you. Telephone: (760) 789-1330; T.D.D.: (760) 789-9497.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING AND MAILING

OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

[GOV. CODE § 54956]

I certify that on Jan. 10, 2025

__X__ I caused a true copy of the attached notice to be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public, as follows, at least 24 hours prior to the time of the Special Meeting as specified in the Notice:

[Address of posting:]

- ✓ Online at www.rmwd.org
- ✓ RMWD District Office, 105 Earlham Street, Ramona, CA 92065
- ✓ Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona, CA 92065
- ✓ Ramona Public Library, 1275 Main Street, Ramona, CA 92065

__✓__ I caused a true copy of the attached notice to be emailed, delivered or faxed to each member of the Board of Directors of the Ramona Municipal Water District at his or her designated email address, mailbox and/or home address at least 24 hours prior to the time of the Special Meeting as specified in the Notice.

__N/A__ I caused a true copy of the attached notice to be mailed or faxed to each of the below-named persons, as follows, including each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or television station requesting notice in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the time of the Special Meeting as specified in the Notice:

______ by deposit in U.S. Mail, in sealed envelope(s) to the addresses shown, with first class postage thereon fully prepaid

______ by facsimile transmission, to the phone numbers shown.

______ by email transmission, to the addresses shown.

Dated: January 10, 2025

By: Kerrie Barclay
Clerk of the Board of Directors
Ramona Municipal Water District

ADDRESSES OF PERSONS RECEIVING NOTICE:

RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

AGENDA MEMO

Agenda Item No. 3
Special Board Meeting of January 14, 2025

President
and Members of the Board of Directors
Ramona, CA 92065

RE: INFORMATIONAL ITEM: COMPLETION OF SANTA MARIA WATER RECLAMATION PLANT EFFLUENT TRANSMISSION MAIN AND HEADWORKS PROJECTS

Members of the Board:

Purpose

To notify the Board of Directors of completion of the Santa Maria Water Reclamation Plant (SMWRP) Effluent Transmission Main and Headworks Projects.

Background

Significant improvements to the SMWRP have been ongoing for the past several years. These improvements have included replacement of the Effluent Transmission Main and Plant Headworks.

The Santa Maria Sewer Service Area (SMSSA) was originally formed by the County of San Diego in 1946. In 1973, the County relocated the treatment plant to its current location, with an initial treatment capacity of 0.5 million gallons per day (mgd). In 1981, the Ramona Municipal Water District (District) took over ownership of the SMWRP. Original plant design included 2 small secondary clarifiers (Nos. 1 & 2), one large secondary clarifier (No. 3) and made future provisions for a second large secondary clarifier (No. 4), which has been constructed and in operation. In 1986, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) mandated upgrade of the SMWRP to a capacity of 0.60 mgd. In 1995, the RWQCB approved expansion of the SMWRP to a capacity of 1.0 mgd. The RWQCB issued its latest order in 2000 authorizing a 1.0 mgd dry weather effluent flow for the SMWRP. In 2013 and again in 2018, the Board adopted a five-year SMWRP Facilities Plan, which included the two projects referenced.

Effluent Transmission Main: The existing Effluent Transmission Main is 14-inches in diameter and can only convey flow via gravity due to the age and type of material. The size of this pipeline and the inability to pump into the line limited what flows could be transferred from the SMWRP to the storage ponds at Rangeland Road and risked a potential effluent spill at SMWRP.

Upgrading the 14-inch line to a 20-inch line, also known as the "Effluent Transmission Main" project, was listed as the second highest priority project in the Facilities Plan. In July 2017, the Board approved the FY 2017/2018 Operating Budget which included funds to complete design and construction of the Effluent Transmission Main (Fund 25, Page 41, Line 24). In January 2018, the Board authorized award of the project to Downing Construction, Inc. for $4,472,430.

Due to delays in environmental permitting, this project was put on hold from 2018 through summer 2022. In November 2022, the Board reauthorized construction of the project in November 2022 and approved a change order of approximately $0.5 million for the project.

<u>SMWRP Headworks</u>: The existing SMWRP influent pump station was a below grade, package pump station, with a dry well/wet well configuration. The pump station had reached the end of its useful life. The pump station experienced ongoing water infiltration as a result of severe corrosion, allowing water to contact electrical components of the station. The condition resulted in hazardous conditions for operations staff during normal operation and maintenance. The existing pump station also had ongoing challenges with rags, flushable wipes, and other materials typically found in the wastewater, resulting is regular clogging of the pumps. The below grade design created a confined space challenge for operations staff, further complicating operation, and maintenance activities.

The SMWRP did not originally have preliminary treatment facilities to protect downstream equipment and processes. As a result, rags, flushable wipes, floating debris, grit, and other materials were regularly deposited throughout the treatment plant, causing increased operation, maintenance, and process control issues. For example, rags that passed through the influent pump station were tributary to the flow equalization tanks. The rags would wrap around the aeration equipment, requiring operations staff to take those tanks out of service to clear the rags from the equipment. Grit would collect in the equalization tanks, as well as the various pipelines and channels throughout the plant, requiring shutdown and cleaning. These unwanted materials were deposited in the aeration basins, decreasing tank volume, and impacting treatment efficiency and operations.

In July 2018, the Board accepted an updated SMWRP Facilities Plan. The SMWRP Headworks Project was listed as the third highest priority of that Facilities Plan. The main components of the Headworks Project included installation of new screenings and grit removal facilities, demolition of the existing influent pump station, installation of a new influent pump station, moving and replacing the existing influent sewer away from an easement on private property, and construction of associated plant water, electrical and grading improvements. The project was awarded to GSE Construction Company, Inc. for $6,823,900.

<u>Discussion</u>
With the completion of these two major improvement projects, operation, and maintenance of the SMWRP has been improved to:

1. Provide new influent pumping facilities that eliminate clogging challenges, while decreasing odor nuisances to the neighboring community.
2. Remove the influent sewer from an easement on private property, relocating it to existing District property.
3. Provide new screening and grit removal facilities to protect plant processes.
4. Provide operational functionality for extreme weather conditions, as well as potential future increases in tributary flow.
5. Increased operational capacity to convey treated effluent to the existing Santa Maria Tertiary Treatment Facility for recycled water production, as well as the Rangeland Road spray fields for effluent disposal and ponds for storage. The original Effluent Transmission pipeline was preserved for potential future uses.

Fiscal Impact
Not applicable.

Recommendation
No action required. Item is informational only.

Prepared by: Michael Metts, PE, District Engineer

Submitted by: Erica Wolski, PE, General Manager EW