

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

6425 Main Street,
Georgetown, California 95634

Teleconference Location
1122 CA-41
Fish Camp, CA 93623

**Friday, October 18, 2024
9:30 A. M.**

Board of Directors

Mitch MacDonald, President

Donna Seaman, Vice President

Mike Thornbrough, Treasurer

Michael Saunders, Director

Robert Stovall, Director

Presenting Staff

Nicholas Schneider, General Manager Adam Brown, Operations Manager
Frank Splendorio, General Counsel

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the purpose of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District to:

- Provide reliable water supplies.
- Ensure high-quality drinking water.
- Promote stewardship to protect community resources, public health, and quality of life.
- Provide excellent and responsive customer services through dedicated and valued staff.
- Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability are observed by balancing immediate and long-term needs.

A full record of this meeting is available on the District channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdbIRsTjJKo&t=1235s>

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President MacDonald called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Stovall, Seaman, Thornbrough, and MacDonald

Teleconference: Saunders

Absent: None

Director Seaman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. SPECIAL MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

No public comments were received.

3. PROPOSITION 218 FAQ RATE SETTING MAILER DISCUSSION

The Directors reviewed the mailer and identified amendments for staff to implement.

Recess taken at 11:00 a.m. to 11:20 am

Recess taken at 1:00 p.m. to 1:17 pm

Director Seaman departed at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Steve Proe

Cherie Carlyon

Direction Provided to Staff for Future Actions:

Director Thornbrough requested an agenda item during the November regular Board meeting to further review the GDPUD Cost of Service Analysis and Water and Wastewater Rate proposals.

Director Stovall requested that the Finance Committee review the operating budget and audit to develop recommendations for the Board of Directors.

Public Comment for Closed Session:

Steven Proe

President MacDonald adjourned the open session to a closed session at 1:38 p.m.

4. CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9(d)(2): 1 case

B. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION-There was no report out of closed session.

President MacDonald adjourned the closed session to an open session at 2:00 p.m.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

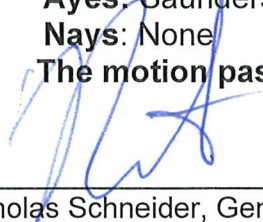
Director Thornbrough motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Stovall seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 2:01 p.m.



Nicholas Schneider, General Manager



Date

Attachments:

1. Director Stovall's Personal Statement

Comment from GDPUD Board of Directors Member Robert Stovall

As opposed to looking at the Cost-of-Service study as an increase in rates, Board Member Robert Stovall believes that it should be looked at like a Cost-of-Living Adjustment. My retirement payment from Social Security has increased 20.6% percent over that past 5 years.¹ I don't perceive this as raise but just as an attempt to catch up with the increase in the cost of living. It doesn't even come close to the increase cost of my PG&E bill. This increase simply shows that there has been a decrease in the buying power of the dollar. The District is also faced with this decrease in the buying power of the dollar and needs a Cost-of-Living Adjustment.

In 2017, there was a Cost-of-Service study which provided the District Board of Directors the authority to adjust rates by 5% a year after the initial increase in rates². The Board elected to not increase the rates after the first year for a number of reasons, including but not limited to an increase in revenue of \$600,000 from a water transfer and \$3.5 million in grants which helped with Capital Improvement Projects.

The Cost-of-Service Study proposed rate increase does not take into account the potential for increased revenue from 1.) grants, 2.) water transfers, 3.) potential PG&E litigation settlement, and 4.) possible revenue from hydro generation. Just because the Cost-of-Service Study states the need to increase rates, does not mean that the Board of Directors will increase rates. As the Board has in the past, I expect that Board will look at the potential for increased revenue to replace the need for drastic increases in rates.

I urge you to not submit the enclosed card to reject the Cost-of-Service Study and accept that the costs to provide reliable water supplies and providing for immediate long-term needs have increased. It just common sense.

Respectfully,
Robert Stovall, Member of the GDPUD Board of Directors

¹ <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/colaseries.html>

² <https://www.gdpud.org/files/7ad4a5167/2017+RCAC+Cost+of+Service+Study.pdf>