

**SIX HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
EL DORADO HILLS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

The six hundred twenty eighth meeting of the Board of Directors of the El Dorado Hills County Water District was held on Wednesday, November 21, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., at the regular meeting place of the District, the District Office, 1050 Wilson Blvd., El Dorado Hills, California. Present were Directors Durante, Hidahl, Hartley, and Knight with President Hidahl presiding. Counsel Mike Cook was in attendance. (Director Thomsen was absent.) Chief Veerkamp, Chief Planje and Chief Financial Officer Bair were also in attendance along with many other staff members.

President Hidahl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He congratulated Director Knight on winning the seat on the Board of Supervisors.

The Board Policy Manual was discussed. President Hidahl posed the question of what ability the Board has if a Board Member violates a policy. He asked the Board if they would like to have a new policy statement regarding consequences if a Board Member violates policy. It was noted that there are statutes that could result in automatic removal for serious offenses and statutes that govern a Brown Act violation. President Hidahl stated that the question is more related to determining if a Board Member has violated District Policy.

Counsel Cook stated that there are protocols among the Board Members themselves. He stated that Board Members themselves can set up an agreed upon system. It was agreed that this should be put in place as a policy in advance of any situation or issue.

President Hidahl referred this item to Committee to review and evaluate. The Committee would be Directors Hartley and Hidahl.

President Hidahl stated that there was some confusion on a Board Member acting as a volunteer and what exactly is a volunteer. President Hidahl stated that there was some

terminology for active versus inactive volunteer that was being used. Jeff Genovese, the President of the El Dorado Hills Firefighters' Association, stated that all staff members and Board members are members of the Association but not all members are volunteers responding to incidents. It was decided that the Association would make a presentation at the regular December Board meeting.

*A break was taken from 9:37 to 9:47 a.m.*

President Hidahl called the Strategic Planning Session to order and stated that this type of meeting had been held for at least fifteen years. At this meeting, he stated that the Board looks at what the future may hold for the District, our financial goals, and how we prepare for the future. He stated that everyone is given an opportunity to share ideas and perspectives.

Counsel Cook gave a legislative update and reminded the Board of their duties and responsibilities. He reminded the Board of the Brown Act. He stated that a Board member could talk to one other Board member on a subject, but not two Board Members. He stated that Board members could talk to the Chief, Chief Financial Officer, or himself but there were penalties if they talked amongst themselves. He stated that the Board should never show up at a meeting knowing what a vote will be. Regarding Conflict of Interest, Counsel Cook stated that the Board is required to fill out Form 700 and Form 470. He also stated that the Board Policy Manual recently adopted was a good step to formalize procedure. Section 8 of the Board Policy Manual makes a distinction between policy making and actual operations and spells out the protocols and chain of command. Counsel Cook reminded the Board of the protections and immunities they are entitled to when they follow the policy in Section 8. He stated that the Board's primary responsibility is the financial health and well being of the District.

The question was asked from Staff, if a Board member appears to be getting into operational issues, whose responsibility is it to stop it? Counsel Cook stated that it was probably the Chief's responsibility.

Chief Veerkamp had a short slide show presentation from the fire in Santa Barbara. He stated that the area is similar to El Dorado Hills in many ways.

The Five Year Plan was reviewed and discussed. The plan will be updated for the reduction in residential growth, facilities, and revenue.

The 2008 Goals were reviewed. The Goals that were not completed will be continued. The Goals to be continued are Goal 3, the Training Facility; Goal 4, Personnel Master Plan; Goal 5, Facility Master Plan to include Station 84; Goal 6, explore options for annexation, consolidations and contracts for service.

*A break was taken from 11:07 to 11:20 a.m.*

The progress on the Training Facility was discussed. A permit may still be required from the Army Corps of Engineers. The easement has been reduced in width. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

The Strengths and Weaknesses for 2007 were reviewed. Strengths listed were finance, support of community, personnel, teamwork, facilities, equipment, volunteer program, multi-agency/political system, leader in the fire service, board forecast/vision, supportive board, socio-economic stakes/demographics, professionalism, customer service, influence, growth potential, good business base, core value project, labor/management relations, honor guard, diversity, progressive, funding for training, prevention, and ISO rating.

Weaknesses listed were lack of direction (where are we headed), communications, compression of transition, relationships with dispatch and technology, growth threatening volunteer program, finance stature-complacency, program completion/development, interior audit of organization, lack of experience in jobs-depth of service, community awareness/preparedness/wildland interface, lack of preparedness/pandemic flu, major event preparation, risk analysis, public involvement-newspaper, demographics, community affairs, and limited growth potential.

Chief Veerkamp asked for Strengths that could be added to the list. The strength identified was the mentorship to the volunteers. It was requested to add Multi Agency Political System to the strength list and weakness list. Other weaknesses removed were growth threatening the volunteers and demographics of the area. Weaknesses added were community awareness, website, public information officer/emergency communications, career advancement/direction and human resources support.

Chief Veerkamp reviewed Opportunities, Issues and Concerns.

Solar Power was discussed. This is in process with a Request for Proposal to be sent out soon to the vendors.

The State of the Economy is a concern. The County is projecting 0-2% growth for 2009/10. It was decided to chart the Economy in three categories: how the District could save money; how the District could raise revenue; and how the District could value buy or take advantage of the economy.

In the category of save money, it was suggested to prioritize needs on a 1-5 scale program, reduce overtime, reorganization of Department, review Training Facility, review Station 84, review apparatus replacement, and evaluate programs.

In the category of raise revenue, plan check fees were suggested along with other fee schedules.

Chief Veerkamp opened the meeting for ideas of opportunities, issues and concerns. Items suggested were: save water, a formalized program for a public information officer, vacant lot ordinance expanded, and vehicle maintenance mechanic.

Chief Veerkamp set to vote the items discussed. The items weighted the highest were the economy, human resources support, vehicle maintenance, and going green. He stated that the Prevention Bureau would be tasked with Wildland Interface and the Public Information Officer would be dealt with internally.

Chief Veerkamp stated that staff would develop action plans and get back to the Board at the January meeting.

Director Knight moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Hartley and unanimously carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Approved:

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John Hidahl, President

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Connie Bair, Board Secretary