



**Date:** June 17, 2019

**Subject:** **General Manager Report**

**Staff Contact:** Timothy R. Shaw, General Manager

For the given month, I participated in the following reoccurring meetings and special events: The final drafting for execution of the MOU (signing) entailed cleaning up the document. We eliminated typos and formatted to be a true outline format with a hyperlinked table of contents. This involved a considerable effort. The previous document “pretended” to be an outline format, all of the article and section numbers were manually typed in. All of the justification and indents were manual via using the number of leading space bar hits to force alignment. The document may have looked okay in hardcopy, but if modifications are necessary, it falls apart rapidly. This month I also was substantively occupied by the selection process to fill the vacant Distribution System Operator position. The absence of any other District confidential or HR type employee leaves the primary responsibilities and tasks in my hands.

1. On May 28th, I met with the GMs of eight water agencies in our region. We are close to finalizing an RFQ to select a consulting firm to evaluate the feasibility of all forms of consolidation and inter-agency cooperation. I anticipate bringing a draft RFQ to the July Executive Committee for discussion.
2. On June 4th, Pat, Chris and I interviewed eight applicants for the vacant Distribution System Operator 1 position. One of the applicants did not report for his scheduled interview. We received nine applications. Only two of the applicants had any Distribution Operator experience. Only one candidate has the required state operator license AND experience.
3. On June 7th, I phoned the most qualified applicant based on panel scoring. I conveyed a conditional offer of employment (subject to background check and pre-employment physical) to the applicant. The applicant declined the offer based on the level of compensation relative to what he is making in his current employment as a Distribution Operator. I then made a conditional offer of employment to the second highest scored applicant, who accepted the offer. We have begun the pre-employment screening process.
4. On June 7<sup>th</sup> (afternoon), I participated in a telephone call with Barbara Brenner and Kerry Fuller or Churchwell White. Barbara will not be attending the June 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, so the nature of the call was to prepare Ms. Fuller to serve as District Legal Counsel for this meeting.

5. On June 11th, I met with 6 GMs from water agencies within our region. Del Paso Manor and Orangevale Mutual have dropped out of the group. More aspects regarding Del Paso Manor are covered below. Orangevale dropped out because they are a privately-owned water agency, i.e. governance is an entirely different world for a mutual water company
6. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Regional Water Authority regular Board meeting. Details of the meeting are provided in a separate report
7. On June 13<sup>th</sup> (afternoon), the entire staff was trained on the new office digital phone system. The phone system enabled a \$212 per month reduction in our Comcast bill. The net savings to the District will pay for the upgrade in less than 5-years.

Other initiatives in progress are:

Early this month I learned of a dramatic change at a neighboring water agency, Del Paso Manor. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, three of the four agency employees resigned including the General Manager and Operations Superintendent. The immediate impact entailed emergency Board meetings and emergency interim appointments. Sacramento Suburban stepped up to assist in the crisis by providing billing services and operational augmentation. The minutes of the meetings (posted on the Del Paso website) surrounding the crisis are well worth the read.

I also attended (with the District Engineer) the stakeholders' workshops on minimum water efficiency (SB-606) and another workshop on maximum water loss (SB-555). The essence of both these workshops is entering the penalty phase (fines and reporting requirements) of these new laws. The state does not seem to have learned enough from the drought emergency rulemaking, i.e. the state continues to assume one size fits all. The substantive new requirements of these new laws are sized for larger water agencies with greater resources.

Subsequent to the June 7<sup>th</sup> call with Barbara and Kerry (Legal Counsel) I've continued to coordinate and inform Kerry on developing issues with the agenda and items anticipated to manifest at the June 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.