SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-A**

FROM: Ed Fortner, General Manager

Meeting Date: February 6, 2020

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/ACTION RE INTERVIEWS AND APPOINTMENT FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR RESIGNED BOARD MEMBER PIP MARQUEZ DE LA PLATA

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consider two applicants for appointment to the vacant District Board Director position. Appoint one of the candidates and seat that person for the remainder of the February Board meeting to serve until the seat expires in November of 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

DISCUSSION:

The District received two application letters from Brenda Adelman and Larry Spilane for the open Sweetwater Springs Board Director position. Below are the letters of interest and background for each of the two candidates for the Board's consideration. We recommend the Board appoint one of the candidates and seat them for the regular February Board meeting.

Ed Fortner, General Manager
Hello, Mr. Fortner,

I'm writing this letter to introduce myself as a potential temporary Board replacement for Pip Marquez de la Plata. I know Pip well from our Friends of Rio Nido association and I am looking to help him lessen the load he has taken on volunteering in the community.

I was also contacted by Rich Holmer who was kind enough to give me an overview of the content and responsibilities of participating on the Board.

I was formerly the Superintendent of Maintenance at Wastewater Division of San Francisco's Public Utility Commission. I retired in 2013, but I still remain interested in the environment and world of water delivery and treatment. Although I spent 20 years in Wastewater, I also served as a Maintenance Planner at our Water Division for 4 years. I was deeply involved in the budgeting, accounting and capital improvement projects at the Water Division from Hetch Hetchy to City Distribution and our suburban distribution in the Central Valley, East Bay and Peninsula locations. We were also in the process of installing a number of high tech monitoring and control devices as watershed, pump station and pipeline security became a heightened issue in the early 2000's.

In the Wastewater Division as Superintendent I also participated in monthly meetings with our neighbors and constituents to keep the public informed of our projects and operations. I participated as well in many other meetings with our managers and PUC members so they would be equally aware of how our Division was performing.

I'm also a customer in Rio Nido and I enjoy reading all your communications including the test results for water and your capital projects. I've also gotten a good idea of your well systems from your website in Guerneville and Monte Rio. I've been very pleased with your contact with the community.

I look forward to hearing from you so I can assist Pip in his transition to a number of other responsibilities he is involved in at this time.

Thank you.
Larry Spillane
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Guerneville, CA 95446
415-728-1611
speelane@gmail.com

Ed:

I was recently communicating with Sukey about another matter and she wondered if I knew anyone who is in Sweetwater's District and might be interested in being on your Board. She asked me to spread the word. I thought it over, and before putting the word out, I responded to Sukey that I may be interested. We later had a long discussion about what the position involved and I told her that I would be interested in trying it out for the year to see whether it is a good fit for me and other Sweetwater Board members. (If so, I would then apply for a full term appointment.) Sukey was very supportive of my being on the Board and I agreed to write you a brief letter of interest.

I met you briefly at the last Citizens Advisory Group (CAG), set up to help resolve septic system issues to comply with the Bacteria TMDL recently adopted by the North Coast Regional Board. (I am a member of the group.) As chair of Russian River Watershed Protection Committee, this is an issue we have been concerned about for many years. While our concerns have mostly centered on wastewater issues, which included being around for the construction of the Russian River County Sanitation District treatment system, we also had many concerns about Santa Rosa's Subregional Treatment Plant's discharges into the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Russian River, and a keen interest in the Biological Opinion and requirements by National Marine Fisheries Service to lower summer flows into the river. The Sonoma County Water Agency currently is planning to re-release the EIR for that project document this year, on orders from the State and Regional Water Boards.

RRWPC knows a lot about the water history of the lower river and I believe my participation could provide informational resources to Sweetwater that it does not currently have. Furthermore, we know many of the current and former key players who have shaped the water history of this area. For many years I wrote about water and wastewater concerns in our local newspapers and I would be happy to sit down and talk to you and/or other board members if this would be helpful. It is best to contact me by email (noted below).

Sincerely,

Brenda Adelman

PS: I have a BS from University of Wisconsin and an MA from Northwestern University. I do not have formal technical, scientific, or legal training and what knowledge I have in those areas is self taught. Nevertheless, others tell me I know a great deal. I live in Rio Nido and have been in the same house for 41 years.

One more thing: I have won about ten awards for my work, two of which I am most proud of. In 1999 I was elected by the Press Democrat as one of the most influential citizens of the 20th Century in Sonoma County and my picture is included with 49 others on the side of the Press Democrat building. Then last year I was awarded the Water Quality Stewardship Award by the Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Sonoma County Gazette wrote an article on this in the March, 2019 issue entitled "Honoring Defender and Protector" (Page 1) The other awards are listed on our website under "About Us".

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