

Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency

Special Board Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City, CA 92314

1. Call to Order

A Special Meeting of the Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency was called to order by Chair Miller at 10:00 a.m. on January 20, 2025 at 121 Palomino Drive, Big Bear City, California.

Board Members Present: Jim Miller, Chair; Rick Herrick, Vice-Chair; John Russo, Director; Kendi Segovia, Director; and Larry Walsh, Director

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: David Lawrence, General Manager; Christine Bennett, Finance Manager; Bridgette Burton, Administrative Services Manager/Board Secretary; Sonja Kawa, Human Resources Coordinator/Accounting Technician; and John Shimmin, Plant Manager

Others: Glenn Jacklin, General Manager, Big Bear City Community Services District; and Sean Sullivan, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works, City of Big Bear Lake

Members of the public who signed in: Daniel Gulbranson, Big Bear Lake; Jess Madison, Big Bear City; and Jo Rowe, Big Bear City

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Director Segovia

3. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Director Segovia, seconded by Vice-Chair Herrick and carried, the Governing Board approved the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Herrick, Russo, Segovia, Walsh, Miller

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

4. Public Forum

The Administrative Services Manager read a letter Michael Meyer had submitted via email. Mr. Meyer raised concerns about rate changes, questioning whether any adjustments would result in rate decreases or a budget surplus, and emphasized the importance of equitable billing practices, proposing potential solutions such as effluent metering, water meter measurement adjustments, and using bed nights or other data to more accurately estimate sewer effluent based on property usage.

Tom Sitton commented on a recent study revealing vast amounts of water trapped deep beneath the Earth's surface and criticized the control of water resources, smart meters, and the influence of corporate law, stating that the U.S. is transitioning back to a republic. He also called for transparent accounting of BBARWA's spending over the past decade and questioned where the money is going.

Daniel Gulbranson commented on the lack of fire prevention efforts and expressed frustration with the burden of increasing taxes on residents.

Tim Wolcott explained that the military uses a system called "Sledge and Hammer" to monitor public officials and track all financial transactions, warning that everything is being watched and stressing the need to return power to the people under the original U.S. Constitution.

5. New Business – Discussion/Action Items

5.A. DISCUSSION ONLY - Equivalent Dwelling Unit Calculation and Total Annual Charge Methodology

The General Manager introduced the Member Agency Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) allocation method and BBARWA's Total Annual Charge methodology, along with potential changes to each calculation.

The Governing Board discussed the challenges of accurately determining sewer charges, highlighting the high costs of installing meters, with estimates reaching millions of dollars for both the City of Big Bear Lake and the Big Bear City Community Services District (CSD). The Governing Board addressed the issue of varying household sizes and usage, questioning whether the current system of charging based on square footage or fixtures reflects actual system impact. The Governing Board clarified the process for EDU reporting and when connection fees are received.

Sean Sullivan, City of Big Bear Lake Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works advised the Governing Board how the City of Big Bear Lake calculates an EDU for motels. One EDU is applied for three rooms plus additional EDUs if there is a kitchen or meeting facility.

The Governing Board discussed the issue of infiltration and inflow (I&I) in the sewer system, noting past efforts. Concerns were raised about the impact of large homes and fluctuating tourist numbers on system capacity.

Director Russo left the meeting at 11:03 a.m. and returned at 11:04 a.m.

Daniel Gulbranson commented on government actions, unfairly burdening taxpayers, and wasteful spending.

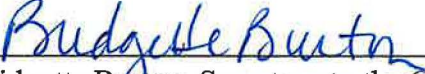
Upon motion by Vice-Chair Herrick, seconded by Director Walsh and carried, the Governing Board directed staff to present the fixed and variable rate items annually during the budget process.

Ayes: Herrick, Russo, Segovia, Walsh, Miller
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

6. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Governing Board, Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Attest:



Bridgette Burton, Secretary to the Governing Board
Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency