

**BIG BEAR AREA REGIONAL WASTEWATER AGENCY**

Special Board Meeting

July 30, 2020

at

5:00 p.m.

Due to Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20, there will be no physical location for members of the public to participate. Members of the public may listen and provide public comments telephonically during the Public Forum (Item 8).

The public may participate in this meeting by:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97309410151?pwd=NDhvd3dIK24rYUpzOC9mcFNwamxkdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 0941 0151

Passcode: BBARWA121

Dial by your location:

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 973 0941 0151

Passcode: 752343563

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abLMPIHAAK>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4. **PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION**
5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**  
None
6. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**
7. **PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSE**  
None
8. **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Public Forum portion of the meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Governing Board on matters within the jurisdiction of this Agency. Ordinance No. 57 limits individual public testimony to three minutes or less. The cumulative time that an individual may provide public testimony during a meeting is

fifteen minutes, and the public testimony shall be limited to thirty minutes for all speakers. Whenever a group of persons wishes to address the Governing Board on the same item, the Chair or the Governing Board by majority vote may request a spokesperson be chosen for the group or limit the number of such persons addressing the Governing Board. Since the discussion of an item not on the posted agenda is not allowed, these concerns may be addressed in a future meeting under “Public Forum Response.”

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

10.A. BBARWA Solar Project – Environmental Studies and Grading Work – Discussion and Possible Action

11. **INFORMATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if you need special assistance to participate in an Agency meeting or other services offered by the Agency, please contact Bridgette Burton, Management Analyst, at (909) 584-4524. **Please address requests under the ADA for reasonable modification and accommodation related to the implementation of Executive Order N-29-20 to Bridgette Burton.** Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or time when services are needed will assist the Agency staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting or service.

Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on this agenda are on file in the office of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency and are available for public inspection during normal business hours.

Visit [www.bbarwa.org](http://www.bbarwa.org) to view and/or print the Agenda Package.



Big Bear Area Regional  
Wastewater Agency  
*John Green – Chair*  
*Jim Miller – Vice Chair*  
*Karyn Oxandaboure – Secretary*  
*David Caretto – Director*  
*Rick Herrick– Director*

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## **AGENDA ITEM: 10.A.**

**MEETING DATE:** July 30, 2020

**TO:** Governing Board of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency

**FROM:** David Lawrence, P.E., General Manager

**REVIEWED BY:** Jennifer McCullar, Finance Manager

**SUBJECT:** BBARWA Solar Project – Environmental Studies and Grading Work

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the December 4, 2019 Special Meeting, the Governing Board authorized staff to proceed with the BBARWA Solar Project (Project) and to enter into a purchase power agreement with DS Energy, understanding that once the Agency's NEM Tariff was approved by the CPUC, the Governing Board would need to authorize the environmental studies and Pond 5 grading work associated with the Project.

The Project will include a 1.676 MW DC ground-mounted and carport photovoltaic solar power generation system. The equipment is sized to cover 100% of the Agency's demand during an average dry weather year and has been determined based on historical experience. The equipment will be placed in multiple locations totaling 1.7 acres of BBARWA property. Solar panels will be installed at the treatment plant including the Pond 5 location, on the east side of Palomino Drive, and as a carport array in the Administration Parking Lot. Pond 5 is used occasionally as a drying pond and will need to be filled and compacted (Grading Work) prior to the solar panel installation.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The NEM Tariff recently was approved by the CPUC and the Project can now proceed. Tom Dodson & Associates has prepared a proposal to complete the environmental studies in the amount of \$28,500. The time estimate for completion of the environmental studies is 90-120 days.

The estimated cost of the Grading Work is \$275,000 and will need to be formally bid and advertised. Once the formal bid process is complete, a recommendation will be made to the Governing Board for the contract award.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The switch from generator power to solar power is estimated to yield average annual savings of \$164,000. The estimated net present value of the Project is approximately \$2.6 million over the 25-year life of the Project. The Agency is projected to have adequate funds available for the initial

costs associated with the Project of \$303,500 (\$28,500 environmental studies, \$275,000 Grading Work).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Appropriate \$28,500 for the Project environmental studies; and
2. Authorize the General Manager to proceed with the notice inviting bids for the Pond 5 Grading Work.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Tom Dodson & Associates Proposal

# TOM DODSON & ASSOCIATES

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*Mailing Address:* PO Box 2307, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2307

*Physical Address:* 2150 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92405

*Tel:* (909) 882-3612 ♦ *Fax:* (909) 882-7015 ♦ *Email:* [tda@tdaenv.com](mailto:tda@tdaenv.com)



September 23, 2019

Mr. David Lawrence  
Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency  
General Manager  
P.O. Box 517  
122 Palomino Drive  
Big Bear City, CA 92314

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

At the request of the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (Agency) I carefully evaluated the options for complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the installation of several acres of a solar photovoltaic electricity generation project at the Agency's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) located on the eastern edge of Baldwin Dry Lakebed. I was seeking a CEQA processing option that would not require the preparation and processing of an Initial Study for this energy conservation project. However, I did not find an exemption or other CEQA compliance process that could eliminate the standard Initial Study and Negative Declaration process.

Give this conclusion, the following proposal outlines the work effort required to complete CEQA to support installation and operation of the solar facilities within the approximate three-acre area identified on the area photo that you recently sent for my review. The following is a Checklist compilation of the environmental issues that must be addressed. For the time being the technical study costs are estimates subject to finalization with my subconsultants:

1. Aesthetics: no technical study (visual simulations); fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation
2. Agricultural/Timber Resources: no technical study; fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation
3. Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG), Climate Change: \$5,500 technical study
4. Biology: We propose to have Jericho Systems prepare a short bio letter for the project \$2,000
5. Cultural: technical study, \$2,500
6. Geology/Soils: technical study, to be supplied by the District
7. GHG, see above
8. Hazards: no technical study; fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation
9. Hydrology/Water Quality: it is assumed the District will have the hydrology data prepared and provide a list of typical BMPs that will be used during construction (SWPPP)
10. Land Use/Planning: The fee for this effort is included in the TDA Initial Study preparation fee outlined below.
11. Mineral Resources: No technical study needed. Fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation
12. Noise: do not plan on a formal noise technical study; fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation.
13. Population and Housing: Fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation

14. Public Services: No technical study needed. Fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation
15. Recreation: No technical study needed. Fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation
16. Traffic/Circulation: Assume a limited traffic memorandum will be prepared for construction traffic for a fee of \$3,500.
17. Tribal Cultural Resources: This issue will be addressed by the cultural study and the AB 52 process carried out by the District with TDA support.
18. Utilities and Service Systems: No technical studies required. Fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation
19. Energy: This is a new topic in the Checklist and we recommend an evaluation as part of the TDA Initial Study preparation.
20. Wildfires: No technical study needed. Fee included in the TDA Initial Study preparation

Fee for the technical studies identified in the preceding proposal: \$13,500 which includes the all referenced studies.

Fee for preparing the Initial Study: \$12,000

Fee for processing the Initial Study to a final package for consideration by the District Board: \$3,000

Total Fee: **\$28,500** (does not include NOD filing fee of \$2,405)

Please note that all of the technical studies will be prepared to a quality that can be used in processing an EIR if necessary. A separate fee will be submitted if an EIR is deemed necessary by the District.

This document summarizes the work effort and if you concur, we are ready to implement upon the District providing authorization and a site plan for the solar facilities. Give me a call if any questions or to discuss in more detail.

Sincerely,



Tom Dodson

TD/cmc