

**Del Rey Community Services District
Minutes of the
Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting
July 17, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

President Ramirez called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

A-1 Roll Call:

Directors present: Daniel Ramirez, Joaquin Nunez, Stephanie Garza, Maria Cisneros

Directors absent: N/A

A-2 The Board leads in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A-3 Approval of Agenda:

District Manager Arias requests to allow public comment before going into closed session. Legal Counsel Linden clarifies public comment is for the closed session item. Garza made a motion to approve the agenda with the change. Cisneros seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Garza, Cisneros. All Absent; none absent. Motion passed.

Public member Rinaldo Reyna states there are 3 people for the position. People that owe money are responsible for the increase in the rate study. He found out that one person that is up for the position owes quite a bit of money and he is disappointed. It is appalling that someone running for District Manager can't manage their home. He asks if there is a credit check or background. Public member Donna Reyna, a resident since 1980, asks if the allegations are true. DM Arias states he has no comment. She states Maria is one applying for the position, she knows Olga and all who applied. She believes all are qualified for the position, but the education shouldn't be the only thing considered, they should look at the character. Maria has helped the community in regard to finding grants. There is a lot to be said about Maria and all who applied, but the Board should consider who truly cares for the community. DM Arias translates for public member Santillan from CRLA. She asks if someone outside the boundaries of the District is qualified to be on the Board a few sessions ago and hasn't gotten a response. DM Arias translates for public member Juana doesn't believe it's fair that the District owes a lot of money, and that one person applying for the job owes a lot of money. Public member Donna Reyna asks if this is public record. DM Arias responds not the addresses, but the APNs are. Public member Fonseca believes the town should vote for the next District Manager, not just the Board. Public member Maria Reyna states she knows she owes an outstanding bill, but she is human. She explains that she has spent the last 10 years taking care of her grandma. There are over 100 accounts that owe, not just her. This shouldn't be a public matter; this is not a part of the requirement to get any job. She has done many things for this District. If possible she would like the opportunity to address the Board on how she plans to pay her bill. When she realized a former District Manager embezzled \$90,000, she brought it to the Board's attention. Public member Sebastian, many know him as Juan Antonio, is one of those that applied for the position. He came to introduce himself to the Board. He would like to spend a couple minutes to explain why he is interested in the position and to give a little on his background. He has background in business and corporate consulting for the past 10 years. He has managed budgets ranging from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 across various projects in government and public space. He has worked in heavily regulated spaces where private sectors and government where city, county, and state have to interact. Although he doesn't have a lot of experience with the water, he has a lot of experience managing budgets and Board management - how to get

Board's more engaged, how to be more effective, and has been a community organizer for many years. He is currently apart of nonprofits, Del Rey Alumni and other organizations pertaining to the community. He would like to end with three things to remember him by: he has a lot of experience managing budgets, and cares about this town and the opportunity to better it. Public member Olga Amaya Silva states three people have applied for the position - one is her son, her sister, and Maria who she has known for a long time. There has been a history of embezzlement in the past, and regarding the money one of the applicants owes, the people who apply shouldn't have that. Public member 1 asked how could we take someone who owes the town? We need someone who can lift us. We have to do things right, so the town can grow. If we don't do it as a town, who will do it? It's time to wake up. Public member Eloisa Caulk states she was in the service. Last year she came back because her dad is sick, and she came to help. She has some experience working with reviewing and approving blue prints. She is prior service, so she has experience, not in the water part, but in the other parts. She would really like this position and believes she would be able to help the community. She has lived in small cities and towns, so she knows what this job entails. She was a manager for over 20 years, supervising over 100 people, pertaining to finances and various aspects. Public member Fonseca states she is happy to see more people at the meeting. Public member from CRLA asks is this is public comment for closed session only or in general. President Ramirez responds it is only for the closed session item.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board went into closed session at 7:44 p.m.

Government Code section 54957

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Title: General Manager

The Board returns from closed session at 8:16 p.m.

Report from Closed Session: Legal Counsel Linden states there were no reportable actions.

OPEN SESSION:

B. Scheduled and Unscheduled Communications:

Public member Joey Lopez, who works with the Boys and Girls Club, asks the Board to look into how to bring a peace officer or sheriff hub back into town. It would benefit the town. He knows they do their drive arounds, but believes if the residents see persistent surveillance, it will encourage the community to do better. Public member Leticia from CRLA wants to talk about the delinquent fees to be placed on the tax roll. CRLA is requesting a transparent and inclusive process - adequate time, send notices to every person, and inform the public of the economic impact on all entities. The list included smaller businesses and smaller community. They want transparency that there can be a lean on their homes, and the residents should be aware of that and the consequences. Requesting a board to pay those fees and separate meetings that are informational and another that is decision making. In August there is a scheduled one for both, but they are requesting to separate them. She asks the length of the numbers on the list, if the list was posted on the website and if so what website. DM Arias responds it will be posted on Del Rey's website. Public member Yolanda Reyna asks what was stated and for clarification. DM Arias explains the idea is to put it on the tax roll, not the property. A public member asks who pays for the water at the park. DM Arias responds that the District does and informs the public he is in the office for any questions and clarification. Public member Olga Amaya Silva asks if the property owners or tenants would be held responsible as there are times tenants don't pay their bill.

DM Arias explains that is why last year he required having the property owner plus the renter on the account in order to allow awareness to the owner.

C. Consent Calendar:

C-1 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – June 2025, a Total Amount of \$125,423.25.

C-2 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – July 9, 2025, a Total Amount \$71,782.50.

C-3 Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

C-4 Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2025, Special Board Meeting.

President Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. Garza makes a motion to approve items C-1 to C-4. Nunez seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Garza, Cisneros. All Absent; none absent. Motion passed.

D. Public Hearings (Discussion And Action Items):

D-1 Action/Consideration to place cameras at the park, the District Office, and the Wastewater Plant. Arias brought this because they have been having issues at the plant and the park and would like to monitor movement in those areas. Brought this to the Board because he wants to make sure they can take action on this. There is an option with a monthly fee to monitor the cameras that would be \$150 per month plus the price of the cameras, or the District could monitor themselves. The public suggests the Ring. CRLA member asks what the goal with these cameras would be. Who would hold them accountable, and would it affect the residents, and if the Board be responsible for holding the residents accountable? DM Arias responds if there is something such as vandalism, the Sheriff would be notified. DM Arias states the District would pay for the cameras. Public member Sebastian asks if there is a limit the District Manager can purchase. DM Arias responds that anything above \$500 needs to be approved by the Board. The board directs DM Arias to look into it and bring it back. Public member asks about the chances of the cameras not being vandalized. DM Arias responds they can put the cameras high up to decrease that but can't guarantee.

D-2 Action/Consideration to select Jaribu Nelson for auditor services. Arias explains they have had Jaribu do the audit for several years and would suggest he does it again. Jaribu explains that he was in a contract with the District for 3 years and is looking to extend the contract another 3 years. President Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. No public comment. Yolanda asks price and quality. DM Arias responds \$15,000 per year for 3 years. Garza makes a motion to select Jaribu Nelson. Cisneros seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Garza, Cisneros. All Absent; none absent. Motion passed.

D-3 Action/Consideration to Adopt a Resolution Directing the District Engineer to apply for CDBG grants for fiscal year 2026/2027. Angela Hall explains the proposed project and resolution if the Board approves. The application is due at the end of August. President Ramirez opens the item to the public for comment. Public member Rumaldo Reyna asks if this is separate from the engineer fees. DM Arias explains the engineer is paid through the grant. Garza makes a motion to approve the resolution. Cisneros seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Garza, Cisneros. All Absent; none absent. Motion passed.

D-4 Adoption of Resolution and Approval of Authorization Letter for Special Assessment/Special Taxes packet (Lighting Levy). Arias explains this is something done every year. There hasn't been any increase in the past 5 years, but we need authorization to do it. There is

an account with the County from property taxes that is used to pay for the street lighting. A public member from CRLA states she knows there are two parts, so she has questions about the authority to add, change, or delete any assessments and the procedure to notify the public regarding this. LC Linden states he cannot give open advice to the public as he represents the District. She adds that there is a group that plans to map out which street lights work, and which ones don't, so that will be provided soon. Public member Sebastian asks if there is a certain amount that is set to impact the residents. DM Arias responds that the account and amount was set before his time and the amount hasn't increased since he got here. DM Arias translates for public member from CRLA. She asks if the public and members of the District could work together on this to help residents see at night. Garza makes a motion to adopt the Resolution and Approve the Authorization Letter. Cisneros seconds the motion. All in favor; four ayes: Ramirez, Nunez, Garza, Cisneros. All Absent; none absent. Motion passed.

E. Director Communications/Agenda Items:

President Ramirez thanks the residents for their input to help better the community. Nunez states someone is concerned with the trees blocking traffic on Jefferson. Also, the alley on Oaklane has branches keeping from being able to drive through that area. He wants to know what can be done. Lastly, he thanks the public for coming to the meeting and thanks DM Arias for his translation throughout the meeting. DM Arias responds that it is the owner's responsibility to take care of tree overgrowth. He has sent the workers to cut them, but the residents have grown accustomed to it and doesn't believe that is something the District should have to continue to be responsible for.

F. District Administrator Reports:

F-1 Report of District Manager (Report by Carlos Arias)

DM Arias reports they are fixing the lights at the park. The generator at Well 6 (Carmel/Avila) is having problems and they need to fix it. He met with someone at POM wonderful to work with them on a possible irrigation system. He would like to notify the Board that he is going on vacation July 24 to August 12.

F-2 Report of District Counsel (Report by Michael Linden)

LC Linden states there is nothing to report.

F-3 Report of District Engineer (Report by AM Consulting)

Angela Hall, in place of Manrique, gives updates on projects and reviews the report.

F-4 Report of District Accountant (Report by Paul Dictos)

Dictos presents financial statements for the month of June.

G. Adjournment:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Hernandez

Eileen Hernandez

Del Rey Community Services District