

MINUTES



The Finance Committee met on February 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the District administrative offices and via Zoom virtual conference. Committee members in attendance were Directors Laska, Shirley and Peake. Staff members in attendance were Felipe Melchor, Guy Petraborg, Helen Rodriguez, Zoe Shoats, Jay Ramos, Garth Gregson, Berta Torres and Ida Gonzales. Legal counsel Rob Wellington was also in attendance.

1. Election of Committee Chair for 2023

The Committee elected Leo Laska to chair the Finance Committee for 2023.

2. Approve January 4, 2022 Finance Committee Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of the January 4, 2023 Finance Committee meeting.

3. Update on Budget Planning

There was discussion about the fiscal 2024 budget preparation. Disposal fees increased 7% on July 1, 2022 and disposal fee adjustments for fiscal 2024 were discussed. The MOU for one of the bargaining units expires in June 2023 and the negotiations will impact the budget for next year. In addition to a COLA increase there is expected to be a living wage adjustment. There will be some carryover of capital spending from the fiscal 2023 budget and prices are expected to be higher for capital spending projects. The existing reserve policies will be reviewed and adjustments made as appropriate. Staff will have a preliminary budget to review at the April committee and Board meetings.

4. Extension of Litter Abatement MOU with County of Monterey

Staff presented information about extending the MOU with the County of Monterey for an additional two years. The current MOU expires on June 30, 2023. The District spent \$12,400 in fiscal 2021 and \$25,000 in fiscal 2022 supporting the program. Costs will not exceed \$25,000 for each of the next two fiscal years. The committee supports the recommendation to extend the MOU for two years. This item will be presented at the February Board meeting.

5. Update of Joint Feasibility Study for Organic Waste Processing, Microgrid, and Renewable Energy

Staff presented an update on the feasibility study of the microgrid project. The study work started in January and is expected to be completed by July 2023. A coordinator has been hired and will report to both the ReGen and M1W. The estimated cost of the study to ReGen is \$450,000. There was discussion and questions from the Committee. This information is being presented for discussion only and no action is necessary. Staff will provide updates on the status of the study at future committee meetings.

6. Potential for Co-Digestion Joint Project with Monterey One Water (M1W)

Staff presented an update on the co-digestion joint project with M1W. The feasibility study for this project was approved by the Board in 2018. M1W joined the study in 2021. The Board approved an 18-month pilot project in 2021. Staff is asking the Committee for direction on whether or not to proceed with the project. There was discussion and questions from the Committee. This item will be presented at the February Board meeting.

Physical Address

14201 Del Monte Blvd.
Salinas, CA 93908

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1670
Marina, CA 93933

Phone / Fax

831-384-5313 PHONE
831-384-3567 FAX

Web / Social

ReGenMonterey.org
@ReGenMonterey

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General Manager Communications

The General Manager provided information on the following items.

Invitation to Bid/Module 7, Phase 3 – Excavation & Liner: Sealed bids will be received at the MRWMD office until Monday, February 27, 2023 for this public works construction project. This project includes Alternate Engineered Design Liner Systems as a result of not encountering natural clay materials in the Phase 2 Excavation last August that would be necessary for the Prescriptive Liner System. The project budget will need to be revised significantly because of these changes. Staff will provide an update at the February Board meeting and the March Committee meetings.

Recognition for Employee Donations: The District received an invitation from Interim, Inc., one of the charitable organizations that received funds from the employees Christmas fundraiser. They have invited us to submit a special message for a plaque that will go on the “donor wall” of the new Sun Rose apartment complex. The apartment complex will house adults with mental disabilities and support independent living and self-sufficiency.

Landfill Ops Trial Work Shift: The landfill operations department will be implementing several 4-day - 10-hour shift assignments on a trial basis. The landfill operates 11.5 hours per day and 6 days per week (Monday – Saturday). The new assignments will be used on the second shift of the day and will:

- Provide better coverage on Saturdays with +1 HEO.
- Expand HEO bandwidth by adding two hours per shift for landfill maintenance work and project work.
- Reduce overtime (Last year Landfill Ops incurred \$108K in overtime, HEOs worked 1,660 hours of OT).
- Support better work-life balance with two consecutive days off for all Landfill Ops staff.
- The trial period will be for 6-12 months and will end if outcomes are not realized.
- Union was informed and given opportunity to comment.
- Shifts offered by seniority basis.

Future Agenda Items: The following items will be included on future Finance Committee agendas.

- Cost information of handling material.
- A five-year projection of the tonnage that will be received at the District.

Closed Session

The Committee went into closed session at 10:41 a.m. No reportable action was taken.

Next Meeting Date: March 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.