

Camino Real Regional Utility Authority
City of Sunland Park/Dona Ana County Joint Utility Authority
Gadsden Independent School District- Board Room
4950 McNutt Rd, Sunland Park, New Mexico 88063

Meeting On-Line

August 10, 2020

5:30 pm

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority was held on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5:33 p.m. On-Line at 4950 McNutt Road in Sunland Park, New Mexico 88063.

PRESENT

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo
Mr. Alex Sierra
Mr. Joshua Orozco
State Representative Ray Lara

ABSENT

Vice-Chair Commissioner Ramon Gonzalez
Commissioner Manuel Sanchez

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director
Ms. Liliana Arevalo, CRRUA Office Manager
Ms. Mary De Avila, CRRUA Administrative Assistant
Mr. Ernie Carranza, CRRUA Water/Wastewater Lead
Mr. Robert Fowlie, CDM Smith
Mr. Enrique Palomares, CRRUA Attorney
Dr. Letty Mora, Psychologist Services and Translation/Interpretation Services
Mr. Eric Lopez, Bridel Facility Ops
Mr. Gerald Smola, Camino Real Media Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

None

3. ROLL CALL

Ms. Mary De Avila, Administrative Assistant called roll call. A quorum was present.

4. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

5. APPROVE MINUTES

A. JULY 27, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Joshua Orozco moved to approve the minutes for July 27, 2020 special meeting; the Mr. Alex Sierra seconded motion. The motion carried a 5-0 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Representative Ray Lara	aye
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo	aye

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Limited to 3 minutes per person.
None

7. STAFF COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

8. BOARD COMMENTS
None

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL & ADOPTION OF THE 2022-2026 ICIP

Mr. Joshua Orozco moved to approve; Mr. Alex Sierra seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Representative Ray Lara	aye
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo	aye

B. APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING SUBMISSION OF A COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND PROJECT APPROVAL TO THE NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY TO COMPLETE A WATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE.

Mr. Joshua Orozco moved to approve; Mr. Alex Sierra seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Representative Ray Lara	aye
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo	aye

C. ACTION ON POSTPONEMENT OF THE SCHEDULED INCREASE APPROVED ON DECEMBER 17, 2018 TO THE WASTEWATER BASE RATE FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS UNTIL THE GOVERNOR HEALTH ORDER IS LIFTED OR JUNE 30, 2021, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

Mr. Joshua Orozco moved to approve; Mr. Alex Sierra seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Representative Ray Lara	aye
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo	aye

BOARD COMMENTS ON ITEM 9C

Mr. Joshua Orozco asked that if they are out of the COVID-19 situation and the Governor lifts the stay home order would that mean that the increase automatically goes into effect. Mr. Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director replied that based on the way that this was tailored, yes.

Councilor Alberto Jaramillo asked if this was to postpone item.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that this was originally approved back on December 17, 2018 with the rate increase and initial rate adjustment that the board passed to postpone the implementation of the 1.5% increase until the COVID-19 is declared over by the Governor or June 30, 2021 whichever comes first.

Councilor Alberto Jaramillo asked when was the last increase on the water.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied July 2019 was the last increase on water and wastewater. We had one decrease on the wastewater.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked that if this was to postpone to go back to the 100% of the wastewater.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that this would not affect the 80% that was approved by the board. This was a pre-scheduled increase that was on the original adjustments and we are requesting it to be postponed.

Mr. Joshua Orozco stated that when the recommendation came back from the consultant on what CRRUA's wastewater rate should be, when the board actually met to increase the wastewater rates we felt rather than doing it once we could do it in a phased approach. This was over four years ago. Therefore, this is one of the phases we are just postponing the phase, due to the stay home order.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied yes Sir.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked how the customers are going to be notified of the rate increase.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that a month prior to the increase they will notify the customers in their water bills with a flyer insert notifying them of the rate increase.

Mr. Alex Sierra asked if CRRUA is going to send out a flyer informing the customer of the roll back.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied this is not a roll back it is leaving it static.

Mr. Alex Sierra asked if CRRUA knows what the financial impact that this will have is?

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that they do not have an estimate in the wastewater. Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked if this increase supposed to be done in phases.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied this is to postpone the prior voted on and approve increase voted on December 17, 2018.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked when the increase should of have taken place.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied this is to keep any increase taking place until after the health order has been lifted or June 30, 2021. The increase was going to be implemented July 1, 2020.

- D. ACTION ON POSTPONEMENT OF THE 1.5% INCREASE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES FOR ALL CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS UNTIL THE GOVERNOR'S HEALTH ORDER IS LIFTED OR JUNE 30, 2021, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. Councilor Alberto Jaramillo moved to approve; Mr. Joshua Orozco seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 vote.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez	aye
Mr. Alex Sierra	aye
Mr. Joshua Orozco	aye
Representative Ray Lara	aye
Councilor Alberto Jaramillo	aye

BOARD COMMENTS ON ITEM 9D

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked if the budget was done with the postponement in mind.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied yes Mam; the budget does not reflect any of these increases.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked if this increase was for all customers including commercial and industrial.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied yes.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked if item 9C was only for residential.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied yes for the wastewater base rate. Other customers will not see an increase.

Councilor Alberto Jaramillo asked that back on December 17, 2018 when this was approved were the customers notified.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied yes, there were multiple meetings very well attended by CRRUA customers.

Councilor Alberto Jaramillo asked if this keeps being postponed since 2018.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied that this was not proscribed to come into effect until July 1, 2020 and for the next four years.

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez asked that if this was approved prior to December 17, 2018.

Mr. Brent Westmoreland replied no Mam; it was discussed at numerous meetings with CRRUA consultants and engineers as well as the public.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Councilor Olga Nunez moved to adjourn the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority

Meeting with no objections.

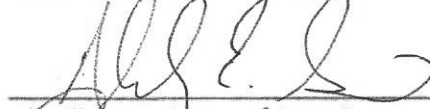
The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this day of 2020.

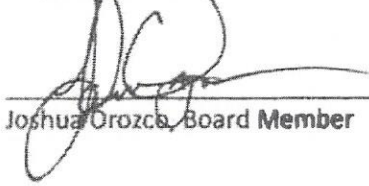
CAMINO REAL REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY


Olga Nunez, Chair

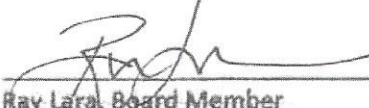
Ramon Gonzalez, Vice-Chair



Alex Sierra Delegate of State Senator Joseph Cervantes,
Board Member


Joshua Orozco, Board Member

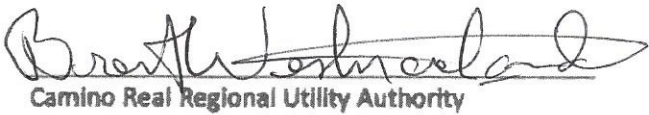
Manuel Sanchez, Board Member



Ray Lara, Board Member
State Representative

Alberto Jaramillo, Board Member

ATTEST:


Camino Real Regional Utility Authority