



CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SANITARY DISTRICT

5019 IMHOFF PLACE, MARTINEZ, CA 94553-4392

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
5019 Imhoff Place
Martinez, CA 94553

County Clerk
Contra Costa County

Project Title: District Project 7341 (Levee Project)
Project Applicant: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

Project Location - Specific:
A Pipeline along the Walnut Creek Channel on Central San's treatment plant property.

Project Location - City: Martinez Project Location - County: Contra Costa
Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Find the relocation of Contra Costa Water District's Alum Residual Pipeline Project located on Central San's treatment plant, exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15061 (b)(3)
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) because with minimizing and avoidance measures, construction and maintenance of the pipeline should have no significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Michelle Peon Del Valle

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (925) 229-7355

Attachments/other:

1. Certified document of exemption finding.
2. Will or has a Notice of Exemption been filed with the County Clerk?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature: Michelle Peon Del Valle Date: 2/6/25 Title: Engineering Assistant
for Central Contra Costa Sanitary District



BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION PAPER

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2024

SUBJECT: CONSIDER THE RELOCATION OF CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT'S ALUM RESIDUAL PIPELINE LOCATED ON CENTRAL SAN'S TREATMENT PLANT EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

SUBMITTED BY:

AMANDA CAUBLE, ASSOCIATE ENGINEER
DAN FROST, SENIOR ENGINEER

INITIATING DEPARTMENT:

ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES-
PDS-PLANNING AND APPLIED RESEARCH

REVIEWED BY:

DANEA GEMMELL, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION
MANAGER

GREG NORBY, DEPUTY GM - ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS

Roger S. Bailey
General Manager

ISSUE

Under CEQA, the term "lead agency" refers to the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. Central San is the lead agency for treatment plant projects.

BACKGROUND

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) has been leasing a portion of Central San property to operate drying basins used for times when the primary basins at the Bollman Water Treatment Plant reach capacity or require maintenance. Alum and other coagulation process residuals from the Bollman Water Treatment Plant are piped to the drying basins where they are air dried and then hauled off. The drying basins have been in operation since 1997, and it is estimated that 64 cubic yards of solids are processed annually. The current lease extends through December 13, 2026. CCWD transports the alum residuals through an eight-inch diameter pipeline along the Walnut Creek channel on Central San's treatment plant property. The lease states that "CCWD is solely responsible for the existing pipeline used to convey residuals from the Bollman Water Treatment Plant to the Basins...and that CCWD shall bear all expenses related to the construction, maintenance, and modification of any and all capital improvements...."

Central San's treatment plant is bordered by Walnut and Grayson Creeks with levees built by the Contra Costa Flood Control District (FCD) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which are currently owned and operated by the FCD. Overtopping of the levee could catastrophically disable treatment plant operations. Central San is working on this joint project with the FCD. The Walnut Creek/Grayson Creek Levee Rehabilitation, District Project 7341 (Levee Project) plans are at the 95 percent design phase and have identified a conflict with CCWD's eight-inch pipeline within the levee. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers standards do not allow pressurized pipes to remain within the prism of the levee structure. Central San has notified CCWD of the standards and requested that the pipeline be relocated (Relocation Project) before the Levee Project begins construction. CCWD needs the relocated pipeline to ensure that its alum and coagulation process residuals can continue to be delivered to the drying basins.

A formal letter from Central San will be delivered to CCWD requesting the relocation of CCWD's alum residual pipeline and documenting Central San's intent to execute a new lease that would allow CCWD to continue its operations using Central San's drying basins for another five to ten years. The new lease would require Board of Directors' (Board) authorization and would require a public hearing to declare the property unneeded for Central San's purposes during the term of the lease. A right of entry permit will be granted to CCWD's contractor selected to perform the relocation, which is within staff authority to execute. CCWD has designed the relocation and will construct and pay for the new pipeline. The proposed pipeline will be relocated approximately 20 feet to the west of the existing pipeline, as shown in Attachment 1. The existing pipeline will be demolished, or properly abandoned if demolition is not feasible, as part of the Relocation Project or Levee Project.

CEQA

As the owner and operator of the treatment plant, it is appropriate for Central San to take on the role of lead agency for CEQA. CCWD will serve as a "responsible agency" for the Relocation Project since it will perform the pipeline relocation work and maintain it in the future. This CEQA finding considers the proposed pipeline relocation work and CCWD's continued use of Central San's drying basins through a lease with Central San.

Staff has concluded that the Relocation Project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines in the California Code of Regulations Section 15302 since it involves the replacement of existing facilities at substantially the same locations and with the same purpose and level of activity as the facilities being replaced.

The Relocation Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because with minimization and avoidance measures, construction and maintenance of the pipeline should have no significant effect on the environment. This conclusion is based on (1) Central San's extensive experience with similar projects; (2) the relatively short distance involved; and (3) CCWD's construction experience in this area and construction specifications, which require the contractor to protect natural resources, including trees and riparian areas, and further requires compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, district, municipal and local laws, ordinances, orders, and regulations. CCWD will conduct preconstruction biological surveys prior to commencing work in the area. The new eight-inch pipeline is to be placed largely in a gravel road and open land adjacent to the Walnut Creek flood control levee. The primary species of concern are nesting birds that could reside near the creek or directly on the gravel road. Preconstruction biological monitoring surveys will ensure no nesting birds or other sensitive species are impacted during construction and future maintenance of the pipeline. Approval of the CEQA finding will establish the Board's independent finding that the Relocation Project is exempt.

ALTERNATIVES/CONSIDERATIONS

The Board could decline to make the CEQA finding or could direct staff to do a more extensive review.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Any costs associated with the CEQA filing will be included in DP 7341.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering and Operations Committee reviewed this matter at its meeting on December 4, 2024 and recommended approval.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Find the relocation of Contra Costa Water District's Alum Residual Pipeline Project located on Central San's treatment plant, exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Strategic Plan Tie-In

GOAL FIVE: Safety and Security

Strategy 2 - Protect personnel and assets from threats and emergencies

GOAL SIX: Infrastructure Reliability

Strategy 1 - Manage assets optimally

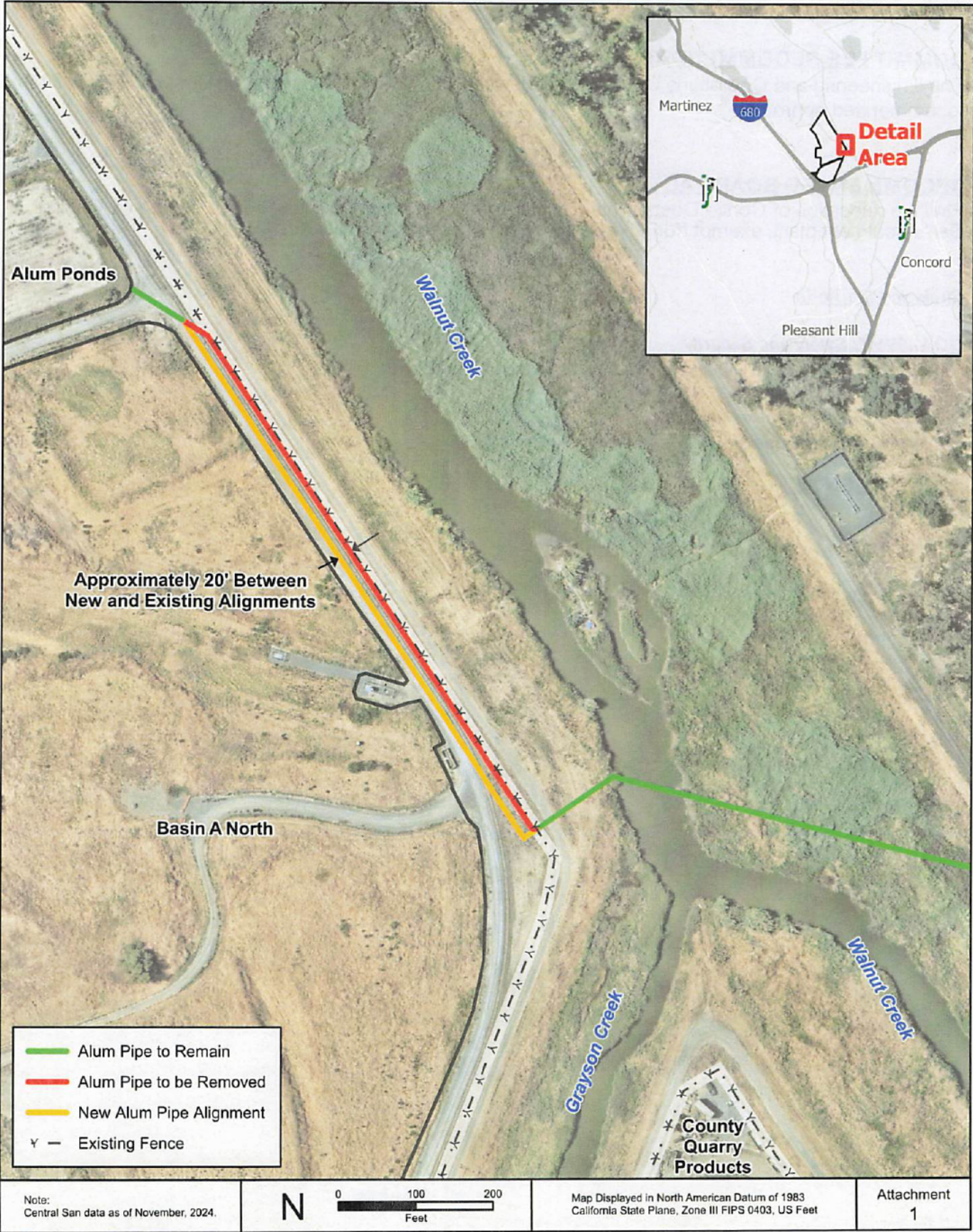
ATTACHMENTS:

1. Project Map



Alum Pipe Relocation

Map Date: 11/12/2024





CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SANITARY DISTRICT

5019 IMHOFF PLACE, MARTINEZ, CA 94553-4392

MINUTES*

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room

Thursday, December 19, 2024

2:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

MICHAEL R. MCGILL
President Pro Tem

BARBARA D. HOCKETT
JEAN F. KUZNIK
TAD J. PILECKI
FLORENCE T. WEDINGTON

Open Session – Board Room

(Video recorded)

ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Pro Tem McGill at 2:30 p.m. Secretary of the District Katie Young called roll:

PRESENT: Members: Hockett, Kuznik, McGill, Pilecki, Wedington

ABSENT: Members: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board, staff and audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Ronald Campos addressed the Board regarding a decision rendered by the Planning and Development Services Division concerning his sewer connection and requested that an appeal be considered. President Pro Tem McGill stated that the Board cannot discuss or render a decision as the item is not on the agenda. In response to Mr. McGill's question if the appeal can be further considered by staff and added as a future agenda item, District Counsel Leah Castella confirmed that such approach would be appropriate.

General Manager Roger S. Bailey directed staff to confirm with Mr. Campos that he does want to file a formal appeal and assist him with that process so the facts of the matter can be presented to the Board as an item that will be agendaized at a future Board meeting and a final decision rendered at that time.

* These summary minutes are supplemented by a corresponding video recording available on the District's website at centralsan.org.

REQUESTS TO CONSIDER MATTERS OUT OF ORDER

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the following:
 - a. December 5, 2024 Board meeting minutes
2. Approve updated Board Policy BP 010 – *Contractual Assessment Districts*
3. Approve updated Board Policy BP 044 – *Board Leadership and Community Representatives*
4. Award a construction contract in the amount of \$4,220,550 to Cratus, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Lafayette Sewer Renovations, Phase 15, District Project 100025; transfer \$5,754,000 to fund the project; and find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
5. Award a construction contract in the amount of \$4,412,700 to Precision Engineering, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Pleasant Hill Sewer Renovations, Phase 3, District Project 100068; transfer \$6,235,000 to fund the project; and find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
6. Consider the Relocation of Contra Costa Water District's Alum Residual Pipeline located on Central San's Treatment Plant exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, a motion was made by Member Pilecki and seconded by Member Hockett to adopt the Consent Calendar as recommended. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

OTHER BOARD ACTION ITEMS

7. Appoint Board President for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2025

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, a motion was made by Member Pilecki and seconded by Member Wedington to appoint Michael R. McGill as Board President for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2025. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

8. Appoint Board President Pro Tem for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2025

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, a motion was made by Member McGill and seconded by Member Hockett to appoint Florence T. Wedington as Board President Pro Tem for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2025. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

9. Receive and approve 2025 Board Committee and other assignments – President-Elect McGill

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, a motion was made by Member Hockett and seconded by Member Pilecki to receive and approve 2025 Board Committee and other assignments. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

10. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-050 establishing the schedule of 2025 regular Board Standing Committee meetings

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, a motion was made by Member Hockett and seconded by Member Wedington to adopt Resolution No. 2024-050 establishing the schedule of 2025 regular Board Standing Committee meetings. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11. Approve proposed Board Member conference attendance for 2025

Ms. Young clarified that the item would require two motions; the first to approve proposed conference attendance as presented for 2025 and the second would be to add the Essential Leadership Skills Certification Program and governance training offered by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) to the annual conference list.

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, a motion was made by Member Pilecki and seconded by Member Kuznik to approve proposed conference attendance for Board Members for calendar year 2025. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, a motion was made by Member Kuznik and seconded by Member Wedington to add the Essential Leadership Skills Certification Program and governance training that CSDA offers through their Special District Leadership Academy to the annual conference list. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. General Manager – Reports

- a. Receive an overview of the Third Nutrient Watershed Permit Requirements

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Division Manager Lori Schectel introduced Senior Engineer Rita Cheng, who reviewed the presentation included in the agenda materials.

In response to a question from Member Pilecki if the 40 percent reduction in nutrients by 2035 and subsequent 50 to 60 percent reduction requirements are mandated or voluntary, Ms. Cheng responded that the higher reduction rates are not mandated at this time, and it is unclear if those higher limits will be instituted.

Ms. Schectel reiterated that some of the additional requirements are yet to be determined but Central San is prepared to respond to the compliance requirements for the current five-year permit and is working to ensure an appropriate response once there is clarity on any future increased requirements.

Ms. Castella stated that there is always a risk that regulators will adjust requirements to be more stringent, but Central San has additional recourse to challenge the more stringent requirements should they occur.

In response to a question from Member Kuznik if Central San should aim for the higher goal of 60 percent nutrient reduction initially rather than only the 40 percent nutrient reduction, Operations Optimization Manager Nitin Goel responded that Central San is studying and considering both options as part of the Nutrient Management Project.

In response to Member Pilecki's question if Central San would get an extension to the compliance deadline since the District has already implemented a number of nutrient reduction initiatives including the Membrane Aerated Biofilm Reactor (MABR) Pilot Project, Ms. Schectel and Mr. Goel responded that no such extension is available.

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, the Board received the report.

- b. Receive update on the Membrane Aerated Biofilm Reactor Pilot, District Project 100055

Mr. Goel, Dr. Mike Falk, HDR Inc, Lead Consultant, and Dr. Paul Pitt, Hazen and Sawyer, Peer Reviewer, reviewed the presentation included in the agenda materials.

Dr. Glen Daigger, One Water Solutions, LLC, Peer Reviewer, offered some closing comments on the presentation and the MABR pilot project.

Mr. Bailey stated that one of Central San's and the Board's big visions is to implement a wholesale recycled water project with a fellow water agency that would hopefully result in potable reuse, but it is imperative that Central San not end up with a stranded asset and it seems that the MABR will prevent that situation from happening.

Dr. Daigger agreed that current data supports that MABR has greater potential to drive nitrogen concentrations down better than traditional technologies and Dr. Falk opined that the approach does not restrict additional or alternative solutions.

Member Hockett thanked the staff and consultants for making the presentation so accessible and easy to understand.

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, the Board received the report.

c. Receive an overview of the Nutrient Management District Project 100078

Resource Recovery Program Manager Melody LaBella and Mr. Goel reviewed the presentation included in the agenda materials.

Staff and Board Members discussed a number of potential initiatives and collaborations with other agencies or organizations to reduce nutrient production upline from Central San's treatment plant.

Mr. Bailey thanked Central San staff and project consultants for their work on the multiple projects and the exhaustive presentations.

BOARD ACTION: After receiving no public comments, the Board received the report.

13. General Manager – Announcements

a. Announcements – December 19, 2024

No further announcements were made during the meeting.

BOARD ACTION: Received the announcements.

14. Counsel for the District

No report.

15. Secretary of the District

Ms. Young announced the following Committee and other meetings:

Special Board Meeting – Thursday, January 9 at 2:30 p.m.

Administration – Tuesday, January 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Engineering & Operations – Wednesday, January 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Board Meeting (Financial Workshop #2) – Thursday, January 16 at 2:30 p.m.

Finance – Tuesday, January 21 at 9:00 a.m.

REEP - Thursday, January 23 at 9:00 a.m.

BOARD ACTION: Received the report.

16. Board Members – Committee Minutes

a. December 3, 2024 – Administration Committee – Chair McGill and Member Hockett

b. December 4, 2024 – Engineering & Operations Committee – Chair McGill and Member Wedington

BOARD ACTION: Received the minutes.

16. Board Members - Reports and Announcements

a. Member Hockett
No report.

Member Kuznik
No report.

Member McGill

- December 11, 2024 – Lafayette Chamber Mixer, Merrill Gardens at Lafayette, 1010 Second St., Lafayette

Member McGill provided a written report covering his announcements and other meetings.

Member Pilecki

- December 10, 2024 – Annual Board of Supervisors' Forum Luncheon, Martinez Refining Company Clubhouse, 1635 Pacheco Blvd., Martinez
- December 11, 2024 – Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), 1025 Escobar St., Martinez [stipend declined]
- December 12, 2024 – Mt. View Sanitary District Board Meeting (Central San Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Annual Report presentation), 3800 Arthur Rd., Martinez

Member Wedington

- December 5, 2024 – Supervisor Ken Carlson's Holiday Open House, 2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Suite 202, Pleasant Hill

BOARD ACTION: Received the reports and announcements.

17. Board Members - Requests for Stipend/Reimbursement or Conference Attendance

No requests

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

None.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

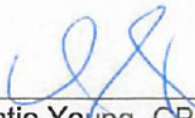
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.



Michael R. McGill
President Pro Tem of the Board of Directors
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
County of Contra Costa, State of California

COUNTERSIGNED:



Katie Young, CPMC, CMC
Secretary of the District
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
County of Contra Costa, State of California