

EASTON COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM AUTHORITY

**MINUTES**

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

5:00 PM

Washington Unified School District Office

Conference Room

7950 South Elm Avenue

Fresno, California

A. CALL TO ORDER

**Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.**

B. FLAG SALUTE

**Flag salute was led by Sal Fonseca, Director of Financial Services.**

C. ROLL CALL

Board of Directors:

Steven Barra, Chairperson, Washington Unified School District

James Dack, Vice Chairperson, Washington Colony Elementary School District

Pete Mathew, Director, Washington Colony Elementary School District

Terry Ruiz, Director, Washington Unified School District

Marty Hartwig, Director, Easton Community

Staff:

Jesus Cruz, Superintendent, Washington Colony School District

Randy R. Morris, Secretary, Easton Community Water System Authority

Chris Vaz, Controller, Easton Community Water System Authority

Yvonne Hernandez, Administrative Assistant, Washington Unified School District

Sal Fonseca, District Services Specialist II, Washington Unified School District

**Superintendent Jesus Cruz was not in attendance.**

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<b>Approved:</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Terry Ruiz</b>
	<b>Second</b>	<b>Pete Mathew</b>
	<b>Vote</b>	<b>5-0</b>

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Provides an opportunity for the public to address the Board of Directors on items within the Board's jurisdiction and which are not already on the agenda. For items on the agenda, the public will be provided an opportunity to address the Board as each item is brought up for discussion. A maximum of two minutes shall be allotted to each speaker unless waived by the Board. Any person who wishes to speak during this time should rise and be recognized by the presiding officer. Speakers state their name and the subject of their remarks.

**No public comment received.**

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1. CONSENT AGENDA

F.1.a. Approve January 26, 2023 Minutes

<b>Approved:</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Marty Hartwig</b>
	<b>Second</b>	<b>James Dack</b>
	<b>Vote</b>	<b>5-0</b>

G. DISCUSSION

G.1. Financial Activity Reports

**Sal Fonseca presented information on the Expenditures from 07/01/22 through 10/26/23. We showed financial activity with water testing costs and repairs and maintenance. This summer at the main well at Washington Union High School, the control box overheated. The air conditioning unit had to be replaced and a shade structure was erected.**

G.2. Status of Application Process – Self Help

**Randy Morris introduced Jorge Aguilera of Self-Help Enterprises to the Board and thanked Jorge for all the work Self-Help Enterprises has been doing to try to help provide water services to the community of Easton.**

**Jorge Aguilera informed the Board of the legal findings of an independent attorney that addressed the question of whether Easton Community Water System Authority has the legal authority to provide water service to third parties. Unfortunately, the power to operate a public water system is not expressly listed in the Education Code among a school district's powers. Self-Help offered to do further research, but ultimately it is up to the Board. Jorge informed the Board of a community meeting in Easton, which was held on October 3, 2023, to analyze the community's current sentiment on their water status. ECWSA is still waiting for the status of the application to the state which would initiate a feasibility study. Jorge said they had a meeting with the City of Fresno and they said they don't have a well close to our area, but they will look into it in the future. Self-Help is going to be looking into a long term solution.**

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.**

<b>Approved:</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Terry Ruiz</b>
	<b>Second</b>	<b>Marty Hartwig</b>
	<b>Vote</b>	<b>5-0</b>

**Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting: January 25, 2024**

*NOTE: The Easton Community Water System Authority encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Board of Directors Office at (559) 495-5600 at least 48 hours before the scheduled Board of Directors meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code § 54953.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)] Any public records distributed to the Board of Directors less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting and relating to an open session item are available for public inspection at 7950 South Elm Avenue, Fresno, CA.*

**Minutes approved January 25, 2024**

  
Chairperson