

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Saint-Amand at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California.

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mallory Boyd.

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President David C.H. Saint-Amand
Director Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora
Vice President Mallory J. Boyd

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Zdeba, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION

Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Special Board Meeting was posted on Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

**AGENDA
DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

President Saint-Amand stated his opinions shared during this meeting are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of his employer, nor the Board.

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION

None.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

With no further Board or Public comments, President Saint-Amand recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 3:03 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 3:09 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lauren Smith read a comment letter submitted by Mike Neel.

RATE STUDY UPDATE

RATE STUDY UPDATE

Mark Hildebrand, of Hildebrand Consulting, provided a presentation on updates made to the District's Rate Study. (Included in the Board packet). The presentation provided rate options that included a 2-tier and 4-tier rate structure, allocation of costs to rate components, bill impacts for each tier option, and a schedule for the next steps.

Board members asked questions for further clarification of the Rate Study updates.

Director Rajtora provided two handouts to the Board and members of the public. (Handouts attached).

By consensus, the Board is in favor of implementing a 2-tier structure with a fixed revenue of 61.3%.

Further edits will be made to the Rate Study and presented at the December Regular Board meeting.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

CONSENT CALENDAR

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Boyd approving the Minutes of the October 11, 2022, Special Board Meeting.

AMENDED MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Boyd approving the Minutes of the October 11, 2022, Special Board Meeting. Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,414,141.83, and Resolution No. 22-14: AB 361 Finding. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Saint-Amand:	Aye
Director Kicinski:	Aye
Director Griffin:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Boyd:	Aye

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

P&E CM: VARIANCE REQUEST

Property owner requested item to be pulled at this time and brought back at a future meeting.

Item pulled; no action required.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Director Rajtora commented on the November 9, 2022, Board meeting of the IWVGA including:

- Next IWVGA Board Meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2022
- The purchase 750 acre-feet of Table A water is progressing slower than anticipated. A new letter of intent has been sent to the seller. The seller does have full ownership and the right to sell the water
- Imported Water Pipeline Alignment Study is still in progress. A brief was provided to the IWVGA Board by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group. Staff was asked to provide suggestions on one of the three alignments presented
- Recycled Water Study is essentially completed, and the draft report is due by the end of the year
- Board authorized the Water Resources Manager, Stetson Engineers, to prepare a Water Recycling Feasibility Study for the United States Bureau of Reclamation. Report is expected to be completed by the end of the year
- Drilling associated with the Rose Valley sub-flow monitoring effort is still scheduled to begin fall/winter 2022
- Two well owners have initiated applications for Well Impact Funding. Stetson Engineers has 45 days to respond to the applications
- Capital Core Group (CCG) is working with Stetson Engineers to generate a Phase 2 Grant proposal

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker.

Don Zdeba corrected a statement regarding the feasibility of treating local brackish water resources that has twice been attributed to him during City Council meetings and in a letter from the IWVGA dated October 31st. (Slide was provided in the Board packet for clarification).

Jim Worth reported on recent actions regarding the Comprehensive Adjudication, including:

**COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION**

- A Case Management Conference has been scheduled for December 2, 2022; 1:30 p.m.
- The District was required to send out roughly 19,000 mailers to all landowners overlying the basin regarding the adjudication. Around 16,000 were successfully delivered. However, most of the parcels which did not successfully receive a mailer were vacant lands. According to the statute, the court does have the ability to allow the District to serve those landowners by alternate means. Staff will request to serve the remaining landowners via an alternate mode, such as a digital ad.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 572 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE
SAFETY,
PRODUCTION &
NEW SERVICES**

Metered water production at the wells for the month of October was 174,103,000 gallons (537.4 acre-feet). The number the State Water and non-revenue water, which is water lost to leaks, flushing activities, blow-offs, etc. For the month of October, the number is 175,103,000 gallons (502.3 acre-feet). Since June there has been a requirement from the

State Board to submit a preliminary report with consumption, population, and R-gpcd by the third business day of the month. The preliminary report, as well as the full report were submitted November 4th. The full report is still required by the 28th of the month.

The conservation results for October show consumption down 35.7% compared to October 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect June 2016. Through October the cumulative result is at 23.6%.

In response to Governor Newsom's request for a voluntary 15% reduction to address current drought conditions, SWRCB is also comparing current water consumption to the same month in 2020. Comparing October 2020 to October 2022, there is an 8.5% reduction in consumption.

Comparing the October conservation results in recent years, 2021 was 28.8% lower than the 2013 baseline year, 2020 was 24.5% lower, 2019 was 32.5% lower, and 2018 was 29.8% lower. The residential gallons for capita per day (R-gpcd) for the month of October was 128.7. This includes both indoor and outdoor usage.

There was one new connection added during the month contributing \$5,086 in Capital Facility Fees. There have been five new connections during this current fiscal year which began on July 1st. The new connections have contributed \$21,994 in Capital Facility Fees.

Mr. Zdeba did not attend the November 1st Community Collaborative meeting due to bereavement leave.

PUBLIC
OUTREACH

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has once again awarded the IWWWD the Region 7 Outreach Recognition Award for 2022. Region 7 includes all of Tulare and Kern Counties. This is the seventh time in the last ten years the District has received this award. The District previously received it in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021. The District will be recognized, and the award presented at the Fall ACWA Conference November 29th through December 1st.

Staff continues to work with Providence Strategic Consulting to promote WaterSmart. As of this morning, there are 1,548 active accounts accounting for 12.0% of customers. The percentage has not changed since last month's report. There were 954 customer alerts issued in October and 12,898 in the past twelve months.

The District hosted a booth at the 2022 Petroglyph Festival the weekend of November 5th and 6th. The festival is by far the most well-attended outreach opportunity. The report on items distributed during the two-day event is included in the Board packet. Overall, more items were given away compared to last year. It would not have been a successful event for the District had it not been for Robert Renfroe and John Svika assisting with set-up and tear down, Ana Chavez, Isabel Tejada, Diana Nguyen, Amber Chapin, Don Zdeba, and Lauren Smith staffing the booth.

The District also participated in the City of Ridgecrest's Trunk or Treat in October. The trunk was decorated and hosted by Amber Chapin and Lauren Smith.

Mr. Zdeba commented that he was disappointed to report that, despite outreach conducted by Sierra Sands Unified School District (SSUSD),

JAB MEMBER
PILOT PROGRAM

Cerro Coso Community College, and our own social media campaign conducted with assistance from Providence Strategic Consulting, only one application was received; however, it was ineligible for consideration due to inability to attend evening Board meetings.

Staff requested the office be closed for one hour for the Employee Thanksgiving Potluck scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Friday, November 18th. EMPLOYEE POTLUCK

The Board unanimously agreed to allow the office to be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. so employees may celebrate and enjoy the potluck together.

Reneé Morquecho reported Canyon Springs Enterprises (CSE) began rebar on the roof at the Booster Stations today, with inspections being conducted tomorrow. Concrete will be poured on Wednesday at the Booster Station building. At the C-zone well site they are finishing up the welding, with an inspection/walk-through happening tomorrow. At the College tank site, they are constructing the retaining wall with rebar inspection scheduled for tomorrow and the fencing contractor is moving the entrance gate and installing tortoise mesh this week. CSE has also been pressure testing and disinfecting the inlet/outlet piping for the Gateway tank. BOOSTER STATIONS AND TANKS PROJECT

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of October 31, 2022, are \$5,774,301 and expenses are \$6,036,768. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$262,467, which is less than budget by \$170,784. FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July 2022 through October 2022 with the Board. For October, the actual savings was \$50,581.52 and the guaranteed savings \$44,224.95. The total saving this fiscal year is \$202,334.59. At the Well 35 site, the actual savings for October was \$2,101.51 and guaranteed was \$1,798.50. The total savings since the Well 35 site went online January of this year is \$21,274.54. SOLAR PRODUCTION

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items:
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - So far in 2022, there have been a total of 90 water waste reports received with 90 contacts made. There has been five formal Second Notice and zero penalties issued. CONSERVATION

Plant 2 has been taken offline and is in the process of being winterized. At Plant 1, upon excavation of the media, it was discovered that the there were several upset within the support media that allowed the filtering media to break through and into the effluent supply tank. The filter media has also infiltrated a good portion of the support media. Staff is currently in the process of trying to screen out the filter media from the support media to recover as much support media as possible. Staff reached out to Pureflow for quotes on prices for support media and will continue to attempt to strain the media and keep the cost as low as possible. ARSENIC TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of October, seven services were repaired and 22 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made zero runs in October. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 8,594,265 gallons. 27 valves were exercised, 731 year-to-date. OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Director Griffin requested staff to research if other parts of other Water District's track and charge their fire departments for water used during fires.

Director Griffin also requested an agenda item to discuss and potentially future meeting change future meeting times. He suggested, beginning

January 1, 2023, to hold Closed Session before Open Session, at 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. with Open Session still scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

Director Kicinski thanked the staff for all the outreach efforts and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vice President Boyd agreed with changing future meeting times and holding Closed Session before Open Session.

President Saint-Amand explained why he preferred the higher fixed rates, as discussed during the Rate Study agenda item. He also thanked staff for their award-winning efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

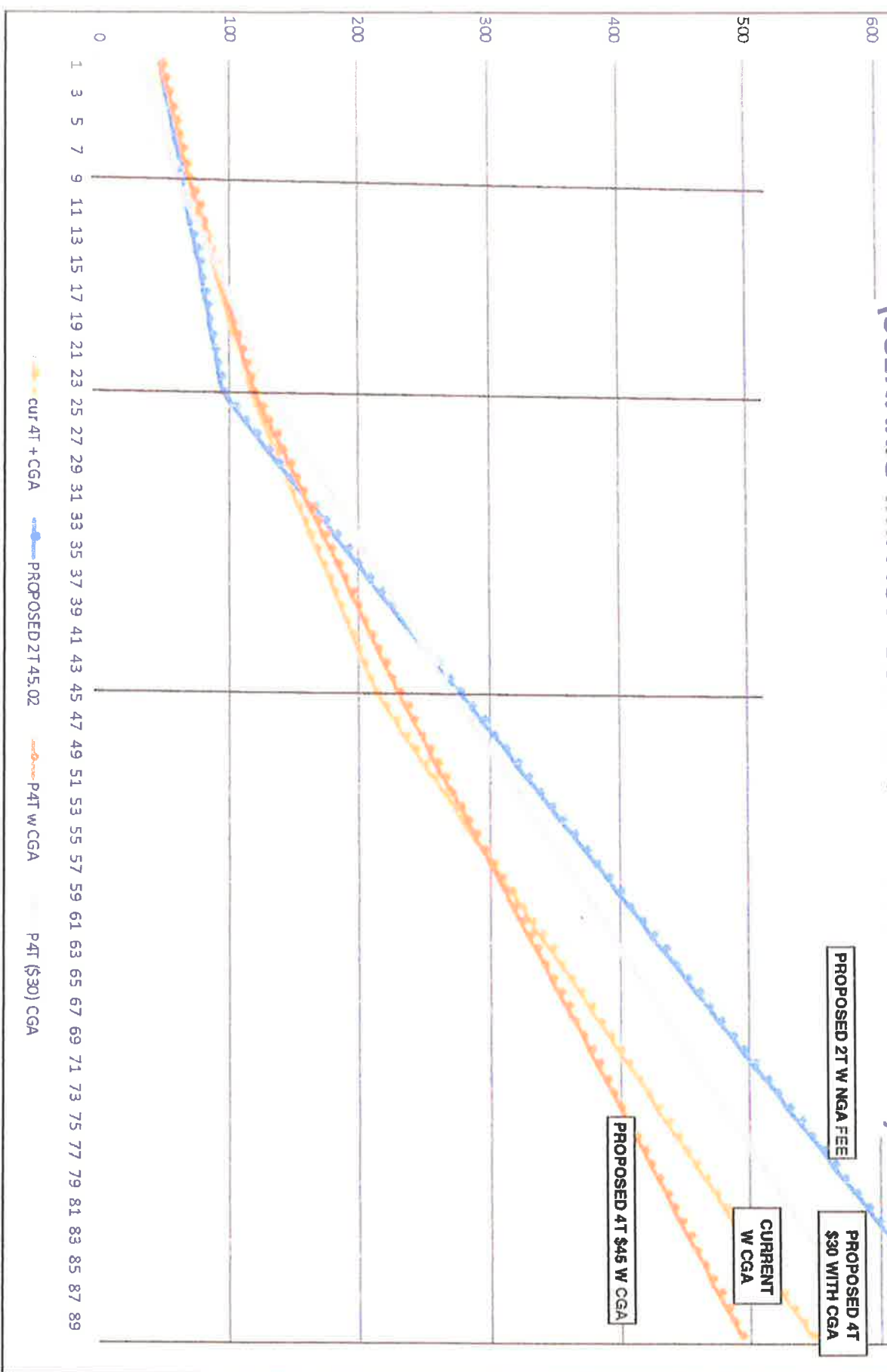
Respectfully submitted,



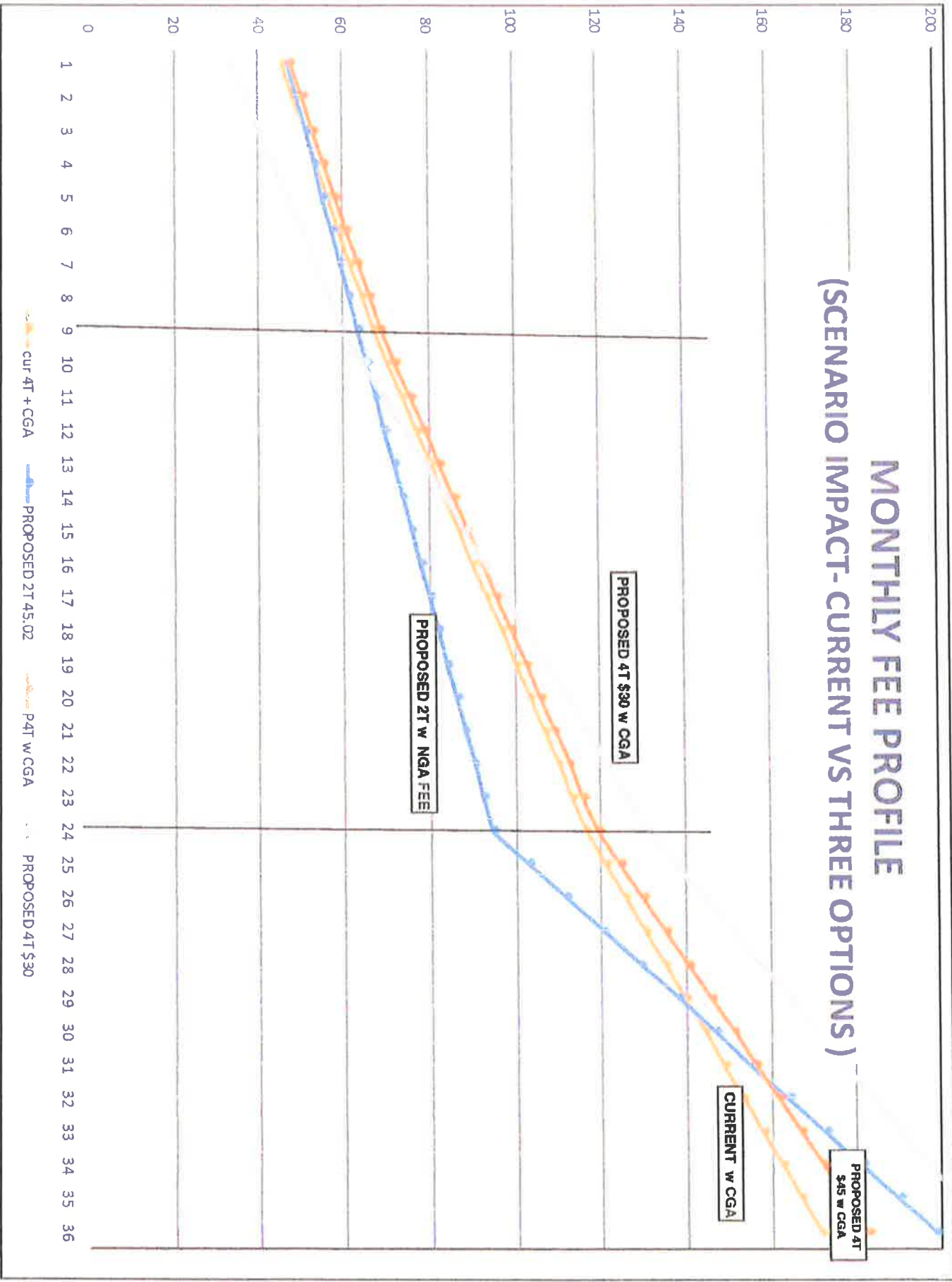
Lauren Smith
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: December 12, 2022

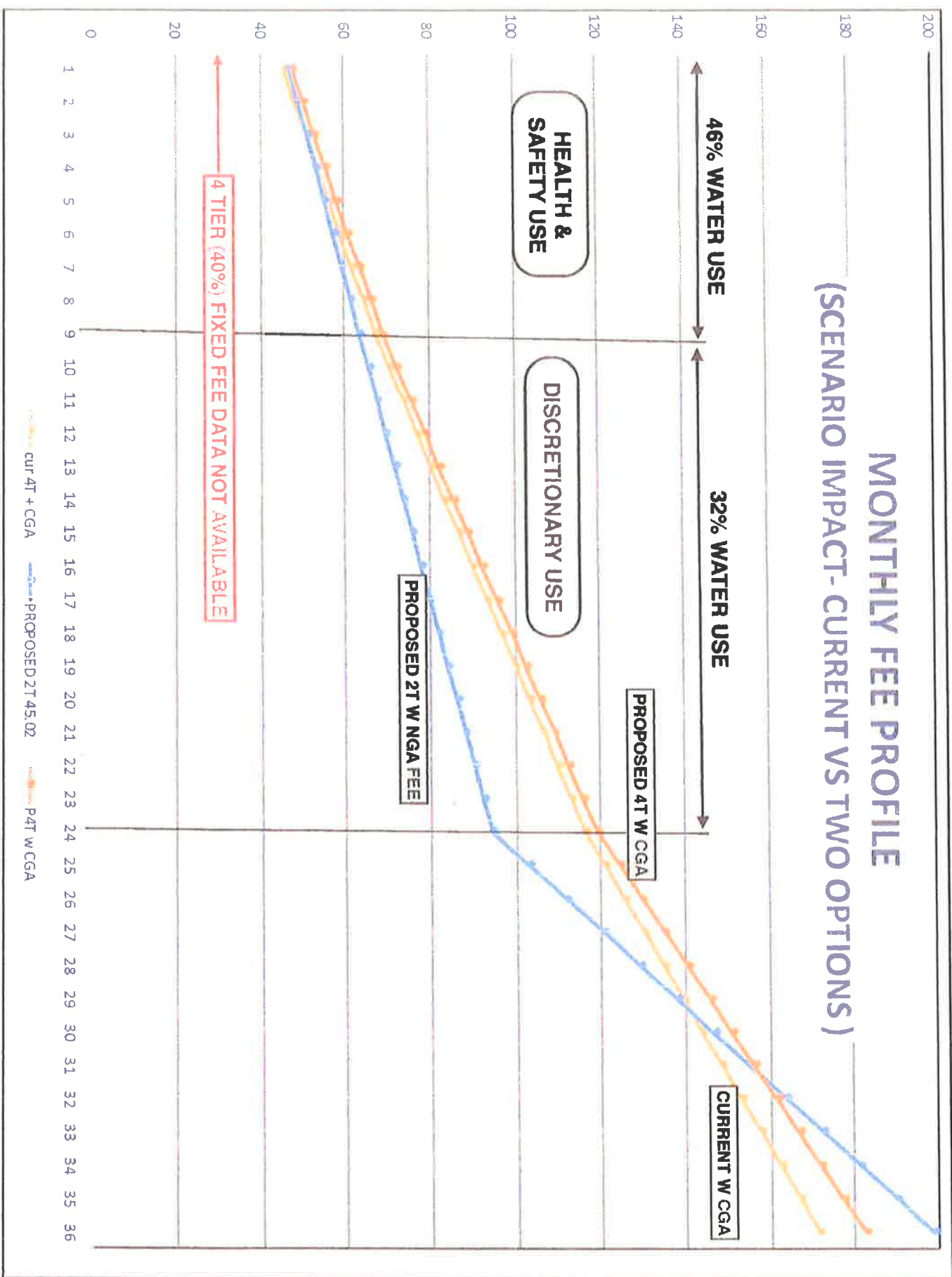
MONTHLY FEE PROFILE (SCENARIO IMPACT- CURRENT VS THREE OPTIONS)



MONTHLY FEE PROFILE (SCENARIO IMPACT- CURRENT VS THREE OPTIONS)



MONTHLY FEE PROFILE (SCENARIO IMPACT- CURRENT VS TWO OPTIONS)



MONTHLY FEE PROFILE (SCENARIO IMPACT- CURRENT VS TWO OPTIONS)

