

**OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES #889  
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

*Agenda with board packet and staff reports is available at the following link:  
<https://www.ovpsd.org/board-agenda-november-2021>*

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance.** Vice-President Bill Hudson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Directors Present:** Directors: Dale Cox, Katy Hover-Smoot, Bill Hudson, Fred Ilfeld, and Victoria Mercer

**Staff Present:** Thomas Archer, District Counsel; Jessica Asher, Board Secretary; Brandon Burks, Operations Manager; Mike Geary, General Manager; Danielle Mueller, Finance & Administration Manager; Dave Hunt, District Engineer; Allen Riley, Fire Chief.

**Others Present:** Mike Fenton, Andrew Hays, Jean Lange, David Stepner, Dane Wadlé

Director Hudson asked Ms. Mueller to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Community Informational Items.**

**B-1** Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC) – Dr. Heneveld provided a written update as a Board Exhibit.

**B-2** Friends of Squaw Valley (FOSV) – None.

**B-3** Squaw Valley Design Review Committee (SVDRC) – None.

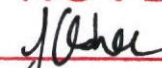
**B-4** Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council (SVMAC) – Mr. Stepner provided a summary of the combined SVMAC and North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee (NTRAC) meeting. The SVDRC and SVMAC will likely be renamed to Olympic Valley Design Review Committee and Olympic Valley Municipal Advisory Council, respectively. The SVMAC will recommend Squaw Valley Road be renamed Olympic Valley Road; names have not yet been proposed for Squaw Peak Road and Squaw Peak Way. There are also three private roads that include the word Squaw for which proposed names are unknown. Squaw Valley Park may not include ‘Olympic’ in the name due to potential economic activity within the recreational area. A survey requesting feedback on the park name is scheduled to be released December 6th. Squaw Peak and Squaw Creek are under federal jurisdiction, though the County expects to make suggestions for United States Geological Survey (USGS) consideration. Placer County has been working with the snow sports museum to fund the Environmental Impact Report; a notice of preparation is expected soon. The meeting also focused on the Dollar Creek Crossing Housing Project. The project proposes to add local workforce housing however, there are concerns related to parking, snow storage, and traffic.

**B-5** Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company (SVMWC) – Mr. Stepner said SVMWC is looking for a new Board member to replace John Johnson who will continue to oversee the construction projects via contract. The Sandy Way water main replacement project has been winterized but the substandard pavement patching of Sandy Way will be monitored throughout the season.

**B-6** Squaw Valley Property Owners Association (SVPOA) – None.

**B-7** Mountain Housing Council of Tahoe Truckee (MHC) – Director Ilfeld discussed the importance of the short-term housing concerns as there is a perception that it is decreasing the local workforce housing stock, though that is not conclusive.

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- B-8** Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) – President Cox said the T-TSA Board is scheduled to meet November 17<sup>th</sup>; the meeting summary will be provided next month.
- B-9** Capital Projects Advisory Committee (CAP) – Ms. Mueller said the CAP met to interview grant applicants and at the next meeting will discuss and approve recommendations to the Placer County Board of Supervisors to allocate Transient Occupancy Tax funds.
- B-10** Firewise Community – The District has scheduled a meeting between the Firewise Community, Friends of Squaw Creek and Registered Professional Forester Danielle Bradfield in preparation of applying for grant funds. The three additional green waste days hosted in collaboration between the District, Friends of Squaw Valley and Palisades Tahoe resulted in almost 200 cubic yards of fuel removed from the Valley. Staff thanked Mike Fenton for this volunteer services to collect green waste curbside and Mike Martin and Michael Gross from Palisades Tahoe. The Firewise Community is identifying grants to apply for that are not duplicative of grants the District will pursue, potentially focusing on home hardening.

**C. Public Comment/Presentation.**

Ms. Asher said Jane Davis provided written comment which was provided to the Board of Directors on October 29, 2021 and on November 15, 2021 and is available upon request.

**C-1 Presentation of the District of Distinction and Certificate of Transparency by California Special Districts Association (CSDA)**

Dane Wadlé, Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator for the Sierra Network of CSDA, on behalf of the Special District Leadership Foundation, presented the District with District of Distinction and Certificate of Transparency awards. Mr. Wadle reviewed the requirements of the programs and emphasized that the District of Distinction demonstrates going above and beyond best practices. The District is one of thirty-five districts to have received the award out of approximately 2,000 Special Districts, and the only recipient in Placer County.

**C-2 Recognition of Service by Resolution 2021-27 – 13 years – Schel Roland, Operations Specialist**

The Board presented Resolution 2021-27 and waived the reading.

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-27 which was seconded by Director Ilfeld. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Mercer – Yes

**D. Financial Consent Agenda Items.**

Directors Hover-Smoot and Mercer convened with staff on November 15, 2021, from approximately 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. to review items D-1 through D-9 and other finance-related items on the agenda. Ms. Mueller provided a summary of the meeting.

Public Comment – None.

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion to approve the financial consent agenda which was seconded by Director Cox. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Mercer – Yes

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**E. Approve Minutes.**

**E-1 Minutes for the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of October 26, 2021.**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and approved the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting of October 26, 2021.

Public Comment – None.

Director Cox made a motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting of October 26, 2021, which was seconded by Director Hover-Smoot. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.  
Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Mercer – Yes

**F. Old & New Business.**

**F-1 Fuels Management Program.**

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Mr. Geary, Chief Riley, and Ms. Asher presented a slideshow which was included in the Board Packet. The presentation provided information on the Community Wildfire Prevention Program, the 2022 fire prevention grant cycle, the Five Creeks fuels mitigation project, the expansion of the District’s fuels management program, and Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation’s Forest Futures program.

There was a discussion about the participation of the community in workshops to date and the need to engage residents more actively in the conversation, not only to provide information to our constituents but to have feedback and ideas entering the conversation from the public. The Board suggested that describing the Fire Department’s efforts more extensively may motivate homeowners to take part in fuels management on their private property. It is challenging to effectively engage the public given current staffing and workload as the most valuable conversations are often one-on-one. Directors questioned if there was a way to incentivize or fund residential property owners to complete defensible space and encouraged talking about defensible space prescriptions specifically rather than broadly (i.e., providing recommended tree spacing).

The Five Creeks project, led by the United States Forest Service, is current accepting scoping comments and staff relayed the importance of this project particularly as it relates to protecting the Valley’s evacuation route. Staff discussed the value of collaboration between the agencies and the need to show support of the project.

The Board discussed a potential tax measure and approaching the cost of such a measure from multiple angles- including what could be accomplished for the same annual tax as peer agencies, working to determine a budget and dividing accordingly, and looking at the fees on a parcel, area, and assessed value basis. The Directors presented reasonable arguments for and against a parcel tax for fuels management.

Director Hudson asked that staff have an ongoing fuels management status report included on each month’s Board agenda and that staff discuss appropriate outreach with staff’s current capacity.

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Public Comment –

Discussion included homeowners' insurance and the value of insurers being involved in the Olympic Valley Fuels Management process; the importance of fuels management projects despite there being no guarantees that the work will protect against the forces of nature; and staffing considerations that are needed to start a program regardless of the land area and number of people served. There was concern about increasing stringency of defensible space requirements given that only 25% of properties pass the first inspection despite efforts to maintain safe properties and that the District seems to already do more than neighboring agencies as related to defensible space inspections. A member of the public discussed the importance of generating dialogue with the community to carefully balance a mountain lifestyle and habitat with acceptable wildfire risk and suggested focusing on larger fuels management projects rather than individual single-family properties.

### **F-2 Residential Garbage Service Contract and Green Waste Alternatives.**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and directed staff to negotiate with Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) consistent with the recommendation provided in the Staff report.

Mr. Geary reviewed the Staff report. Staff recommended the Board direct staff to: (1) contract for services from TTSD without increasing rates for additional services; (2) Use available funds in the Garbage fixed asset replacement fund (FARF) to fund the Green-Waste-Only Dumpster Rebate Program in May-October, 2022 only, capped at \$15,000; and (3) use available funds in the Garbage FARF to fund Five (5) OVPSD-hosted Green Waste Days in June-October, 2022 only, estimated to be around \$20,000.

Discussion included the dumpster rebate utilization; a blue cart program and concerns due to costs and wildlife; and challenges with availability and timely delivery of green-waste-only dumpsters from TTSD.

Public Comment –

A member of the public and some of the Board voiced that they would like to have a green cart program. However, the Board determined that while they are sensitive to rate increases but not necessarily opposed to them, they feel this is a pivotal time in the community as related to wildfire preparedness, green waste disposal, and biomass and that it does not seem timely to enter a long-term (7-10 year) contract for green carts when there may be better solutions in the near future.

### **F-3 Placer County Capital Projects Advisory Committee (CAP) – Special District Seat Appointment.**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and approved the proposed appointments for Special District representation on the committee.

Mr. Geary reviewed the staff report.

Public Comment – None

Director Ilfeld made a motion to approve the proposed appointments for Special District representation on the committee. The motion was seconded by Director Hover-Smoot. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Mercer – Yes

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**F-4 Digital Orthophotography and LiDAR Data Collection Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and approved the MOU with the Town of Truckee to establish the terms to cooperatively acquire digital orthophotography and LiDAR data for the area covering OVPSD boundaries, authorized the General Manager to execute the MOU, and approved a budget amendment for the same amount.

Mr. Hunt reviewed the staff report. The data will directly support the fuels management program and engineering projects, potentially limiting need for future survey. The project is not included in the budget; however funds are available from the Pressure Zone 1A and SVMWC Intertie grant funding and the Fire Department fixed asset replacement fund.

Public Comment – None

Director Cox made a motion to approve the MOU with the Town of Truckee to establish the terms to cooperatively acquire digital orthophotography and LiDAR data for the area covering OVPSD boundaries, and to authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement and approved a budget amendment for the same amount. The motion was seconded by Director Ilfeld. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Mercer – Yes

**G. Management Status Reports.**

**G-1 Fire Department Report**

Chief Riley reviewed the report and provided an update on the Fuels Management Program and Defensible Space Inspections. The Chief voiced concerns about staffing and impacts of shared duties related to the Operations Department. The Department has coordinated with Santa Claus to arrange a drive through local neighborhoods on the afternoon of December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**G-2 Water & Sewer Operations Report**

Mr. Burks reviewed the report. Water production is less than the previous year. Aquifer levels have increased substantially, primarily due to the heavy precipitation in October. The District is working with State Regulators to ensure compliant water quality after a positive coliform test at the Resort at Squaw Creek in October. Water loss over the past month was *very* low which is positive and reflective of the District’s efforts to repair leaks. However, it is also likely due to the overall low production and usage this month. Low production can create issues with water stagnation. Two Operations Trainees will be starting soon, there have been delays with pre-employment screening due to pandemic and staffing related shortages at other agencies. There was a brief discussion about the impacts of the short-staffed Operations Department on the District, and the Board thanked the Operations crew for their work under challenging conditions.

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**G-3 Engineering Report**

Mr. Hunt reviewed the report and provided an update on the Mutual Water Company Intertie project, the Pressure Zone 1A project, and the Resort at Squaw Creek Project. The Department is currently working on a system wide hydraulic modeling effort in advance of next summer’s construction schedule.

**G-4 Administration & Office Report**

Ms. Asher reviewed the report. The Board determined at this point there are not imminent threats to health and safety and to continue to meet in person without enacting AB 361.

**G-5 General Manager Report**

Mr. Geary reviewed the report including expanding on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations and District staff.

**G-6 Legal Report (verbal)**

Mr. Archer complimented the Board and staff for their work on important issues facing the District, discussed at the meeting.

**G-7 Directors’ Comments (verbal)**

Director Hover-Smoot commented on current labor conditions, voiced concerns about employee burnout and asked that a proactive approach be discussed as an agenda item at the December meeting. Director Ilfeld thanked staff for the comprehensive fuels management discussion. Director Cox thanked staff, particularly the short-staffed Operations Department. Director Mercer echoed the gratitude and noted the importance of outreach within our community to have more feedback coming into the District.

**H. Adjourn.**

Director Mercer made a motion, seconded by Director Hover-Smoot to adjourn at 1:33 p.m. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Mercer – Yes

By, J. Asher

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SIGNATURE: J. Asher  
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