

**Borrego Springs Watermaster Board
Special Meeting June 11, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.**

Borrego Water District:
806 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Watermaster Board Meeting

Thu, Jun 11, 2020 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM (PDT)

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I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- a. Call to Order:
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call
- d. Approval of Agenda
- e. Approval of Minutes:
- f. Comments from the Public & Requests for Future Agenda Items (may be limited to 3 min)
- g. Comments from Directors
- h. Correspondence Received from the Public: Comment from Rebecca Faulk

II. ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

None

III. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Financial Reports: None
- b. Water Use Reports: None
- c. Executive Director Report: None

IV. CLOSED SESSION: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT: Appointment of Watermaster Legal Counsel (LC) pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) of Government Code Section 54957

V. CLOSED SESSION: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT: Appointment of Watermaster Technical Consultant / Executive Director pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) of Government Code Section 54957

VI. CLOSING PROCEDURE: The next Board Meeting has yet to be scheduled at Borrego Water District, 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004

AGENDA: June 11, 2020 All Documents for public review on file with the Watermaster temporarily located at 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs CA 92004 Any public record provided to a majority of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, regarding any item on the open session portion of this agenda, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Board Secretary, located at 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs CA 92004. The Borrego Springs Watermaster complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons with special needs should call Geoff Poole at (760) 767 – 5806 at least 48 hours in advance of the start of this meeting, in order to enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. If you challenge any action of the Board of Directors in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Directors (c/o the Board Secretary) at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Borrego Springs Interim Watermaster

Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2020

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Geoff Poole

SUBJECT: Comment Letter from Becky Falk

Based on the statements contained the letter, including blatant unsubstantiated allegations of my professional integrity, I feel the need to respond.

Comment #1: I don't understand is the prohibition on the community rep consulting with any members of the community when the other members can consult their constituents.

Untrue Statement: The Community Representative can speak to any member of the Community. It is when Board Members talk to each other either directly or through an intermediary with a majority of the members. I believe this message has been consistent in the multiple Brown Act discussions by Staff and Legal Counsel on this topic.

Comment #2 I suggested at a previous meeting that the WM Board could have the final person/firm or persons/firms chosen make a statement that is publicly accessible prior to the final decision, to at least signal to the ED and Counsel that the public matters and to signal that to the public also--and so the Board can see how the potential new ED and Counsel address the public.

The Board will consider this and other alternatives as the selection process continues.

Comment #3: When I heard at the BWD meeting on Tuesday that the discussion and the decision about which firm to hire would be made in closed session, even though Geoff had said at the May 28th WM Board Meeting that the decision would be made in public session, I asked about it. Geoff clarified that although both would be made in closed session, the decision would be made formally in public. Again, that is understandable. But that isn't the response I got to my earlier queries about this at a public meeting. Was the answer given to me just to divert my attention, not to respond to my concern?

I categorically deny any diversionary tactic is used to avoid responding to your concerns, whatever that means. This is an attack on my professional integrity and I take this seriously. I will say it again, the Deliberative Process is in Closed Session and the selection including approval of Contract will be in public session.

PS: I agree Jim Bennett is a great asset for the Board. He is on vacation this week and when I explained the situation to Jim, he informed me he did not want us to wait for him.