

Item 4 – Consideration & Adoption of Proposed District Rule Revisions

Beginning in September 2022, District staff was tasked with going through the current District Rules to determine any revisions that would enhance the conservation, protection, and preservation of groundwater resources managed by the District. The Rules Committee met December 8, 2022 following a Regular Board meeting to discuss staff recommendations for rules revisions. The committee decided to move the items to the new Rules Committee to be named in January 2023.

The Rules Committee met on March 13, 2023 to discuss a litany of rules revisions dealing with well spacing, footprint overlap, meter calibration, etc. The Rules Committee held a workshop July 10, 2023 open to all board members and the public to thoroughly discuss suggested rules revisions. Those revisions are attached and show both the current rule and the red-lined version containing proposed new language.

Several of the rule revisions deal directly with bills passed during the 88th Legislative Session. During both the July 13, 2023 and August 10, 2023 Regular Board meetings, the Board reviewed the proposed rule language, made suggestions for revision, approved the proposed rule language for public posting, and set a Public Rules Hearing date of September 14, 2023.

The proposed rule revisions were noticed and posted August 18, 2023 exceeding the minimum 20-day statutory requirement. Subsequent public comments have been received asking for clarification on permits affected by certain proposed rule revisions. District Staff has reviewed the comments and proposed further clarification be made on the definition of a “new well” and a definitive date of effect of the rule changes proposed. The latest revisions are included in your packet.

This agenda item is posted as an action item for adoption of proposed rule revisions following the Public Rules Hearing held on September 14, 2023 prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

It is the recommendation of the General Manager that the proposed rule revisions developed by Rules Committee, the Board, District Staff, and vetted by the public be adopted.