

**Pinewood Springs Water District
Special Hearing & Regular Meeting
April 24, 2024**

**Special Public Hearing
Water Main Replacement Infrastructure Project
Public Input**

The PNA Approval letter is available for public review at the District's website,
<https://www.pswd.com/important-notice-and-documents>.

This Public Hearing was being conducted for informing citizens and soliciting public input, written or oral, regarding the Pinewood Springs Water District - Water Main Replacement Infrastructure Project, SRF Loan, EIAF Grant and Categorical Exclusions.

Special Public Hearing – SRF Water Main Replacement Infrastructure Project

of the Board of Directors of the Pinewood Springs Water District's Water Enterprise.
Conducted virtually via Zoom video conference.

Topic: Public Meeting Water Main Replacement Infrastructure Project

Time: Apr 24, 2024 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81776199437?pwd=emwxWDNnWHI5WEI6QIA1cW0weXhLQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 7619 9437

Passcode: SRFProj

Attendance

Board Members Present: Stephen Stewart, Kim Bologna, Evan Jones, Patty Peritz **Absent:** Dan Robinson

District Employees Present: Gabi Benson, Bobby Longworth **Absent:** None.

Presenters Present: Jim Easter, Patty Peritz, Evan Jones, Greg Steed & Reed Meriweather/Merrick Engineering

SRF Infrastructure Project Team: Jim Easter-mechanical engineer, Greg Steed-civil engineer, Patty Peritz, Evan Jones, Bobby Longworth, Gabi Benson

Community Members Present: Ardean Johnson, Cam

Establish a quorum: Yes.

Meeting opened at 7:05 PM

Open Special Public Hearing – SRF Water Main Replacement Infrastructure Project at 7:05 PM.

Presentation topic - Pinewood Springs Water District - Water Main Replacement Infrastructure Project, State Revolving Funds (SRF) Loan, Energy & Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) Grant, and Categorical Exclusions.

Introduction – Board members, District employees, presenters, and community members.

Patty presented the DOLA provided updated financial analysis. Based on 2022 financials and using an estimated \$2,837,519 loan with a 3.25% interest rate and a 20-year loan term, additional annual revenue of about \$161,678, or \$44.61 per tap per month, will bring the required coverage ratio to 110%. If the project is eligible for a 30-year term, using an estimated 3.50% interest rate, the estimated necessary rate increase drops to \$32.31 per tap per month.

The District is planning to apply for a DOLA EIAF grant. If awarded a full \$1M grant, reducing the SRF request to \$1,837,519, the estimated required rate increases are as follows: 3.25%, 20-year loan: \$23.85 per tap per month and with a 3.5%, 30-year loan: \$15.89 per tap per month. While rate increases will likely be required, receiving an EIAF grant will greatly improve the affordability of the proposed project.

Patty initiated review and presented the Categorical Exclusion results for the following.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) initiating review of the project in accordance with the Colorado State Register Act (CRS 24-80.1 et seq). SHPO reviewed all documentation submitted for the project and in their opinion the proposed state action as described will result in no adverse effect to properties of historic significance that are listed on the Colorado Register of Historic Places.

Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Air Pollution Control Division (APCD), Lea Schneider, initiated review with their online mapping tool and confirmed that there are no registered/permitted sources of air pollution along the distribution piping replacement route. The closest potential source would have been the quarry to the east of Pinewood, but it does not hold an air permit for dust control and is outside of the project area. Lea also reached out to APCD to determine if this is adequate for the SFR application and if the District will need to submit more for them to conduct a review.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), Assistant Area Wildlife Manager, Chris Mettenbrink, responded to the District's referral comment request for the project with the following.

Raptors and Other Birds

All five sites listed in Pinewood Springs fall within foraging and nesting habitat for various raptors including golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and more. Raptors, which include hawks, eagles, and owls, are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. If earthwork or other construction is to begin between February 1 and July 31st, CPW recommends that a survey for nesting raptors be performed just prior to initiation of earthwork or other construction activities. If raptor nests are detected during the survey, CPW has developed a set of seasonal restrictions and recommended setbacks (buffer zones) away from these nests to minimize disturbances to these nests. These recommendation can be found at <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWithWildlife/Raptor-Buffer-Guidelines.pdf#search=Raptor%20nest%20guidelines>

Black Bears

Black bears frequent the project area due to abundant natural and non-natural foraging opportunities. Care should be taken during construction in order to not further attract black bears to the project area. Any attractants such as trash should be locked away when no workers are present in secured bear resistant dumpsters. Additional information about living with black bears can be found here: <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Education/LivingWithWildlife/LivingWithBears.pdf>

Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

The proposed project area may provide suitable habitat for the federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse. CPW recommends that the landowner or developer contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service for more information about this species and its distribution in the area to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Noxious Weeds

The project proposal implies that there will be disturbance to the ground which often encourages the spread of noxious weeds. Care should be taken to avoid spreading and introduction of noxious weeds to the area which can reduce property values and the quality of wildlife habitat in the area. Construction equipment should be cleaned periodically to remove weed seeds before unloading at the site and before removal from the site. The area should be promptly re-vegetated using native seed and plant stock suitable for the site to prevent erosion and invasions by weeds. We encourage working with a local invasive weed specialist in developing a suitable plan for the site.

Greg Steed initiated review for Local flood plain permitting with Larimer County flood plain tech. Verification is needed for where the distribution system ties into the infrastructure at the Cree Ct water main connection and the Kiowa and Hopi water main connection down by the river. If disturbance is not inside the flood plain the certificate would be completed with no adverse impact. If in the flood plain district we'd go before the Flood Board working with the Larimer County Flood Plain tech. The EIAF grant request would need to be updated with the findings.

Question: Reed Meriweather asked if there are any tribal requirements.
Patty answered, there are none indicated in the PNA Approval letter to address.

The SRF loan application with enterprise and the EIAF grant application is planned for submission for the June 5th cycle.

Responsiveness Summary

Question: Steve asked if the public had any questions.

Answer: Ardean replied no questions, the information related in the meeting was clear and informative.

Answer: Cam replied no questions, and that he learned a lot about the project.

Special Public Hearing was transferred over to the Regular Meeting.

A separate Zoom link was provided with meeting ID and code.

Adjourn Special Public Hearing – Water Main Replacement Infrastructure Project at 7:40 PM.

Respectively submitted by Patty Peritz, PSWD Board Secretary.