

ALTA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

This has been a very active year for the Board of the Alta Healthcare District. What follows is a report of those activities:

January

Yvette Botello and Javier Quevedo were re-elected as chair and vice chair for the coming year. Michael Wilhelm was reappointed as Attorney of the Board, Irene Clements was reappointed as Clerk of the Board, and Cliff Bressler was reappointed as Chief Fiscal Officer.

Discussion continued regarding issues related to the interest of Kaweah Delta to merge with the Alta Healthcare District. Kaweah Delta has been interested in expanding its district to help with the financing of its seismic retrofit and additional facilities. It was suggested by District Counsel that a Joint Powers Agency might be looked at as an option which will allow the Alta District to retain its autonomy while still working with Kaweah Delta.

The 2019-20 budget was increased by \$400,000 to cover recent grants made by the District.

February

Roger Neufeld made a proposal to the Board for funding of services provided by Open Gate Ministries over the next three years at \$40,000 a year. They operate a home for homeless and others in need. The request was tabled to the next meeting for a decision.

The Board amended the Grant Policy and Application form to align with the recently conducted Community Healthcare Study Session.

District Counsel reported that he had contacted other healthcare districts that were mentioned in the Kaweah Delta report about merger. It appeared that so far only Alta had been officially approached. It was decided to convey the message to Kaweah Delta that there was no interest in a merger but that Alta was willing to discuss the possibility of a joint powers agreement if the other districts were included.

March

The meeting was rescheduled for April 21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and uncertainty about public meeting and not knowing how to conduct a legal meeting outside of having it available to the public.

April

The meeting was conducted online by Zoom.

CSET reported that in part with the help of our prior grant the Meals on Wheels program was able to expand their services from 300 to 1000 seniors.

Open Gate Ministries reported on their prior use of grant funds and requested additional funding in light of the Covid-19 issues. In place of their initial request of \$40,000 a year for three years, it was

agreed that immediate needs should be the focus. In line with this, there was an \$80,000 grant approved, \$40,000 for food distribution and \$40,000 for shelter operational expenses.

Further discussion of the Kaweah Delta matter was tabled until we hopefully could have a face-to-face meeting.

The Board approved renewal of the District's insurance policies.

The Board discussed means of addressing and impacting the special needs that were arising due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

May

The meeting was conducted online by Zoom.

The 2020-21 District Budget was presented by Cliff Bressler, and after the public hearing it was approved by the Board.

Cutler-Orosi School District reported on its use of its Alta Grant for its Garden Club and the My Plate, My Family project over the last year. It was agreed by the Board that any remaining funds could be used for the following school year program.

Monson Sultana reported on the use of its mental health grant from Alta. It allowed them to serve both students and their families with expanded mental health services. At the end of the presentation, funding of \$22,500 for the last year of the grant was approved by the Board.

Cutler-Orosi made a request for reconsideration of its request for an additional \$110,000 for its sports complex. After discussion, the Board agreed to increase its previous grant of \$87,500 by an additional \$26,925 for a total grant of \$114,425 and immediate release of the funds.

The City of Dinuba requested an \$8,000 grant to provide a new air conditioning unit for its Senior Center. This was approved by the Board.

CSET had requested \$100,000 for freezer and vehicles for its Meals on Wheels program. After discussion, the Board felt the bigger need was to fund actual meals for seniors in the Alta District and agreed to fund \$64,812 for that purpose. It was to provide meals for the next six months.

The further discussion with Kaweah Delta was further postponed, but District Counsel informed the Board that he had positive discussions with the Kaweah Delta counsel about the concept of a Joint Powers Agency.

The District voted to fund gifts for local nurses in honor of Nurse Appreciation Week. It is especially important due to the Covid-19 pandemic that we show support and appreciation to our healthcare workers.

The Board discussed means of addressing and impacting the special needs that were arising due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

July

The meeting was conducted online by Zoom.

Gary Herbst, CEO of Kaweah Delta, discussed the need of his District to meet certain state-mandated seismic requirements. The current deadline is 2030. Kaweah Delta is seeking cooperation from other districts surrounding Kaweah Delta that do not have hospitals and rely on Kaweah Delta. The goal is to issue bonds to build and repair facilities. They want other districts to help share in the costs. We discussed the possibility of Joint Powers Arrangement, but with some additional benefits coming back to Alta if it were to participate. The biggest concern was to expand urgent care service in the Alta District. While this is an important topic, we agreed to put this on a temporary pause while we deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Monson Sultana returned to the Board to request that their most recent mental health grant be continued for an additional year at the expanded amount of \$73,850. It was also discussed that the Board might be willing to make the grant a three-year grant, and Monson Sultana was invited back to the next meeting if they wanted to seek additional years of funding.

It was agreed to purchase and provide an AED unit to Family Tree Farms under a user agreement.

It was agreed that the City of Dinuba could use the \$500 left over from the recent purchase of a new air conditioner unit towards the cost of repair of an additional unit at the Senior Center.

September

District Counsel reported that the legislation to extend the deadline for seismic retrofit for seven years had failed and new legislation has been introduced to provide for a two-year extension. It is not clear how that will fare. It does create more pressure to reengage with Kaweah Delta.

The Board voted to continue its membership in the ACHD for the coming year.

Dennis Hylton was retained to do the District's 2019-2020 audit.

The Board received a report from Dinuba Parks and Recreation regarding exercise equipment at Rose Ann Vuich Park which their grant helped fund.

The Valley Health Team reported on the progress being made on expanding urgent care services due to the \$250,000 grant from the District. It is now a 24-hour facility and includes radiology.

Monson Sultana returned to the Board to request that their most recent mental health grant be continued for an additional two more years at the amount of \$73,850 per year. This was approved so that there would be funding for mental health services for the next three school years.

December

Kathy Grant and Margie Davidian were both sworn in for four-year terms on the Board following the November election.

LAFCO presented its draft report on the Alta District. Among the main recommendations were to work to reduce the legal fees for the District and to continue to work with Kaweah Delta in the area of merger or a Joint Powers Arrangement. District Counsel stated that Alta had no interest in a merger but was willing to discuss a Joint Powers Arrangement. The report will go to the LAFCO Board on January 20, 2021 for adoption.

The Chair reported on her attendance at the ACHD virtual meeting and made a series of suggestions of projects or programs that the Board might consider adopting. It was also mentioned that it was time to get recertified by ACHD.

There was a discussion of issues that have been raised by the State of California on the means by which the Board Members were paid. It appears that while they have been treated as independent contractors, they need to be treated as employees. The last three years' records need to be corrected, and a payroll service will be needed to pay in the future. The legal counsel was tasked with lining up a CPA firm to assist in getting all of this straightened out.