DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board
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CA Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board

Natural Resources Building, Auditorium
Sacramento, CA
January 9, 2018
1:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jessica Arden
Vince Bernacchi
Ron Bianchini
Randy Charland
Marjorie Del Toro
Bill Johns
Marshall Johnson
Carl Voss

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Tony Marino, Executive Officer
Brittny Branaman, Policy and Budget Manager
Zachary Trammell, Associate Government Program Analyst
Jason Neyer, Associate Government Program Analyst

Member Charland called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 2: Public Comment

Laura McWilliams – read a letter from Sen. Hill's office citing the San Bruno pipeline explosion on September 9, 2010, which resulted in the deaths of eight people and millions of dollars in damages. This incident occurred when an excavator ruptured a gas pipeline. Sen. Hill also gave his full support and praised the Board for accepting their roles in helping to investigate, regulate, and educate Californians in excavation rules and safety.

Karen Mills, CA Farm Bureau Federation – expressed her interest in how the Board will address the issues of continual excavation as it pertains to agricultural lands. California produces such a wide variety of agriculture and on any given property multiple agricultural

processes are used daily. This makes it difficult to create an all-encompassing process that will benefit all agriculture producers in California. She expressed her hope and interest in the future of the Board and its responsibility when it comes to the education and outreach workshops.

Agenda Item No. 3: Welcome, from the Executive Officer

Stated the importance of the Board considering the devastating incidents in San Bruno, Walnut Creek, Bakersfield, and Fresno, among others. These along with the fact that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has issued a letter to the California Attorney General outlining California's pipeline safety inadequacies in 2015, 2016, and is expected to issue one for 2017 makes this Board imperative for the future safety of California. He welcomed each member and praised them for their commitment to the mission of the California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board.

Agenda Item No. 4: Election of Chair

There were no public comments.

Board Action

Motion to elect Member Jessica Arden as Chair of the Board.

MOTION: Members Johnson and Del Toro SECONDED: Member Voss
AYES: Members Bernacchi, Bianchini, Charland, Del Toro, Johns, Johnson, Voss
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Member Arden
RECUSE: None

MOTION ADOPTED

Chair Arden expressed her gratitude and excitement of having the opportunity to work with each member and staff.

Agenda Item No. 5: Board Policies

The Executive Officer presented twenty Board policies for consideration and approval.

The Chair asked for public comment. There were none.

Board Action

Motion to approve the twenty Board policies presented by the Executive Officer.

MOTION: Member Arden
AYES: Members Arden, Bernacchi, Bianchini, Charland, Del Toro, Johns, Johnson, Voss
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None

MOTION ADOPTED

Agenda Item No. 6: Annual Plan

The Executive Officer presented the 2018 annual plan for the Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board. The plan includes four strategic objectives, each of which continues several vital activities. The first objective is to focus on developing regulations to implement the legislative requirement for area of continual excavation tickets for agricultural and flood control activities. Next, developing education and enforcement program will focus on identifying relevant education, standards for demonstrating compliance, Board notification of incidents, and inter-agency enforcement coordination. Continual Learning will focus on baseline safety assessment and reasonable care standards, and finally stable funding will focus on fees levied on members of the one-call center and federal reimbursement through state based grants. The executive officer recommended four strategic activities to be led by Board members and that members pair up for these activities. The executive officer suggested they determine which members take ownership of which tasks. Chair Arden solicited volunteers, and members agreed on the following assignments:

Arden – Baseline safety assessment
Bernacchi – Standards for demonstrating compliance and Board notification of incidents
Bianchini –Baseline safety assessment
Charland – Standards for demonstrating compliance and Board notification of incidents
Del Toro – Identification of relevant education
Johns – Area of continual excavation outreach and piloting
Johnson – Identification of relevant education
Voss – Area of continual excavation outreach and piloting

Member Introductions and Comments

Marjorie Del Toro indicated that family tragedy had led her into the business of safety and to her current position as has been founder and president at Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) International, and that safety would be the driving force in her decisions with the Board.

Vince Bernacchi introduced himself and expressed his gratitude and excitement to serve on the Board.

Ron Bianchini introduced himself and spoke about his experience with excavation sites. He also offered a supervised trip for members and staff to an ongoing construction site he is working on in Elk Grove.

Randy Charland offered ride-alongs to members who wished to learn more about subsurface utility locating.

Carl Voss spoke about his experience and knowledge in the agricultural field and expressed interest in working on the continual excavation objective.

Bill Johns introduced himself and expressed interest in working on the continual excavation objective as well.

Jessica Arden thanked the Board for nominating her as the Chair and expressed excitement in bringing her analytical expertise to the Board.

Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tony Marino

Tony Marino
Executive Officer

Attest:

/s/ Jessica Arden

Jessica Arden
Chair