

Final Report

Reclamation District 1608

March 26, 2025

Maintenance and Capital Services Assessment District

Ballot Proceeding Tabulation

Prepared for: Reclamation District 1608 Board of Trustees

Prepared by: David Lee

Reviewed by: Seth Wurzel, CGFM

Larsen Wurzel & Associates, Inc. (LWA) has performed the tasks described in the Maintenance and Capital Services Assessment District Ballot Tabulation Process & Procedures transmitted to the RD 1608 Board of Trustees on March 25, 2025, as summarized below. These procedures were prepared to govern the tabulation of ballots in favor of and opposition to the proposed Maintenance and Capital Services Assessment District (MCSA) as performed by LWA on March 25, 2025. LWA makes no representation regarding the sufficiency of these procedures described below for any other purpose other than for the purpose for which they have been prepared.

The procedures related to the ballot proceeding for the MCSA performed are summarized as follows:

- 1) A data processing system was prepared for the efficient preparation, production and subsequent tabulation of the ballots.
- 2) Mailed return ballots were delivered directly to Neumiller & Beardslee located at 3121 W. March Lane, Stockton, California, 95219. Hand delivered returned ballots were received by Neumiller & Beardslee at the same address until 5:00 PM on March 25, 2025. Hand delivered ballots were also received at the Public Hearing which took place in Mable Barron Elementary School, 6835 Cumberland Pl, Stockton, CA, the location of the Public Hearing. All mailed and hand return ballots were stored in secured locations and remained sealed in their return envelopes until the start of the tabulation process on March 25, 2025 at approximately 7:00 PM, which was after the close of the Public Hearing.
- 3) LWA attended the Public Hearing and at the close of the balloting period, all ballots cast and received prior to the close of the Public Hearing were transferred into LWA's custody to be included within the ballot tabulation.
- 4) LWA directed the canvass of all ballots received from the total potential 2,982 ballots issued pursuant to the Ballot Tabulation Process & Procedures transmitted to the Board of Trustees. In summary, the tabulation criteria included the following steps:
 - a) Opening / Sorting: LWA directed the opening and sorting of all ballots into three categories, Valid Yes Votes, Valid No Votes and Invalid Votes. A ballot was considered valid if it contained a signature on the ballot and a clear indication of a "yes" or "no" vote. As ballots were sorted, an additional confirmation of the original sorting and preliminary validation (yes or no and signature) took place. Any ballot with no clear indication of yes or no, left unsigned, or significantly marred, was initially

considered invalid and subject to further review by Agency Counsel. Agency Counsel provided the final determination of all Ballots to be considered Invalid. All replacement ballots issued (as indicated by the fact they were printed on colored paper) were also separated and sorted throughout this process in the same manner as original issued (white) ballots.

- b) **Scanning/Data Entry:** Prior to scanning the valid ballots, ballots of the same type (same color and vote) were batched into groups of up to 100 ballots. A unique batch ID was assigned to each ballot and the attributes of the batch (color and vote) were recorded. Each batch and each ballot had a unique ballot identification bar coded number and the batch bar code and ballot bar code were scanned into the ballot tabulation software using a hand held scanners. Each batch of ballots was scanned two time into two separate computers running the ballot tabulation software. If the number of scans recorded by each scanner did not equal 100 (or a lesser number of ballots in the batch), then the entire batch was scanned again until the two scans recording the data matched and the number of scans equaled 100 or the number of ballots expected to be in the batch. Once the original ballots were scanned, the replacement ballots were scanned in the same manner and entered into the tabulation software on the two machines. During this process, any valid replacement ballot vote cast for an original ballot already tabulated was overwritten and the original vote was not counted. Ballots that were damaged and/or could not be scanned utilizing the hand scanners, were manually entered into the software using the human readable ballot ID printed on the ballot twice and the two sets of data were compared to ensure that all ballots were counted.
 - c) **Data Validation:** Once the data entry was completed and all differences from the two sets of scans were reconciled, preliminary results of the tabulation were tested. Of the 766 valid ballots received, 82 ballots (approximately 10% of the tabulated ballots) were run through a verification process. The physical information on the ballots was compared to the results in the data processing system to ensure that the information in the program matched the physical ballot information. The results from the verification process matched the data within the software, thus the process was considered certifiable according to the established procedures.
 - d) Invalid ballots were also scanned into the system to record the count and the weight of invalid ballots cast as well as the reason for invalidation.
- 5) As part of the ballot tabulation calculations, each valid yes or no vote was multiplied by the amount of the property owner's proposed assessment to determine the weight of each vote.
 - 6) LWA summed all of the valid weighted yes votes and all of the valid weighted no votes in order to determine which response had the most weighted vote.
 - 7) The canvass of the assessment ballots submitted by property owners is now complete and LWA can report the results of the tabulation process as determined by the performance of procedures and criteria summarized above. The results of the tabulation process are as follows:

Reclamation District 1608
Maintenance and Capital Services Assessment
FINAL Summary of Ballot Proceeding Tabulation Results

All Ballots

Total Ballots:	2,982
Valid Ballots Returned:	766
Invalid Ballots Returned:	15
Total Ballots Returned:	781
Ballots Not Returned:	2,201
% of Ballots Returned:	26.19%
Total Assessment of All Ballots:	\$296,727.64
Total Assessment of All Valid Ballots Returned:	\$95,970.48
% of Assessment Returned:	32.34%

Valid Ballots

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent of Valid Ballots Returned</u>	<u>Total Assessment</u>	<u>Percent of Valid Total</u>
All Ballots	766	100.00%	\$95,970.48	100.00%
Yes Votes	671	87.60%	\$87,613.36	91.29%
No Votes	95	12.40%	\$8,357.12	8.71%

Invalid Ballots

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Assessment</u>	<u>Percent of Invalid Total</u>
All Invalid Ballots	15	\$1,402.60	100.00%
Vote Not Marked	13	\$1,181.20	84.22%
Unofficial Ballot	0	\$0.00	0.00%
No Signature	2	\$221.40	15.78%
Marred/Destroyed	0	\$0.00	0.00%
Both Votes Marked	0	\$0.00	0.00%
Duplicate	0	\$0.00	0.00%
Other	0	\$0.00	0.00%

2203000 RD 1608 Assessment Tabulation Model - FINAL.xlsx

A total of 781 assessment ballots were returned and received prior to the close of the public hearing on March 25, 2025. 15 of these ballots were determined to be invalid based on the following. 13 ballots were declared invalid in that they were not marked with a "yes" or "no," were marked with both a "yes" and a "no," were not signed, were not returned in the security envelope, or for some other reason. A total of 2 ballots were declared invalid as they were either, A) received and determined to be void as a result of a replacement ballot having been issued that voided the original ballot or B) tabulated but then their initial tabulation was replaced through the receipt of a valid duplicate replacement ballot having been issued. This left 766 valid ballots remaining to determine the outcome of the tabulation process.

After the valid ballots were weighted according to the proportional financial obligation of the affected property, the tabulation concluded that 91.29% of the valid ballots were cast in support of the proposed Assessment. Since a majority protest, as defined by Article XIII D of the California Constitution, did not exist, the Board may take action to approve the formation of the MCSA as described in the Engineer's Report to pay the costs and expenses of the services identified therein.

With the transmittal of this report, LWA certifies that it has completed the canvass of the protest ballots submitted for the proposed Maintenance and Capital Services Assessment District pursuant to the process and procedures submitted to the Board on March 25, 2025.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the RD 1608 Board of Trustees and its management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Larsen Wurzel & Associates, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larsen Wurzel & Associates".

March 26, 2025