

New BIMID District Manager assumes her position, and prepares for her first official Board meeting

BIMID's newly appointed District Manager assumed her duties on October 9. And immediately set about to prepare the Agenda packet for her first official Board meeting schedule for this coming Thursday, October 19. Bethel Island residents and property owners who wish to meet her personally are encouraged to attend this Board meeting, and/or to drop into the BIMID office anytime during the work week to get acquainted.

So Just Who Is Regina Espinoza?

It just so happens that, after a nationwide recruitment effort – one that utilized a plethora of published and on line professional management and technical job posting sites, and a formal professional recruitment brochure – BIMID's new District Manager comes from a neighboring Delta area County. Raised in Dixon, following 3 years (2001-2004) as Engineering Assistant for the Utilities Division of the City of Vacaville's Public Works Department (including SCADA functions), Regina Espinoza has served Yolo County for over 13 years in technical, management, and community capacities that have made her singularly and ideally suited for BIMID's and Bethel Island's unique challenges and community character (i.e. the "best fit" for both the organization and the community, and thus for the position).

Regina Espinoza has earned an M.P.D.S. (Planning and Developmental Studies) Degree from the University of Southern California (USC), and two B.S. Degrees from University of the Pacific, one in Engineering Management, Emphasis in Engineering Administration, and the other in Computer Engineering, Emphasis Electrical Systems. She also holds an Engineering in Training Certificate from the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, and is a Grade D1 Drinking Water Distribution Operator under the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program.

Regina comes to us in the prime of her career, superbly prepared and positioned to have a major impact on Bethel Island through her leadership of BIMID during this particularly transformational time in its history. Between 2004 and 2016, she served first as County Service Area Coordinator and then as County Service Area and Special District Manager, with Yolo County's Department of Planning and Public Works. In these capacities, she effectively administered and oversaw the operations of specialized services of various County Services Areas and Special Districts in Water, Sewer, Storm Water Drainage, Levee Maintenance, Erosion Prevention, Capital Improvements, Lighting, Landscaping, Golf Course, Parks and Recreation, substantial Special District grant administration, and other functions. Since 2016, Regina has served as Climate Action and Sustainability Manager in Yolo County's Community Services Department, in which capacity she administers the implementation of the County Climate Action Plan, and the daily operations of the PACE Programs and Energy Watch Program, while also being responsible for the set up and implementation of the Community Choice Energy Program in Yolo County, and serving as Joint Powers Authority Management Staff to the Valley Clean Energy Alliance JPA Board of Directors.

In this appointment, we are fully confident that Regina will be able to work well with, effectively manage, provide leadership to, and take full advantage of our already in place BIMID support team and framework, including regular BIMID office and field staff, and our consultant District Engineer, District Counsel, and uniquely qualified Finance Consultant (who tracks, documents, and ultimately ties everything together in support of the annual Budget process, and keeps our increasingly complex financial management system current, on track, and in compliance with monitoring, reporting, and Auditing requirements). Regina's specific Engineering background and demonstrated technical prowess will stand her in good stead in helping relieve the District Engineer from having to handle day to day levee and drainage issues, in the field levee and drainage system evaluation, and technical evaluation of various Project Approval Applications. She also comes to us with a 2012 Yolo County Achievement in Service Award, 2008 Yolo County Achievement in Teamwork Award, And City of Vacaville Certificate of Merit and City Manager Recognition Award (which speaks well of how she'll serve BIMID).

Regina will therefore also be very much "in her element" working with the District Engineer in the pursuit and implementation of current and future DWR, CDBG, FEMA and other significant project grant funding opportunities, and the long awaited methodical and community based analysis, update, revision, and short and long term implementation of BIMID's 5-Year Plan. Her extensive experience overseeing, supporting, facilitating and managing such an array of CSA's and Special Districts, and her collaborative management style and stellar reputation working with their respective communities, residents, property owners and stakeholders, will render her particularly adept at effectively engaging with the Bethel Island community, resolving problems and conflict, and identifying and cultivating common ground. She has also provided supervision, training, and performance evaluation for County staff, and contractual and professional service consultant teams. All this will better enable BIMID and Bethel Island to move forward into a future that is now made possible thanks to the combined financial benefits of the Assessment District and Delta Coves M&O Agreement/Budget, a future that needs to be skillfully and professionally managed..

In short, Regina has emerged from this extensive competitive recruitment process as the candidate most likely to provide the most effective management and leadership to BIMID and Bethel Island over the next several years as they unfold before us. This also includes her extensive background and experience effectively interacting with various federal, State, regional and local governmental agencies (such as DWR, ACOE, SDFW, and the Delta Stewardship Council), an inherent part of BIMID's District Manager's responsibilities, as well as businesses, citizens' groups, various other consultants, and the public, and providing and cultivating positive customer service functions and culture.

Regina has also had direct experience with the Proposition 218 Assessment District election process in various CSA's and Special Districts, so comes into BIMID's Assessment District structure with considerable familiarity with its implementation requirements, and appreciation for the opportunity it represents for BIMID and Bethel Island . And her considerable direct County experience is also expected to help further

strengthen BIMID's relationship with Contra Costa County, and our ongoing efforts to improve our cooperation, partnership, and mutual problem solving efforts with the County, and other local agencies and Districts, on behalf of Bethel Island (including the currently intensified focus on such perplexing issues as drainage and all weather roads, and other longtime complex and difficult issues such as encroaching structures