

**LAS VIRGENES – TRIUNFO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

5:00 PM

July 6, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Lowry Crook.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at **5:00 p.m.** by Chair Lewitt via teleconference in the Board Room at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District headquarters at 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302. The meeting was conducted via teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order, N-29-20, which suspended certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act to support social distancing guidelines associated with response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Caspary, Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Renger (connected to the teleconference at 5:32 p.m.), Shapiro, Tjulander, and Wall.

Absent: None.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Caspary moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Caspary, Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Renger

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A Minutes: Special Meeting of May 27, 2020 and Regular Meeting of June 1, 2020: Approve

B Rancho Solar Generation Project Phase 2: Approval of Scope Change for Archaeological and Native American Artifact Monitoring

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to execute a Scope Change with Envicom Corporation, in the amount of \$32,288, for additional archaeological and Native American artifact monitoring for the Rancho Solar Generation Project Phase 2.

Director Tjulander moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Orkney. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Caspary, Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Renger

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

Item 5B was moved out of sequence.

B State and Federal Legislative Update

Ana Schwab, representing Best Best & Krieger, LLP (BBK), presented the federal legislative update. She noted that a new stimulus bill was being discussed by Congress with an arbitrary deadline set for July 31st. She stated that BBK was working on securing financial support for delinquent utility bill payments and expanding the local government definition to allow support for special districts in COVID-19 relief measures. She also reported that the House of Representatives passed its infrastructure package; however, the package would not be considered by the Senate. She also reported on recent federal court decisions affecting regulatory affairs such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the National Defense Authorization Act regarding perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) cleanup at military sites, which was not expanded to water and wastewater utilities. She introduced her colleagues John Freshman and Lowry Crook, and noted that they would serve as the JPA's lobbyist team while she is on temporary leave to study for the bar exam.

John Freshman, representing BBK, commended Ms. Schwab and stated that he was available to the JPA.

A Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Update

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, provided an update regarding the customer opinion/attitude survey by Pepperdine University. He noted that the survey included a recommendation that “purified recycled water” (PRW) should be the terminology used for describing the project to the community. He reported that the survey was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, some responses to the survey were gathered during a wastewater tour, school event, and online surveys. He reviewed the responses received, which were included in Pepperdine’s progress report. He also reported that six proposals were received for program management/owner’s advisor services for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, and a selection committee would meet to determine the most qualified firm for the work.

Director Shapiro referred to Pepperdine University’s written progress report and recommended terminology report and requested that the reports be titled to correctly reflect the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority rather than Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. He stated that this would make it clear for Triunfo Water & Sanitation District’s constituents and the local media.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, provided an update regarding the Pure Water Demonstration Project. He noted that start-up was completed and staff had taken over maintenance as of June 28th. He reported that samples of the treated purified water were sent for comprehensive testing to determine the performance of the Pure Water Demonstration Project and to verify that the purified water is suitable for tasting. He summarized the approximate number of staff hours needed to maintain the facility.

Director Renger connected to the teleconference at 5:32 p.m.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding facilitating a tour for the JPA Board by stating that staff would provide a virtual tour during the July 13th Special JPA Board meeting, as well as introduce the Piper Sandler team.

Mr. Zhao responded to a question regarding whether staff had learned anything new or come across anything unexpected with the Pure Water Demonstration Project equipment by stating that the project included a great level of automation. He stated that the target would be to automate the operation of the project as much as possible and use artificial intelligence to monitor and predict maintenance requirements.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Summary of Institutional Issues

Approve in concept the summary of institutional issues for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Renger moved to approve Item 6A. Motion seconded by Director Caspary.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding the definition of bonus credit by stating that SB 606 and AB 1668 related to *Making Conservation as a California Way of Life* included provisions for credits for potable water reuse. He explained that an agency that invests in potable reuse would receive a credit, which would make it easier to comply with water conservation standards.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B Tapia NPDES Effluent Limit Exceedances: Settlement Offer No. R4-2020-0042

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to execute Settlement Offer No. R4-2020-0042, including payment of \$60,000 for 25 exceedances of NPDES effluent limitations for the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen provided introductory remarks.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, presented the report.

Brett Dingman, Water Reclamation Manager, addressed the violations for effluent limitations. He stated that most of the violations occurred with disinfection during the Malibu Creek discharge period. He also stated that violations related to cyanide and nitrate exceedances were mostly attributable to the Tapia Process Air Improvements Project when several aeration basins were required to be taken offline during construction. He stated that the Pure Water Project Las-Virgenes Triunfo would effectively eliminate the need to discharge to Malibu Creek.

Director Renger moved to approve Item 6B. Motion seconded by Director Lo-Hill.

Mr. Dingman responded to a question regarding the locations of Discharge Point Nos. 001 and 005 by stating that these were located at the entrance to the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, discharging to Malibu Creek and on Parkway Calabasas near the Calabasas Civic Center, discharging to the Los Angeles River.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

7. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Orkney inquired regarding the status of the *White Paper on Tapping into Available Capacity in Existing Infrastructure to Create Water Supply and Water Quality Solutions*. Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen responded that work was continuing on moving the project forward. He noted that he was scheduled to provide a presentation to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on July 9th, and he stated that he would share a copy of the presentation with the JPA Board.

Director Shapiro noted that he attended a session presented by Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen during the WaterReuse California Virtual Conference regarding the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

Director Tjulander lost connection to the teleconference at 6:00 p.m.

Director Wall inquired regarding the Regional Brine Study synopsis, which was included in the agenda packet under Item 5A. Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen responded that this item was a summary of the initial conclusions regarding the Regional Brine Management Study. He stated that in terms of preliminary findings the most likely scenario would be a shared brine pipeline. He stated that staff would bring back the complete report to share the findings in detail with the Board. Board President Lewitt expressed an interest in discussing this item at a future meeting.

8. ADMINISTERING AGENT/GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen provided an update regarding the flows in Malibu Creek. He noted that the gauging station was currently at 8.9 cubic feet per second (CFS); therefore, fish flow augmentation was not needed.

Director Tjulander reconnected to the teleconference at 6:04 p.m.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen also reported that samples were sent to the University of Arizona to test for remnants of COVID-19 in the JPA's influent wastewater, final effluent, and digested sludge. He noted that the test results were negative. He stated that there would be no concern with making compost available to customers due to the negative results. He noted that there was a relatively low number of COVID-19 cases in the community. John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, added that a report was received from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts indicating that concentrations of remnants of COVID-19 coincided with the number of infections, which provided a good indication of the degree of COVID-19 infection in the population.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding the status of SB 1099 (Dodd) related to emergency generator testing by

stating that the bill unanimously passed on the Senate floor and would be moved to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources. He responded to a question regarding fish flows by stating that there was natural runoff from the watershed due to a mild summer and a fair amount of rainfall earlier in the year. John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, added that there was also an increase in recycled water demand; therefore, no discharge was needed.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen noted that a Special JPA Meeting would be held on July 13th for an introduction of the financial consultants from Piper Sandler and a virtual tour of the Pure Water Demonstration Facility. He also noted that the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) was holding its virtual WaterWise Breakfast Program, and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District facilitated the program held on May 21st where MWD General Manager Jeff Kightlinger provided a presentation. He inquired whether the Board would be support a virtual tour of the Pure Water Demonstration Project for the upcoming AWAVC WaterWise Breakfast Program. The Board agreed.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

A Tapia Process Air Improvements Project: Approval of Maintenance Contract for Sulzer Blowers

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. CLOSED SESSION

None.

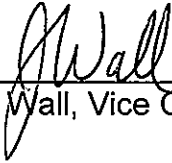
13. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **6:18 p.m.**



Jay Lewitt, Chair

ATTEST:



James Wall, Vice Chair