

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

5:00 PM

July 13, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Lee Renger.

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, Shapiro, Tjulander, and Wall

Absent: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Renger moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Director Caspary. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. INTRODUCTION OF TOM INNIS AND GREG SWARTZ FROM PIPER SANDLER

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen introduced Tom Innis from Piper Sandler, who would be assisting the JPA with the financing strategy for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

Tom Innis, Managing Director with Piper Sandler, provided his background in investment banking and discussed Piper Sandler's experience in assisting Las Virgenes Municipal Water District with private placement funding for the Automatic Meter Reading/Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMR/AMI) Project. He stated that Piper Sandler would assist the JPA in seeking Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding for up to 49 percent of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, as well as seeking the balance from State Revolving Funds (SRF), a private placement or other financial solutions. He responded to questions regarding other water districts that Piper Sandler has assisted in securing funding, the timeline to secure funding, and the current financial market for infrastructure funding. He stated that he would provide information regarding WIFIA to Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen and Finance and Administration Director Don Patterson.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen noted that staff and Best Best & Krieger (BBK), the JPA's lobbying firm, were monitoring appropriations for WIFIA and the SRF Programs at the federal level. He stated that securing financing and funding at this time was not the critical path for the project, and that the critical path would be the environmental documentation and initial phases of evaluating a design and/or design-build strategy. He noted that proposals were received from firms for program management/owner's advisor services for the project, and staff would bring back a recommendation to award an agreement at the September 8, 2020 JPA Board meeting. He stated that part of the scope for the owner's advisor would be to prepare a resource-loaded schedule for design and construction, and at that point, staff would interface with the Piper Sandler team for assistance with contemplating when to complete funding applications, which would be tied to the environmental clearance for the project.

Director Caspary suggested that the Piper Sandler team be introduced to the BBK team to ensure they stay on the same path.

5. VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE PURE WATER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen provided introductory remarks and acknowledged Director of Engineering and External Affairs Joe McDermott, Director of Facilities and Operations John Zhao, Director of Finance and Administration Don Patterson, Principal Engineer Eric Schlageter, and Facilities and Operations staff on their efforts to complete and start up the Pure Water Demonstration Project.

Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation featuring the JPA's accomplishments since its formation in 1964, the reuse of Tapia Water Reclamation Facility resources instead of discharging to Malibu Creek, historic precipitation, and the creation a local water supply. He provided a brief history of the development of a project to fully utilize the JPA's recycled water and the establishment of guiding principles. He began the tour by

sharing the JPA's timeline displayed in the Boardroom lobby, followed by a tour of the Pure Water Sustainability Garden, patio, mural, interactive screen showing a map of pure water projects worldwide, picture wall for group photos or selfies, a wall depicting the natural water cycle and the pure water cycle, and kiosks that would include videos and narration of the three steps of the treatment process.

Steve Jackson, Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator, continued the tour featuring the tank/supply reservoir for the recycled water, micro/ultrafiltration units, SCADA interface, reverse osmosis system, chemicals, instrumentation, meters, and ultraviolet light/advanced oxidation system.

Mr. McNutt ended the tour at the kitchen area where tour guests will be able to take a sample of the purified water from a faucet for tasting.

Darrell Johnson, Water Systems Manager, responded to a question regarding the use of hydrogen peroxide by stating that hydrogen peroxide was not being used to treat the water.

Director Orkney expressed an interest in a side view of the reverse osmosis filtration system. She suggested that the tank/supply reservoir for the recycled water could be painted purple. She also suggested that a map of the JPA service area be included at the beginning of the tour, showing the unique characteristics of the Malibu Creek Watershed and the issue of benthic macroinvertebrates.

Director Caspary suggested providing a script for the tour guides with the appropriate level of detail related to the complexity of dealing with Malibu Creek's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the associated litigation.

Chair Lewitt suggested that the tour guides be provided with different scripts geared towards the type of tour guests. He also suggested installing clear pipes so that tour guests may view the flow of the water being treated. He also suggested that tour guests be encouraged to bring their own water bottles to fill and taste the purified water instead of supplying disposable cups.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen noted that the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo introductory video would be included as part of the tour. He also noted that a virtual tour would be provided at the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County WaterWise Virtual Breakfast Program on July 23rd.

Greg Swartz, representing Piper Sandler, joined the teleconference 6:22 p.m. and stated that he was pleased to be a part of the financing team for the project.

Director Orkney expressed an interest in having a mascot for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo. Director Shapiro suggested "Pure Drop" as the mascot's name.

6. **ADJOURNEMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **6:25 p.m.**





Jay Lewitt, Chair

ATTEST:



James Wall, Vice Chair