

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

5:00 PM

November 2, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Leon Shapiro.

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 5, 2020: Approve

Director Orkney moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Lo-Hill. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Update

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, reported that the agreement was executed with Jacobs Engineering for the Owner's Advisor/Program Manager Services for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, and a kick-off meeting would be held soon.

Riki Clark, Public Affairs Associate II, reported that plans were in place for offering garden walks and water tasting; however, no in-person tours could be offered due to COVID-19 social gathering restrictions. She noted that staff was in the process of completing the indoor virtual tour video, which should be completed by early December.

Mr. McDermott responded to a question regarding the types of handouts that would be provided to tour guests by stating that tour guests could receive the standard brochure, which was also available on the website. He noted that staff was in the process of updating the brochure with new photographs.

Director Orkney stated that her concern would be to ensure that the public realize how safe the water would be for consumption and receive details on the purification process.

Chair Lewitt stated that he would prefer that no paper handouts be provided, and that the public be directed to the website for additional information.

Ms. Clark noted that all content would be available online and by email, including garden sign QR codes, brochures, outreach materials, videos, post-surveys, and pre-surveys.

B State and Federal Legislative Update

Syrus Devers, state lobbyist for the JPA with Best Best & Krieger LLP (BBK), presented the state legislative report. He stated that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee met and discussed proposed bills related to fire hydrant lawsuits, costs related to Proposition 218, and water theft. He also noted that the water report on reservoirs was released and strong drought patterns were trending for one-third of the state. He noted that the five top reservoirs were above 90 percent of historic capacity. He provided an update regarding negotiations with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on the proposal to change its rules dealing with exceeding emergency generator runtime limits during a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event and testing and maintenance. He noted that the working group would meet in December, and if sufficient progress was not made in the negotiations, he would work on introducing a spot bill for a renewed legislative effort next year.

Lowry Crook, federal lobbyist for the JPA with BBK, presented the federal legislative update. He noted that the Senate would return to session on November 8th and the House of Representatives would return to session on November 16th. He stated that negotiations for a COVID-19 relief bill would not continue until after the election. He also noted that proposed appropriations bills still needed to be passed by the Senate, and a continuing resolution might need to be adopted pending the outcome of the election. He stated that BBK was cautiously optimistic regarding the passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). He noted that the House of Representatives was seeking more funds for dredging; however, the Senate did not want to include funds for this purpose because it would score under budget rules. He stated that an Executive Order was issued regarding modernizing water management and water infrastructure, which would formalize a water sub-cabinet of the various agencies focused on water management and infrastructure. He stated that the sub-cabinet would be directed to review all of the various water task forces and initiatives and overlapping councils, and bring back a simplified process for dealing with water issues.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A Proposed 2021 JPA Board Meeting Calendar

Review the proposed 2021 JPA Board Meeting Calendar and make any scheduling adjustments.

Josie Guzman, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board, presented the report.

The JPA Board discussed keeping the May 3, 2021 meeting, canceling the September 7, 2021 meeting, and scheduling a Special meeting on September 13, 2021.

Director Tjulander moved to approve the 2021 JPA Board Meeting Calendar as amended. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B Tapia Tertiary Filter Media Replacement: Authorization of Purchase Order

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to issue a purchase order to Prominent Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$107,754, for replacement of tertiary filter media at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Lo-Hill moved to approve Item 6B. Motion seconded by Director Orkney. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

C Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Proposed Mascot

Review and provide feedback on the proposal for a JPA-centric mascot for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, presented the report and recommended that the Board consider "Super Drop" as the mascot for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo based on a previously developed concept called "The League of Water Warriors."

Director Lo-Hill moved to approve Item 6C as recommended. Motion seconded by Director Tjulander.

Director Orkney spoke in support of having iridescent blue tones for the mascot's costume, and asked that Super Drop's face be happier rather than as depicted in the rendering.

Director Lo-Hill spoke in support of the super hero theme.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

D Rancho Solar Generation Project Phase II: Award of Construction Contract for Landscaping Improvements

Award a construction contract to Martinez Landscaping Company, Inc., in the amount of \$70,230, and reject all remaining bids upon receipt of duly executed contract documents; and authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to approve Change Order No. 2 for Envicom Corporation, in the amount of \$11,759.50, for additional environmental services for the Rancho Solar Generation Project Phase II.

Eric Schlageter, Principal Engineer, presented the report.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 6D. Motion seconded by Director Wall.

Mr. Schlageter responded to a question regarding the lifecycle of the plant materials and irrigation by stating that there would be a one-year warranty period that would be in effect during irrigation, as well as a 90-day post-construction period where the contractor would be responsible for maintaining all of the plants and landscaping.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to a question regarding whether the archeological and Native American artifacts were carbon dated by stating that no carbon dating was done; however, the archeologist placed the artifacts' time period to be over 800 years.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

E Farm Sprayfield Operation and Maintenance: Authorization of Agreement

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to execute a one-year agreement with W. Litten Land Preparation, in an amount not-to-exceed \$384,900, for operation and maintenance of the Rancho Las Virgenes Farm Sprayfields.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen provided a brief summary.

Dave Roberts, Resource Conservation Manager, presented the report and PowerPoint presentation.

Director Shapiro moved to approve Item 6E. Motion seconded by Director Caspary.

A discussion ensued regarding the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) determination in denying the request for a special wage determination for operation and maintenance of the Rancho Las Virgenes Farm Sprayfields as it had opined that the work falls within the scope of existing prevailing wage classifications as a public works project.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

F Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility Centrifuge No. 2 Repairs: Award of Purchase Order

Accept the quotation from CentriTEK and authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to issue a purchase order, in the amount of \$69,669.86, for repairs to Centrifuge No. 2 at the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility.

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

Director Polan moved to approve Item 6F. Motion seconded by Director Caspary.

Mr. Zhao responded to a question regarding the lifecycle of the centrifuge by stating that the centrifuge could last more than 15 years with proper maintenance.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

7. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lo-Hill reported that she attended the virtual tour of the Alameda County Water District's Fish Passage Project.

8. ADMINISTERING AGENT/GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen noted that the creek avoidance period would end on November 15th. He reported that the flow in Malibu Creek measured 6.3 cubic feet per second (CFS) at the gauging station; therefore, fish flow was not needed. He noted that red flag weather conditions occurred the previous week, and no power outages affected JPA-owned facilities. He also reported that he would provide a presentation regarding the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo during the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 8 program on November 3rd.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Polan inquired regarding a future agenda item related to Michael Hart's proposal for a memorial park at the Rancho Las Virgenes Farm Sprayfields. Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen responded that Mr. Hart would provide a presentation at the November 17, 2020 Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board of Directors Meeting. He noted that Mr. Hart's proposal was originally presented under Public Comment as a potential use of the farm, and it might be of interest to the JPA.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

A Cordillera Tank Rehabilitation Project: Construction Award

B Management of Water Quality at the Las Virgenes Reservoir

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **6:19 p.m.**



Jay Lewitt, Chair

ATTEST:



James Wall, Vice Chair