

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

---

5:00 PM

December 7, 2020

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ana Schwab.

**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 November 2, 2020: Approve**

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

**5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS**

**A Project of the Year Award for Tapia Process Air Improvements Project: Presentation by Shahn Ahmad, APWA Regional Director**

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen introduced Shahn Ahmad, Regional Director of the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA).

Mr. Ahmad acknowledged the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority for receiving the Building Excellence Shaping Tomorrow (BEST) Project of the Year Award for the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility Process Air Improvements Project.

Eric Schlageter, Principal Engineer, provided a summary of the Tapia Process Air Improvements Project. He recognized consultants Carollo Engineers, Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering, and MSO Technologies. He also recognized the following staff on their efforts in making this project successful: Brett Dingman, Wayne Wink, Burt Brill, Mike Varbel, John Asiatico, Reggie Lacson, Eric Rabaja, Matthew Sainz, Karen Norman, Jim Korkosz, John Gil, William Galdones, Jonathan Alfafara, Shawn Triplett, Jon Meredith, Mike Hand, Doug Barrow, Mercedes Acevedo, Veronica Hurtado, Mike McNutt, and Steven Baird.

**B Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Update**

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, reported that efforts were moving forward on the concept for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo mascot. He also reported that staff was working on an updated project brochure and noted that Director Orkney had provided a sample brochure from the Orange County Water District. He stated that the updated brochure would be available electronically and with limited print copies. He noted that staff was in the process of finalizing the pre-recorded virtual tour of the Pure Water Demonstration Facility. He also reported that *Taste the Water, Explore the Garden* tours would be temporarily on hold due to social gathering restrictions. He noted that several workshops had been held with Jacobs Engineering, the firm providing Owner's Advisor/Program Management services to the JPA.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, reported that staff completed the stress test of the ultraviolet light disinfection system and completed descaling of the reverse osmosis membranes at the Pure Water Demonstration Facility. He also reported that staff training was continuing with the goal of having staff fully trained to operate the proposed future full-scale project.

**C State and Federal Legislative Update**

Ana Schwab, federal lobbyist for the JPA with Best Best & Krieger LLP (BBK), presented the federal legislative report. She provided an update regarding the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), and noted that the House of Representatives was scheduled to pass the bill on December 8th. She stated that

the Senate might attach WRDA to an omnibus spending measure-coronavirus relief and stimulus package. She also stated that BBK would continue to monitor WRDA to see that water projects move forward without issue. She noted that the federal funding continuing resolution would expire on December 11th, and there were discussions regarding adopting a one-week continuing resolution to allow time for Congress to pass an omnibus for all of the appropriations bills. She stated that this would allow the current Congress to finish out its term, provide appropriations through the remainder of the fiscal year, and give President-elect Joe Biden the opportunity to introduce a budget without a continuing resolution. She also stated that there was not much movement for a COVID-19 relief package. She noted that BBK was monitoring appropriations for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding, and monitoring the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for funding related to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination cleanup and PFAS-related research. She stated that it was expected that Congressionally-directed spending would return in the 2020-21 Congress with more transparency.

Lowry Crook, federal lobbyist for the JPA with BBK, noted that BBK would monitor the infrastructure package expected in the spring to line up potential projects in order to be competitive. Ms. Schwab added that once the new administration's positions are filled, BBK would be able to determine its priorities and then present the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo to inquire on how it might be included in the infrastructure package.

Syrus Devers, state lobbyist for the JPA with BBK, presented the state legislative report. He noted that the state legislature convened for a one-day session to swear in new members and pass resolutions. He noted that new bills could be introduced; however, he was not aware of any bills related to water, broadband, COVID-19 relief, infrastructure, or a resources bond proposal. He provided a brief overview of the election results in the State Senate and Assembly. He noted that BBK would monitor possible changes to Committee Chairs, specifically the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee, and the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. He reported that the Virtual Working Group meeting with the South Coast Air Quality Management District would be held on December 10th regarding Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1110.2 - Emissions from Gaseous- and Liquid-Fueled Engines, PAR 1470 - Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion and Other Compression Ignition Engines, and PAR 1472 - Requirements for Facilities with Multiple Stationary Emergency Standby Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion Engines. He stated that he would keep Senator Bill Dodd's staff informed of the discussions in case Senator Dodd might need to be approached to author a new bill. He also reported that President-elect Biden nominated California Attorney General Xavier Becerra as the new Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). He stated that it was likely that Governor Gavin Newsom would need to appoint a new Attorney General, a new Senator to replace Senator Kamala Harris, and possibly a new Secretary of State if Governor Newsom were to appoint Alex Padilla to replace Senator Harris. He noted that

Senator Harris would have until January 20, 2021 to resign from her Senate seat after she is sworn in as Vice President.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**A Financial Review: First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2020-21**

**Receive and file the financial review for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2020-21.**

Angela Saccareccia, Finance Manager, presented the report. She responded to a question regarding the operating revenues by stating the operating revenues were 6.2 percent below budget estimates, mostly due to lower recycled water sales.

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

**B Carbon Tower Carbon Replacement: Authorization of Purchase Order**

**Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to issue a purchase order to Karbonous, Inc., in the amount of \$39,876.90, for carbon tower media replacement at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility and Lift Station Nos. 1 and 2.**

Brett Dingman, Water Reclamation Manager, presented the report.

Director Wall moved to approve Item 6B. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**C Sewer System Management Plan: Approval and Recertification**

**Approve the 020 Sewer System Management Plan, JPA Report No. 2797.00; and authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager, or his designee, to recertify and submit the updated plan to the State Water Resources Control Board.**

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

Director Polan moved to approve Item 6C. Motion seconded by Director Tjulander.

Mr. Zhao responded to a question regarding the sewer system's capacity to serve a population of 400,000 by stating that the sewer system was originally designed to support a substantially larger growth rate for the service area. He noted that the current population of the service area was 85,000 to 90,000 people. He also noted that due to the capacity there was less chance of materials clogging the system, and the system mostly served residential customers.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**D Pure Water Demonstration Project Sustainability Garden:  
Authorization of Change Order**

**Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to approve Change Order No. 2 with the Urban Water Management Group, in the amount of \$26,850,f or additional professional services to support the Pure Water Demonstration Project Sustainability Garden.**

Dave Roberts, Resource Conservation Manager, presented the report and a PowerPoint presentation, which included a rendering of the Sustainability Garden logo, directional signage resembling the signage from the M.A.S.H. movie and television series, plant identification tags, water drop signage, and garden overview signage.

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

Director Caspary acknowledged Mr. Roberts and staff on their efforts. He expressed support for the development of a specification manual for maintaining native plant landscaping.

Director Orkney expressed support for the Sustainability Garden logo featuring the California poppy.

Director Renger asked that the maintenance specification manual be posted on the website.

Director Lo-Hill mentioned that she took a photograph of her native plant garden and used it as her teleconference background. She stated that it would be important to teach the community on ways to maintain a native plant garden.

Chair Lewitt expressed support for the directional signage, and noted that the area was famous for its use in filming the M.A.S.H. television series.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**7. BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Orkney noted that she was having a pond and waterfall built in her backyard, and she stated that she had gained great respect for engineers and operational staff. She also stated that she had become aware of all of the variables regarding pump, flow, and lift, and she commended staff on their knowledge.

Director Polan stated that he was planning a new garden for his property, and that he was inspired by the Pure Water Sustainability Garden.

Director Caspary noted that Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen would provide a virtual presentation of the Pure Water Demonstration Facility at the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Meeting on December 8th. He acknowledged Mr. Pedersen on his efforts to showcase the JPA's resolve in managing its water resources.

**8. ADMINISTERING AGENT/GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen noted that this would be the last JPA Board meeting for the year, and he wished everyone Happy Holidays. He noted that the JPA Chair would transition at the January 4, 2021 meeting, and the Chair from the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District would become the JPA Chair. He reported that staff was discharging to Malibu Creek during certain times of the day when wastewater flows were higher. He noted that red flag conditions were being experienced, which could lead to Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) events. He stated that PSPS events were primarily affecting Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's potable water pump station in the Chatsworth area, and no JPA-owned facilities were affected at this time. He noted that a mechanic and an electrician would be on standby in addition to operations staff during red flag alerts. He reported that the free recycled water fill station had resumed at the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility. He also reported that the 4-megawatt Rancho Solar Generation Project Phase II Project was completed. He stated that Southern California Edison completed the interconnection of the facility to the power grid, and staff was anticipating an operational start date on December 10th. He also stated that staff would use a drone video camera to record the solar generation operation to post on the JPA's website. He also reported that Las Virgenes Municipal Water District was going through a Proposition 218 process to update its potable water, recycled water, and sanitation rates.

Director Renger noted that a map of PSPS events was available on Southern California Edison's website.

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A Rancho Solar Generation Project Phase II: Estoppel Certificates**

Director Lo-Hill congratulated staff on the operational start date of the Rancho Solar Generation Phase II Project.

**B Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility: Fire Protection for Exterior Amendment Hopper Opening**

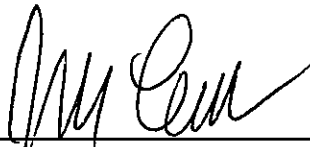
**C Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Energy Demand and Recovery for Reverse Osmosis Process**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

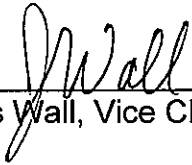
**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **6:07 p.m.**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Lewitt, Chair

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
James Wall, Vice Chair