

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

5:00 PM

April 5, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Jane Nye.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at **5:00 p.m.** by Chair Tjulander 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, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Renger (connected to the teleconference at 5:25 p.m.), Shapiro, Tjulander, and Wall.
Absent: Lewitt

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, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Lewitt, Renger

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A Minutes: Special Meeting of February 22, 2021 and Regular Meeting of March 1, 2021: Approve

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

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Lewitt, Renger

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 online registration would soon be available at www.ourpureh2o.com for the first *Taste the Water, Explore the Garden* event scheduled on May 1st at the Pure Water Demonstration Facility. He also reported that a cable was installed from the demonstration facility to Headquarters to connect the equipment to the District's network and allow staff to remotely monitor and control the treatment process.

Dave Roberts, Resource Conservation Manager, shared renderings of the garden directional and water drop signage for the Pure Water Sustainability Garden. He responded to a question regarding whether there were any plans to include purple in the signage color palette by stating that the sign renderings included colors from the demonstration facility; however, he explained that purple could be added.

Director Lo-Hill suggested adding that the M.A.S.H. site was located four miles away on the directional signage as a tribute to the inspiration for the signage.

Eric Schlageter, Principal Engineer, presented the monthly update from Jacobs Engineering Group (Jacobs). He noted that Jacobs would present the draft Program Implementation Plan (PIP) at the April 28th Workshop, and the final PIP would be presented for adoption at the June 1st JPA Board meeting. He explained that the PIP would establish the foundation for the program with the processes, tools, program projects, readiness assessment recommendations, baseline cost-loaded master schedule, proposed delivery methods, environmental and regulatory strategies, and approach for public outreach. He stated that Jacobs would present the initial cost-loaded schedule and financial model in the next few months.

Director Orkney referred to alternative discharge options for accepting flows above the capacity of the advanced water treatment facility and suggested water storage for stormwater and the possibility of a shallow water bird habitat at the Las Virgenes Farm Sprayfields as alternatives to discharging to the Los Angeles River.

Mr. Schlageter responded to a question regarding whether there would be value in analyzing the cost of the Camarillo Desalter Project when developing cost projections for the Pure Water Project by stating that Jacobs would have an independent process of evaluating project costs and would consider the cost of other comparable local projects.

B State and Federal Legislative Update

Director Renger connected to the teleconference at 5:25 p.m.

Ana Schwab, federal lobbyist for the JPA with Best Best & Krieger LLP (BBK), presented the federal legislative update, and noted that several letters were sent to legislators on behalf of the JPA. She stated that the letters included support for advanced refunding of municipal bonds and Title XVI reauthorization. She noted that the Administration introduced its Infrastructure Plan, including: \$111 billion for clean water and drinking water; \$56 billion for upgrading wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water systems through grants and low cost loans; \$35 billion towards removing 100 percent of lead service pipes; and \$10 billion for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) monitoring and remediation. She noted that the Senate and House of Representatives were advancing legislation that would address water and wastewater infrastructure. She also noted that Senator Dianne Feinstein would be introducing the Title XVI reauthorization, which would address water and wastewater infrastructure. She stated that a bill to extend NPDES permit terms from five years to ten years was reintroduced; however, the bill was continuing to receive opposition from environmental advocates.

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, mentioned that staff was scheduling teleconference meetings with federal legislators for the week of May 17th. He stated that typically the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board President and the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (TWSD) Board Chair would designate two directors to participate in these meetings. Ms. Schwab added that BBK was working on scheduling meetings with staff from Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Congressman Brad Sherman, Congressman Ted Lieu, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Alex Padilla. She stated that BBK would determine whether to reach out to the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as consider scheduling meetings with key committee staff to highlight the JPA's issues and support its positions on several bills. Following a brief discussion, Directors Shapiro and Orkney volunteered to participate on behalf of TWSD.

Syrus Devers, state lobbyist for the JPA with Best Best & Krieger LLP (BBK), presented the state legislative update, and noted that AB 1195 (Garcia) would have created a new water agency within the Central and West Coast Basins; however, it was likely that the bill would be amended to create a new administrative process. He noted that AB 818 (Bloom), Solid Waste Pre-Moistened Nonwoven Disposal Wipes, would be considered by the Committee on Environmental Safety

and Toxic Materials as a consent calendar item on April 7th and would likely move forward. He referred to an article in the *Los Angeles Times* regarding Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins' proposal to swiftly spend \$2 billion on strategic, non-controversial water projects. He noted that he was unable to identify any legislation or language for a budget trailer bill. He also reported that there was much discussion regarding water supply and drought conditions.

Administrative Agent/General Manager David Pedersen noted that WaterReuse California was in discussion with Senate President Pro Tempore Atkins' office to suggest funding for water recycling projects.

Mr. Devers responded to a question regarding SB 323 (Caballero), Local Government Water or Sewer Service Legal Actions, related to statute of limitation on water and sewer rates by stating that the bill would set a period of 120 days for anyone to litigate against historically published water and sewer rates.

C Public Outreach Strategy: Review of Tools and Tactics

Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the strategies used for public outreach.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A Rancho Solar Field Facility Landscaping Project: Final Acceptance

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to execute a Notice of Completion and have the same recorded; and, in the absence of claims from subcontractors or others, release the retention, in the amount of \$3,500.88, 30-calendar days after filing the Notice of Completion for the Rancho Solar Field Facility Landscaping Project.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Shapiro moved to approve Item 6A. Motion seconded by Director Renger. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Caspary, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Renger, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Lewitt

B 2020 Bioassessment Monitoring Report: Approval of Purchase Order

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to approve a purchase order to Aquatic Bioassay Consulting Laboratories, Inc., in the amount of \$49,843, for the 2020 Bioassessment Monitoring Report.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, presented the report. He responded to a question regarding the possibility of the report being challenged by stating that there was sufficient data available to support the report.

Director Orkney moved to approve Item 6B. Motion seconded by Director Caspary. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Caspary, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Renger, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Lewitt

C **Tapia WRF Summer Season TMDL Compliance Project: Approval of Scope Change No. 4**

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to execute Scope Change No. 4 with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., in the amount of \$17,892, for additional design and professional services associated with the Tapia WRF Summer Season TMDL Compliance Project.

Veronica Hurtado, Assistant Engineer, presented the report. She responded to a question regarding the timeline for the County of Los Angeles to replace the bridge.

Director Caspary lost connection to the teleconference at 6:15 p.m.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 6C. Motion seconded by Director Shapiro. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Renger, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Caspary, Lewitt

D **Multi-Site Battery Energy Storage System Project: Authorization for SGIP Funding Application Deposit**

Ratify the Administering Agent/General Manager's execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Non-Disclosure Agreement with Tesla, Inc., to secure Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) funding; authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to deposit a 5% refunding SGIP funding application fee, in the estimated amount of \$168,645, with Tesla, Inc.; and approve an additional appropriation, in the amount of \$50,000, for the Multi-Site Battery Energy Storage System Project.

Doug Anders, Administrative Services Coordinator, presented the report.

Director Caspary reconnected to the teleconference at 6:19 p.m.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to questions regarding battery storage capabilities, project payback period, and estimated cost-savings over the project lifespan.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 6D. Motion seconded by Director Lo-Hill. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Lewitt

7. **BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Lo-Hill congratulated the JPA on receiving the Transformational Innovation Award by the WaterReuse Association. Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen stated that he would share an article from the *Las Virgenes and Calabasas Enterprise* announcing the award.

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

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen reminded the Board of the workshop scheduled for April 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo Program Implementation Plan. He acknowledged Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, on his Public Outreach Strategy presentation, and he also acknowledged staff on their public outreach efforts for the compost giveaway program. He noted that demand for compost had significantly increased, and there was no need to have dewatered biosolids hauled offsite. However, he explained that dewatered biosolids would need to be hauled offsite when the fire damage repair work begins on the interior of the amendment building.

9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.


11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **6:31 p.m.**



Ray Tjulander, Chair

ATTEST:



Jay Lewitt, Vice Chair