

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

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5:00 PM

July 6, 2021

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Charles Caspary.

**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 (via teleconference), Orkney, Polan (via teleconference), Renger, Shapiro, and Tjulander.  
Absent: Lewitt and Wall.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 7, 2021 and Special Meeting of June 16, 2021: Approve**

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

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

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

**A State and Federal Legislative Update**

Lowry Crook, federal lobbyist for the JPA with Best Best & Krieger LLP (BBK), presented the federal legislative update, and reported that the amendment to the Alternative Water Source Pilot Program to allow those who received Title XVI Feasibility Study funds to also be eligible for the Alternative Water Source Pilot Program had passed out of Committee. He noted that this program was combined with the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act Bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives. He also reported that Congress would work on reconciling the water and transportation package with the infrastructure package, which would include \$117 billion for drinking water projects and \$51 billion for wastewater projects over the next five years.

Syrus Devers, state lobbyist for the JPA with Best Best & Krieger LLP (BBK), presented the state legislative update, and reported that the Assembly was continuing to work on funding allocations for water recycling and groundwater projects. He noted that \$730 million was proposed for the water, drought resiliency, and groundwater package; however, this amount would need to be approved in a subsequent bill. He also stated that there was still discussion about allocating \$300 million to water recycling projects. He noted that BBK was continuing to work with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) regarding water recycling and not limiting funding for arrearages to low-income customers only. He also noted that he had placed a meeting request with Assemblymember Richard Bloom.

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

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen noted that items related to the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo would be included under Items 6B and 6C.

**C Update on Proposed Landscape Transformation Initiative**

Dave Roberts, Resource Conservation Manager, presented the report and PowerPoint presentation, which included information on the Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan, Landscape Transformation Initiative, Calscape Nursery Program, native garden kits, greenhouse, and next steps.

A discussion ensued regarding concerns with the JPA funding this initiative; opportunities to include non-native, drought tolerant Mediterranean plants; encouraging customers to install native plants to conserve water and meet water allocation regulations; concerns with partnering on the sale of plants; concerns with construction of a greenhouse on JPA-owned property; having staff bring back cost proposals from existing growers for the most popular and most attractive native plants; and concerns with staffing the greenhouse operation.

Mr. Roberts noted that TreePeople would staff and operate the greenhouse nursery on-site and implement the regional plant sale program. He also noted that TreePeople would build the greenhouse, and staff would develop a property lease proposal for consideration by the Board.

A discussion ensued regarding bringing back a rendering of the proposed greenhouse, concerns regarding whether signage would be included, and other potential uses for the sprayfields.

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A Proposed JPA Operating and Capital Improvements Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22: Adoption**

#### **Adopt the proposed JPA Operating and Capital Improvements Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22**

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, presented the report. He responded to questions regarding increased energy costs, increased labor costs due to cross-training at the Pure Water Demonstration Facility, and increased staff overtime costs associated with response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Lewitt, Wall

### **B Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Updated Baseline Cost Estimate**

**Review and provide feedback on the updated baseline cost estimate for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.**

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen provided introductory remarks.

Jennifer Phillips, representing Jacobs Engineering, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

A discussion ensued regarding the increased baseline cost estimate for conveyance; consideration of a partnership with the City of Thousand Oaks for the brine pipeline; other potential partnerships to help offset the overall cost of the project; and the risk assessment and statistical analysis conducted to identify potential risks for the project.

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, continued the PowerPoint presentation regarding the funding and financing strategy. He responded to questions regarding working with Piper Sandler to identify short-term financing opportunities, including municipal bonds and a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen stated that staff would follow-up on the WIFIA loan interest rate and the State Revolving Fund rate. He responded to a question regarding the estimated cost of the project per person by stating that estimating the cost would be a complex process to evaluate the financial impacts based on a number of important factors. He stated that a special JPA Board meeting would be scheduled at the end of August to discuss the financial impacts of the baseline cost estimate in more detail. He also stated that he spoke with Director Lewitt, who indicated that the most important aspects for him were the impacts to customers, demonstrating that the project was affordable, and putting into context how the project would affect customers' monthly bills.

The report was received and filed.

**C Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Adoption of Program Implementation Plan**

**Approve and adopt the Program Implementation Plan for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.**

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Orkney moved to approve Item 6C. Motion seconded by Director Caspary, and he asked that the motion be amended to include a statement in the Program Implementation Plan summary to explain that costs were expected to be substantially higher than originally indicated in the Title XVI cost estimates.

Director Orkney accepted the amendment to the motion.

Amended motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Lewitt, Wall

**D     **Tapia Summer Season TMDL Compliance and Meter Replacement Projects: CEQA Determination and Call for Bids****

**Find that the Tapia Meter Replacement Project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and authorize the issuance of a call for bids for the Tapia Summer Season TMDL Compliance and Meter Replacement Projects.**

Veronica Hurtado, Assistant Engineer, presented the report.

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

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Lewitt, Wall

**7.     BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Orkney stated that she was pleased to return to meeting in the Board Room. She also stated that she was pleased to see the progress of the Pure Water Sustainability Garden.

Director Shapiro stated that he was also pleased to return to meeting in the Board Room. He commended staff and the Jacobs Team on the preparation of the Pure Water Project Program Implementation Plan document, and he asked that a copy be posted on the website.

Director Polan noted that the *Los Angeles Times* included mention of visiting the JPA's Pure Water Sustainability Garden as one of the 12 best events this summer for plant lovers. He also noted that a group of landscape architects would tour the garden the following day.

Director Lo-Hill reported that she attended the virtual Water Reuse Europe and WaterReuse Association Joint webinar on June 24th, and noted that Andrew Salveson from Carollo Engineers used the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-

Triunfo as an example of potable water reuse. She also congratulated the JPA on being selected to receive the California Association of Sanitation Agencies' Excellence in Innovation & Resiliency Award for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo. She suggested that staff submit an award application to the American Public Works Association.

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

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen reported that the flow in Malibu Creek was measuring 2.89 cubic feet per second, and there was no need for water augmentation. He noted that typically the JPA Board would meet at the Oak Park Library in September, and he asked the Board to consider holding the September meeting in the LVWMD Board Room due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. He provided information regarding the nationwide chlorine shortage by noting that the shortage was caused by an electrical failure at a chlorine plant in Washington and a fire at another chlorine plant on the East Coast. He noted that the chlorine shortage had not affected the JPA. He also noted that the federal government and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had processes in place in case of consumable product shortages to initiate steps to ration and prioritize water and wastewater utilities to receive the limited supplies. He also reported that staff was continuing to monitor for COVID-19 and the Delta variant in the wastewater influent, and noted that levels were consistently low.

The JPA Board agreed to hold the September 13, 2021 JPA meeting in the LVMWD Board Room.

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A Saddle Peak and Cordillera Tanks Rehabilitation Projects: Final Acceptance**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**


None.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **7:01 p.m.**, in honor of former Resource Conservation Manager, Dr. Randal D. Orton.

  
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Ray Tjulander, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Jay Lewitt, Vice Chair