



**LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas CA 91302

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

---

9:00 AM

September 6, 2022

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Andy Coradeschi.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at **9:00 a.m.** by Board President Lewitt 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 Assembly Bill 361, which suspended certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act to support social distancing guidelines associated with response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Charles Caspary, Jay Lewitt, Lynda Lo-Hill, Len Polan, and Lee Renger

Absent: None

Staff Present: David Pedersen, General Manager  
Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration  
Eric Schlageter, Principal Engineer  
John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations  
Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board  
Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant  
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF RESOLUTION NO. 2609 (AB 361)**

General Manager David Pedersen noted that Closed Session Item 13A was for information purposes only, and the Closed Session would only be needed if the Board had questions related to that item.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the agenda and findings of Resolution No. 2609 (AB 361), and consider during the meeting whether the Closed Session would be needed.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Andy Coradeschi introduced himself and stated that he would be honored to serve as the next Director representing Division 2 following Director Lynda Lo-Hill, who chose not to run for reelection. He noted that he previously worked for a water company in New Jersey, and he moved to Agoura Hills in the 1990s. He also noted that he met MWD Representative Glen Peterson and Director Lo-Hill, and he was looking forward to working with the District.

Don Patterson introduced new employees Robert Rocha, Accounting Technician, and Pertchui Gamalyan, Human Resources Coordinator.

John Zhao introduced new employee Johnel Berry, Maintenance Mechanic I.

The Board welcomed the new employees to the District.

### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A List of Demands: September 6, 2022: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Regular Meeting of August 16, 2022: Approve**

**C Continuation of Local State of Emergency Due to Water Shortage from Statewide Drought**

**Approve the continuation of a local emergency declaration due to water shortage from the statewide drought.**

**D Monthly Cash and Investment Report: July 2022**

**Receive and file the Monthly Cash and Investment Report for July 2022.**

**E Annual Contract with Quinn Power Systems**

**Authorize the General Manager to approve an annual service agreement with Quinn Power Systems, in the amount of \$130,000, for preventative maintenance and repair of emergency generators.**

**F Removal of 5% Salary Range Adjustment for Resource Conservation Manager Position**

**Approve the removal of an existing 5% salary range adjustment for the Resource Conservation Manager position.**

**G US-Israel Collaboration on Water Reuse: Delegation Visit to Israel**

**Authorize the Board President and General Manager to participate in a delegation visit to Israel as part of the US-Israel Collaboration on Water Reuse from October 30 to November 3, 2022.**

Director Caspary moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Renger. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**A MWD Representative Report**

Glen Peterson, MWD Representative, reported that the MWD Board recognized Ned Hyduke upon his retirement as General Manager of the Palo Verde Irrigation District; adopted a resolution encouraging civility by public speakers; adopted a resolution levying ad valorem property taxes for Fiscal Year 2022-23; determined that there was a need to continue the emergency action of executing a no-bid contract for construction of pipe joint repairs on the Upper Feeder; adopted the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination for the Calabasas Feeder and Sepulveda Feeder Rehabilitation Projects; authorized a five-year reimbursable agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to provide services for the State Water Project operations and maintenance activities; authorized the General Manager to make payments of up to \$3.75 million to the State Water Project Contractors for Fiscal Year 2022-23; and appointed Members, Chairs, and Vice Chairs of Committees through January 11, 2023. He noted that he was appointed as the Chair of the Imported Water Committee, and he would remain as the Vice Chair of the Real Property Committee. He also noted that nominations for the MWD Chair would occur in October, and MWD Chairwoman Gloria Gray expressed an interest in being reelected as Chairwoman. He responded to a question regarding the construction timeline for the Calabasas Feeder by stating that construction could take one year to complete. He also responded to a question regarding the task of the Imported Water Committee by stating that the MWD Board adopted a resolution committing to regional reliability for all member agencies, and the Imported Water Committee would consider and receive input regarding water availability from the State Water Project and Colorado River. He also responded to a question regarding MWD's allocation to all member agencies in 2023 by stating that the MWD Board needed to go through a process to determine the allocation, which would likely be issued in December. He stated that the five percent allocation to the District would likely remain if there were no additional water supplies.

**B Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

General Manager David Pedersen reported that SB 1157 (Hertzberg), which would lower the existing indoor gallons per capita daily (GPCD) water use efficiency standard, was passed by the Assembly and revisions were confirmed by the Senate. He noted that the bill was at Governor Gavin Newsom's desk for his signature, and a veto request was submitted by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) as they remained opposed to the bill unless amended. He also noted that a trailer bill passed which added \$210 million to the state budget for competitive grants for potable reuse projects; therefore, approximately \$600 million would now be available for water recycling projects.

## **C Drought and Water Supply Conditions**

General Manager David Pedersen reported that the Colorado River system experienced monsoons recently; however, there was still a decline in water supplies in the reservoirs along the State Water Project system. He noted that staff submitted a request to MWD for Human Health and Supplies for next year, and staff would formulate the water conservation numbers for August to submit to the State Water Resources Control Board.

## **6. TREASURER**

Director Lo-Hill stated that the Treasurer's report was in order.

## **7. FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

### **A Replacement of 500-Gallon Trailer-Mounted Vacuum Tank: Authorization**

**Authorize the General Manager to issue a purchase order to Pres Tech Equipment Company, in the amount of \$79,798.66, for the replacement of an existing 500-gallon trailer-mounted vacuum tank.**

Shawn Triplett, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, presented the report.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 7A. Motion seconded by Director Renger.

Mr. Triplett responded to a question regarding arrangements with companies to provide their 3,000 to 4,000-gallon vacuum-mounted equipment when needed by stating that the contracts with Toro Enterprises and National Plant Service provided for this type of service.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **B Temporary Recycled Water Fill Station in Hidden Hills: Contract Amendment**

**Authorize the General Manager to approve a contract amendment with Toro Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$80,715.40, for the temporary recycled water fill station in Hidden Hills.**

Darrell Johnson, Water Systems Manager, presented the report.

Director Caspary moved to approve Item 7B. Motion seconded by Director Lo-Hill.

A discussion ensued regarding the City of Hidden Hills' use of water for dust control in riding arenas and for irrigation purposes, the lack of a recycled water system in Hidden Hills, and the cost for the removal of the temporary recycled water tank and water truck services.

Motion carried unanimously.

**C Agoura Pump Station Portable Standby Generator: Purchase Order**

**Authorize the General Manager to issue a purchase order to Quinn Power Systems, in the amount of \$79,874.56, for a portable standby generator at the Agoura Pump Station.**

Darrell Johnson, Water Systems Manager, presented the report.

Director Renger moved to approve Item 7C. Motion seconded by Director Polan.

A discussion ensued regarding the trailer-mounted portable generator with fuel tank attached, 24-hour minimum run time for portable generators, and ensuring that the new generator meets current emissions reduction technology.

Motion carried unanimously.

**8. ENGINEERING AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**A AMR/AMI Project Management Services: Contract Amendment**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute Change Order No. 3 with MeterSYS, in the amount of \$75,000, to provide additional project management services for completion of the AMR-AMI Project.**

Craig Jones, Management Analyst II, presented the report.

Director Renger moved to approve Item 8A. Motion seconded by Director Lo-Hill.

Mr. Jones responded to questions regarding the \$75,000 request for additional project management services, anticipated project completion by November, and piloting a cellular meter interface unit (MIU) for customers' network capability in remote areas.

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget in Brief**

**B Potable Water Supplement, Creek Flow Augmentation, and Reservoir Management during Drought Emergency**

**10. NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**A Organization Reports**

None.

**B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings**

None.

**C General Manager Reports**

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen reported that Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency on August 31st due to an Extreme Heat Event throughout the state, and water and wastewater agencies were asked to shift energy demands off the grid. He noted that the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility used emergency backup power on September 4th and shifted over two megawatts off from the grid. He also noted that statewide energy demands were reaching historic peak levels, and the state issued an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) 2. He stated that EEA 3 was the highest level where rolling blackouts would begin. He also stated that the California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO) had a free application (app) called ISO Today for people to download and receive real-time power grid conditions and alerts. He noted that the worst of the peak energy demand was expected later in the evening and statewide energy demands were expected to be 51,000 megawatts, which would likely trigger EEA 3 and rolling blackouts. He stated that the District would be reimbursed \$2 per kilowatt hour that is shifted off the grid. He also noted that there was another program that might provide reimbursement, and staff would explore which program would provide the most reimbursement to the District. He also noted that the Governor's declaration relaxed air quality standards, which would allow the District to run portable generators without counting against the run-time limits.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to a question regarding the cost to run the generators by stating that the District would receive \$4,000 to offset the cost for running three generators to shift two megawatts from the grid, which would be a 75 percent reimbursement towards labor and materials. General Manager David Pedersen noted that discussions were held with the Energy Commission that the incentive amount to utility organizations needed to be increased in order to recover all costs for shifting from the grid.

A discussion ensued regarding posting on social media the need to conserve energy and the efforts taken by the District during the extreme heat event.

Director Caspary suggested that ACWA should aggregate the data and use it towards legislation to increase available run-time hours for backup generators. He asked staff to

communicate this approach to ACWA prior to September 30th.

General Manager David Pedersen also reported that MWD imposed a 15-day emergency shutdown for the Upper Feeder to repair a leak. He noted that this was one of the key pipelines that moves water from the Colorado River to the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant; therefore, water supply from the State Water Project would be affected. He also noted that MWD called for all customers to discontinue outdoor irrigation during the shutdown; however, State Water Project-dependent area customers would not be asked to further restrict outdoor water use as they were already under strict water conservation requirements. He also reported that the District would host a webinar on September 7th regarding Wildfire Safety, Preparedness, and Fire-Wise Landscape Design, which would include presentations by Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin, Drew Smith from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and Clark Stevens from the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains. Board President Lewitt noted that a tree limb had fallen onto a Malibu light in his neighborhood that caused some smoldering, and he suggested that this be discussed at the webinar.

General Manager David Pedersen also reported that a public meeting would be held on September 8th for the Public Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo Public Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. He stated that Jacobs would receive input and respond to questions during the meeting. He also reminded the Board that the MWD State Water Project Inspection Trip would be held October 14th through 16th as a joint trip with Calleguas Municipal Water District.

(2) Follow-Up Items

None.

**D Directors' Comments**

Director Lo-Hill noted that she did not file for reelection for her seat on the Board of Directors. She stated that she enjoyed working for the District, and expressed her appreciation to staff. She also expressed her interest in becoming the MWD Representative in the future. She also suggested that the District provide outreach to the public to seek interest in serving on the Board.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

This item was not discussed as there were no questions from the Board.

**A Conference with District Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2):**

**Tort claim by William Bromiley**

**14. OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 10:36 a.m., in memory of E.G. “Jerry” Gladbach, Director from the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, past ACWA President, and LAFCO Special District Representative.





---

Jay Lewitt, President  
Board of Directors  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

ATTEST:



---

Lee Renger, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

(SEAL)