



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

December 20, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ursula Bosson.

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 Gary Burns, Charles Caspary, Andy Coradeschi, Jay Lewitt, and Len Polan (via teleconference).

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 (AB261)

Director Caspary moved to approve the agenda and approve the findings of Resolution No. 2609 (AB 361). Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A List of Demands: December 20, 2022: Receive and file

B Minutes Regular Meeting of December 6, 2022: Approve

C Directors' Per Diem – November 2022: Ratify

D 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.

E Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position: October 2022

Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending on October 31, 2022.

F New Janitorial Services Contract: Award

Authorize the General Manager to execute a one-year contract with US Metro Group, Inc., in the amount of \$250,000, for janitorial services.

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

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A MWD Representative Report

Glen Peterson, MWD Representative, reported that incoming MWD Chair Adán Ortega had proposed holding MWD Committee Meetings concurrently, which could be problematic for MWD Representatives who serve on more than one committee. He stated that incoming Chair Ortega indicated he would take the concerns regarding his proposal into consideration. He also reported that the MWD Board approved appointment of Board Vice Chairs; reduced the number of MWD Committees; authorized \$80 million in grant funding from the State Water Resources Control Board and authorized an increase of 17

staff to commence activities related to the initiation of the Pure Water Southern California Program; adopted a resolution to accept \$50 million from the California Department of Water Resources to support drought mitigation projects; approved the MWD General Manager's contract and salary increase; approved amendments and revisions to the Administrative Code; inducted new Director Arturo Chacon representing Central Basin Municipal Water District; and adopted a resolution reaffirming the Regional Drought Emergency and considering implementation of the regional Water Supply Allocation Plan for all member agencies. He noted that he was appointed a committee that would negotiate Colorado River water, and he was relieved of his service as a Director on the Colorado River Board. He also reported that he attended the Colorado River Water Users Association Conference where they discussed challenges and opportunities for the Colorado River Compact. He noted that MWD would be yielding its entitlement of water from the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), and he discussed concerns with the price of water from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). He responded to questions regarding the Quantification Settlement Agreement with IID, impacts related to MWD Engineering and Operations staff transfers to the Pure Water Southern California Program, and potential benefits to member agencies from MWD's Pure Water Southern California Program.

B Legislative and Regulatory Updates

General Manager David Pedersen reported that staff was monitoring the state budget process, and noted that there was concern that the state would no longer have a surplus budget condition. He stated that staff was anticipating that Governor Gavin Newsom would be considering several budget cuts, and staff would monitor to ensure that drought and water recycling funding would be maintained. He noted that the initial state budget proposal would be available on January 10th, followed by the May revise. He also reported that work continued regarding the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposal to list Southern Steelhead as a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act, and an information item was included on the agenda as Item 10B.

C Water Supply Conditions Update: Receive and file

Ursula Bosson, Customer Service Manager, reported that the snowpack in the Northern Sierra was at 180 percent of normal; the 8-station index was at 95 percent of normal for precipitation; reservoir levels were below average capacity; snow and precipitation levels for the Colorado River Basin were at 116 percent and 100 percent respectively of normal; Lakes Mead and Powell remained at record low levels; and drought conditions continued. She also presented the Customer Service Drought Metrics Report.

A discussion ensued regarding the upward trend of issuing notices of exceedance due to customers not adjusting irrigation systems in cooler temperatures, encouraging installation of the Rachio weather-based irrigation controller, the Flow Restriction Device Program, customer appeals, customer hold times when calling the District office, and encouraging the use of the WaterSmart portal.

Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, shared staffs' efforts in educating the community on water conservation.

Ms. Bosson responded to a question regarding whether customers' call were recorded by stating that her department was working with Information Systems staff on the process to record phone calls.

A discussion ensued regarding promoting enrollment in the WaterSmart portal.

6. **TREASURER**

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration/Deputy Treasurer, stated that the Treasurer's report was in order.

7. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A Nomination of Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer

Accept nominations for directors to serve two-year terms as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Board.

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Board President Lewitt opened the nominations for President.

Director Caspary moved to nominate Jay Lewitt as President.

Director Polan moved to nominate himself as President.

Board President Lewitt opened the nominations for Vice-President.

Board President moved to nominate Andy Coradeschi as Vice-President.

Director Caspary moved to nominate Len Polan as Vice-President.

Board President Lewitt opened the nominations for Secretary.

Director Caspary moved to nominate Gary Burns as Secretary.

Director Polan moved nominate Andy Coradeschi as Secretary.

Board President Lewitt opened the nominations for Treasurer.

Director Caspary moved to nominate Andy Coradeschi as Treasurer.

Board President moved to nominate Charles Caspary as Treasurer.

Directors Lewitt and Polan provided brief statements regarding their desire to serve as Board President.

Directors Polan and Coradeschi provided brief statements regarding their desire to serve as Vice-President.

Directors Burns and Coradeschi provided brief statements regarding their desire to serve as Secretary.

Directors Caspary and Coradeschi provided brief statements regarding their desire to serve as Treasurer.

General Manager David Pedersen noted that the election of Board Officers would take place at the January 17, 2023 Board Meeting.

B Nomination of District's MWD Representative

Accept nominations for the District's representative to the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

General Manager David presented the report.

Director Caspary moved to nominate Glen Peterson as the District's MWD Representative.

Director Coradeschi moved to nominate Lynda Lo-Hill as the District's MWD Representative.

Glen Peterson and Lynda Lo-Hill provided brief statements regarding their desire to serve as the District's MWD Representative.

Director Caspary noted that MWD Representative Glen Peterson currently served on several MWD Committees, and he inquired whether his committee seats would automatically go to whomever would be selected as the District's MWD Representative. He noted that incoming MWD Chair Ortega indicated that MWD Committee Meetings would be held concurrently rather than sequentially, and he inquired whether the District could appoint a second MWD Representative to ensure that the District's interests would be represented and ensure that the selected MWD Representative would cast votes at MWD meetings. General Manager David Pedersen responded that staff would follow-up.

8. GENERAL MANAGER

A Memorandum of Understanding for Colorado River Basin Urban Water Conservation Actions: Authorization

Authorize the General Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Colorado River Basin Urban Water Conservation Actions.

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Caspary moved to approve Item 8A. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi.

General Manager David Pedersen responded to questions regarding the commitments outlined in the MOU to conserve the Colorado River's limited water supply and protect vital environmental resources, and the plan to save 2 to 4 million acre-feet of water.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

9. ENGINEERING AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A **Calabasas Recycled Water Pipeline Improvement Project: Award of Design**

Accept the proposal from MKN & Associates, Inc., and authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement, in the amount of \$113,473, for design and engineering services during construction for the Calabasas Recycled Water Pipeline Improvement Project.

Alex Leu, Senior Engineer, presented the report.

Board President Lewitt stepped out of the Board Room at 11:03 a.m. and returned at 11:04 a.m.

Director Caspary moved to approve Item 9A. Motion seconded by Director Burns.

Mr. Leu responded to questions regarding the continued use of the recycled water system after the construction of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

A discussion ensued regarding ground movement and settlement from a prior landslide and landscape irrigation, and whether these might have caused the failures to the recycled water system infrastructure.

Eric Schlageter, Principal Engineer, noted that the recycled water system in this area was to be used primarily for greenbelt irrigation, and it was later determined that the recycled water system was undersized and required close coordination of the irrigation controllers so that demands would not occur simultaneously.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B **Relief to Specified Customers to Support Rebuilding of Homes Destroyed in Woolsey Fire: Extension of Time**

Pass, approve, and adopt proposed Resolution No. 2615, granting a two-year time extension for relief provided to specified customers to support rebuilding of homes destroyed by the Woolsey Fire.

RESOLUTION NO. 2615

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT GRANTING AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO SPECIFIED CUSTOMERS TO SUPPORT REBUILDING OF HOMES DESTROYED BY THE WOOLSEY FIRE

(Reference is hereby made to Resolution No. 2615 on file in the District’s Resolution Book and by this reference the same is incorporated herein.)

Eric Schlageter, Principal Engineer, presented the report.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 9B. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi.

Mr. Schlageter responded to a question regarding delays with permitting processes.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

A Reimbursable Expenses for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

B Participation in Population Viability Assessment for Southern California Steelhead

General Manager David Pedersen responded to questions regarding the purpose of the proposed study to assess the viability of the Southern California Steelhead.

11. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A Organization Reports

Director Caspary reported that he attended the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Meeting on December 15th. He noted that no nominations were made for Chair, and nominations would be revisited at the Executive Committee Meeting in January. He also reported that the Governing Board would hold a stakeholders’ workshop on February 23rd. He also stated that he would share the link to the presentation regarding the Kelp Restoration Project.

B Director’s Reports on Outside Meetings

Board President Lewitt reported that he attended the Colorado River Water Users Association conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, December 13th through 16th. He noted that the conference included a tour of Hoover Dam and presentations regarding the state of the Colorado River and the Colorado River Compact.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen noted that the public review period had ended for the Department of Water Resources' Delta Conveyance Project, and that he submitted a letter in support of the project. He reminded the Board that the January 3, 2023 Board Meeting was canceled, and the next meeting would be held on January 17, 2023. He announced that Brett Dingman, Water Reclamation Manager, would be retiring on December 28th after 20 years of service; Scott McClintock, Laboratory Technician II, would be retiring on December 28th after 36 years of service; and Greg Cousins, Facility Worker, would be retiring on December 29 after 18th years of service. He noted that District Offices would be closed on December 23rd and 26th for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays, and December 31st and January 2nd for the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day holidays. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

(2) Follow-Up Items

General Manager David Pedersen noted that follow-up items included purchasing limits and improvements to the Board Room's audio-visual system.

D Directors' Comments

Director Polan wished Brett Dingman well upon his retirement.

Director Caspary acknowledged staff and their families for their contributions to the District's customers.

Director Coradeschi concurred with Director Caspary's comments.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **11:42 a.m.**



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

ATTEST:



Josie Guzman, Deputy Secretary
Board of Directors
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

(SEAL)