



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

September 19, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Jim Korkosz.

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. Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Gary Burns, Andy Coradeschi, Jay Lewitt, and Len Polan.
Absent: Charles Caspary
Staff Present: David Pedersen, General Manager
Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs
Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration
John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations
Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Polan moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi. Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, introduced new employees Maxine Flores, Accounting Technician, and Alex Montano, Network and Security Technician. The Board welcomed Ms. Flores and Mr. Montano to the District.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A List of Demands: September 19, 2023: Receive and file

B Minutes Regular Meeting of September 5, 2023, and Special Meeting of September 12, 2023: Approve

C Directors' Per Diem: August 2023: Ratify

D Monthly Cash and Investment Report: July 2023

Receive and file the Monthly Cash and Investment Report for July 2023.

E Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference: Board Member Attendance

Authorize Board Member attendance and per diem compensation for the Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference that will be held December 13 through 15, 2023, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

F On-Call SCADA System Support and Professional Services: Change Order

Authorize the General Manager to execute a change order with The Rovisys Company, in the amount of \$100,000, for on-call SCADA System support and professional services.

Director Coradeschi moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Burns. Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary

ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A MWD Representative Report

Glen Peterson, MWD Representative, reported that the MWD Board authorized an agreement for Phase 1 design-build services for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project, and authorized up to \$80 million for additional costs for changes to the design, construction, and operations of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency for the High Desert Water Bank. He also reported that he hosted a tour of the State Water Project on September 8th through 10th, which included Director Burns, Director Coradeschi, J.B. Hamby Chair of the Colorado River Board of California, and Michael Bernardo and other representatives from the Southern Nevada Water Authority. He noted that Calleguas Municipal Water District had decided not to sign onto the letter to the MWD Board seeking to place the East-West Conveyance as a higher priority.

General Manager David Pedersen provided a summary of working with MWD and the five member agencies in the State Water Project-dependent areas to address challenges and consider near-term and long-term solutions for equitable access to MWD's water supply and storage assets. He noted that the MWD Board unanimously adopted a resolution in August 2022 for a call to action and a commitment to regional reliability for all member agencies. He stated that there was an effort to incorporate solutions into the Pure Water SoCal Project's environmental impact report (EIR); however, there was not much support due to the possibility of a delay to the project. Therefore, consideration was being given to the goals outlined in MWD's resolution with the recognition that there was more than one way to achieve those goals and incorporate the East-West Conveyance into the EIR. He stated that the MWD resolution included an implementation plan for February 2023; however, the MWD Board was working towards a January 2024 Board action that would include recommending a portfolio solution, an implementation plan, and begin to incorporate that plan into MWD's capital improvement program.

Mr. Peterson also reported that the MWD Board approved a second amendment to extend the office lease in Washington, D.C., and placed all of the farms in the Palo Verde Irrigation District on the same timetable to end their leases in 2040. He also reported that the MWD General Manager's performance evaluation was postponed to a future meeting.

B Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, reported that the District hosted the Israeli Trade Delegation on September 5th for a tour of District facilities. He also reported that the state's revenues for August came in \$1.3 billion above projections. He noted that the District sent a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom urging him to sign AB 1594 (Garcia) Medium and Heavy Duty Zero Emissions Vehicles Public Agency Utilities, which would rectify issues in the California Air Board's (CARB) advanced clean fleet rules and would require state agencies to ensure rules are applicable to vehicle fleet purchases. He provided updates regarding SB 389 (Allen) State Water Resources Control Board Investigation of Water Right, AB 1572 (Friedman) Potable Water Non-functional Turf, SB 253 (Wiener) Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act, SB 261 (Stern) Greenhouse Gases Climate-related Financial Risk, SB 867 (Allen) climate bond, SB 366 (Caballero) The California Water Plan Long-term Supply Targets, AB 249 (Holden) Water School Sites Lead Testing, AB 779 (Wilson) Groundwater Adjudication, and ACA 13 (Ward) Voting Thresholds.

A discussion ensued regarding ACA 13, which would protect local control and communities throughout the state by preserving the majority vote and preventing a small percentage of statewide voters from overruling the actions of local voters in certain circumstances related to local services and infrastructure.

Mr. Wolf also reported that the state filed a civil lawsuit seeking to hold Big Oil financially accountable for contributing to climate change and related harms to California, including extreme drought, wildfires, storms, and deceiving the public for decades. He also reported that the House of Representatives voted to pass a bill targeting California's efforts to phase out gas-powered vehicles; however, this bill was not expected to pass in the Senate.

5. TREASURER

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures and the Treasurer's report was in order.

6. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

A Discussion of Proposed Revisions to Purchasing Code

Consider current purchasing thresholds and provide feedback on a proposal to increase the no-bid threshold from \$2,500 to \$5,000, and the informal bid threshold with General Manager approval authorization from \$35,000 to \$50,000.

Liz Smith, Purchasing Supervisor, presented the report.

The Board expressed support for the recommendation.

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, stated that staff would bring back an item to adopt the proposed Purchasing Code revisions at a future Board meeting.

7. ENGINEERING AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A Landscape Maintenance and Brush Management: Award

Authorize the General Manager to execute a two-year contract with BrightView Landscape Services, Inc., in the annual amount of \$170,949, with three one-year renewal options, for landscape maintenance and brush management services.

Alexa Hendricks, Resource Conservation Supervisor, presented the report.

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

Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Caspary

B Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Advanced Water Purification Facility Production, Utilization, and Augmentation

Receive and file the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo Advanced Water Purification Facility Production, Utilization, and Augmentation Report.

Oliver Slosser, Engineering Program Manager, presented the report and a PowerPoint presentation.

A discussion ensued regarding the Advanced Water Purification Facility's (AWPF) maximum output levels, production capacity, water augmentation sources, and constraints to expansion.

The report was received and filed.

8. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A Organization Reports

Board President Lewitt reported that he attended the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Member and Policymakers Reception at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on September 14th.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

Director Coradeschi reported that he attended the MWD State Water Project/Central Valley Agriculture Inspection Trip on September 8th through 10th. He noted that J.B. Hamby, Chair of the Colorado River Board of California, provided a presentation on the history of the Colorado River, and he was pleased to meet the representatives from the Southern Nevada Water Authority. He also stated that a tour of the Sites Reservoir site was provided.

Director Burns reported that he also attended the MWD State Water Project/Central Valley Agriculture Inspection Trip, where a presentation by Curt Schmutte was provided regarding the Bay-Delta and the Delta Conveyance. He noted that the environmental impact report for Sites Reservoir was recently approved.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen stated that a Special Board Meeting was held on September 12th for an update regarding the Rindge Dam Removal Project and a site visit

to the Rindge Dam overlook. He reported that testing was continuing to detect COVID-19 in the wastewater, which was detected to have increased beginning in early August. He also reported that testing was also being conducted to detect MPox, which had not been detected in the wastewater. He noted that he would be participating in a panel discussion during Heal the Bay's ONE Water Day Event on September 22nd. He mentioned that an article was published in the *Los Angeles Times* regarding the District's partnership with Natural Ocean Well Company for seawater desalination and the pilot project as Las Virgenes Reservoir. He noted that the article also mentioned the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, and how it plays a part in preparing for the future, climate change, and reliable water supply for District customers.

(2) Follow-Up Items

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding seeking support from medical associations for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo by stating that staff was continuing to work on this long-term effort.

D Directors' Comments

Director Polan inquired regarding the use of penalty revenues to encourage installation of sustainable landscaping in various locations. He also stated that he was unaware of the location of the East-West Conveyance. General Manager David Pedersen responded that he would share a copy of the MWD's East-West Conveyance presentation with the Board.

Board President Lewitt stated that David Reynolds, Director of Federal Relations for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), would be retiring, and a celebration would take place on November 28th during the ACWA Fall Conference.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **11:08 a.m.**



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

ATTEST:



Gary Burns, Secretary
Board of Directors
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

(SEAL)