



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

December 19, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by John Zhao.

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, Charles Caspary, Andy Coradeschi (arrived at 9:15 a.m.), Jay Lewitt, and Len Polan.

Absent: None

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

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Lewitt, Polan
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Coradeschi

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A List of Demands: December 19, 2023: Receive and file**
- B Minutes Regular Meeting of December 5, 2023: Approve**
- C Directors' Per Diem: November 2023: Ratify**
- D Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position: October 2023**

Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes Net Position for the period ending on October 31, 2023.

E CIS Software: Annual Support and Maintenance Agreement

Authorize the General Manager to execute an annual support and maintenance agreement with Advanced Utility Systems, in the amount of \$135,000, for the Customer Information System software.

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

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

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A Recognition of Directors Gary Burns and Andy Coradeschi for One Year of Service

Board President Lewitt presented a Certificate of Recognition and one year anniversary pin to Director Gary Burns in recognition of his one year of service.

B Proclamations Recognizing Doug Anders, Administrative Services Coordinator, for 11 Years of Service; Joanne Bodenhamer, Planning and New Development Technician, for 34 Years of Service; and John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, for 17 Years of Service

Board President Lewitt presented a proclamation to Doug Anders, Administrative Services Coordinator, in recognition of his retirement after 11 years of service.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, acknowledged Mr. Anders for his efforts and wished him a happy retirement.

Board President Lewitt presented a proclamation to Joanne Bodenhamer, Planning and New Development Technician, in recognition of her retirement after 34 years of service.

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, acknowledged Ms. Bodenhamer for her efforts and wished her a happy retirement.

Director Coradeschi arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Board President Lewitt presented a proclamation to John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, in recognition of his retirement after 17 years of service.

General Manager David Pedersen acknowledged Mr. Zhao, Mr. Anders, and Ms. Bodenhamer for their efforts.

Board President Lewitt presented a Certificate of Recognition and one year anniversary pin to Director Andy Coradeschi in recognition of his one year of service.

C MWD Representative Report

Glen Peterson, MWD Representative, reported that the MWD Board approved agreements for system conservation projects for the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, which included following programs for the Colorado River system. He noted that J.B. Hamby, Chair of the Colorado River Board of California, provided presentations regarding the Colorado River during the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Fall Conference and at the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Annual Conference. He responded to a question regarding the MWD Board protecting its water rights by stating that MWD does not have water rights; however, it holds contracts for the Colorado River and State Water Project.

C Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, reported that a budget request for \$10 million in state funding was submitted to Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin's office for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo. He also reported that California was facing a projected \$68 billion budget deficit in 2024 that would require spending cuts; however, California was better prepared to face this deficit compared to 15 years ago due to \$37.8 billion in reserve funds. He stated that the State Department of Finance the Administration suggested that Governor Gavin Newsom declare a fiscal emergency to allow the State to access reserve funding. He also reported that the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) was set to vote on regulations that would streamline direct potable reuse projects. He noted that AB 574 tasked the SWRCB with adopting a uniform

water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse on or before December 31, 2023. He also reported that the Biden-Harris Administration announced \$72 million to accelerate restoration of the Salton Sea. He stated that this funding would help expedite the Salton Sea Management Plan by accelerating dust suppression and aquatic restoration. He also reported that state officials released the final environmental analysis of the proposed Delta Conveyance project. He stated that construction costs were previously estimated at \$16 billion, and it was expected that all permits would be completed by 2026 allowing for construction to begin in 2030. He referred to the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program agreements for system conservation projects and noted additional agreements were expected to be signed in 2024 with other agencies, including Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and Bard Water District. He also reported that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the County's first water plan, which calls for increasing local water supplies by 580,000 acre-feet per year by 2045 through more effective stormwater capture, water recycling, and conservation. He noted that County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath was selected as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. He also reported that Senator Mike McGuire would be sworn in as the Speaker Pro Tempore on February 5th. He noted that Congressman Kevin McCarthy would be resigning at the end of the year. He stated that Assemblymember Vince Fong submitted nomination papers for Congressman McCarthy's seat; however, the Secretary of State declared that Assemblymember Fong was ineligible to run for Congress per state law since he had already qualified to run for reelection for the Assembly. He stated that Assemblymember Fong planned to challenge the Secretary of State's determination in court. He also reported that Illece Buckley Weber was selected as Mayor of the City of Agoura Hills, Alicia Weintraub was selected as Mayor for the City of Calabasas, Eniko Gold was selected as Mayor for the City of Hidden Hills, and Ned Davis was selected as Mayor for the City of Westlake Village. He responded to a question regarding topics for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee meeting in January by stating that the Committee would discuss water rights and the water bond.

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, stated that staff would bring updates to the Board's legislative policies and principles in the new year.

6. TREASURER

Director Coradeschi stated he reviewed the expenditures.

7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A **Update to Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Code Pertaining to Board Compensation: Public Hearing, Introduction, and First Reading**

Conduct a public hearing, and introduce and call for proposed Ordinance No. 286 to be given first reading by title only, amending Section 2-2.106 of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Code to reflect updates to Board Compensation.

ORDINANCE NO. 286

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AS IT RELATES TO DIRECTORS' COMPENSATION

(Reference is hereby made to Ordinance No. 286 on file in the District's Ordinance Book and by this reference the same is incorporated herein.)

Board President Lewitt provided introductory remarks.

Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant, confirmed that the District published a notice of public hearing in *The Las Virgenes – Calabasas Enterprise* on November 30, 2023, and December 7, 2023.

General Manager David Pedersen provided the report.

Board President Lewitt opened the public hearing at **9:55 a.m.**

There were no public comments.

Ms. Brown confirmed that the District did not receive any written or verbal comments.

Board President Lewitt closed the public hearing at **9:56 a.m.**

A discussion ensued regarding the October-to-October CPI All Urban Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim of 2.4 percent, which was the index used for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) compensation adjustments for District employees.

Director Caspary moved that compensation to each Director and each representative of the District on the MWD Board of Directors shall be compensated by the October-to-October All Urban CPI for Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, up to the maximum adjustment negotiated in District employees MOUs, Motion seconded by Director Polan.

General Manager David Pedersen noted that the proposed maximum five percent annual increase for Board compensation was based on state law, and the current MOUs ranged from 1.5 to four percent annual adjustment based on the CPI index. Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, added that the current MOUs would expire in 2024, adjustments would be pending negotiation, and the ordinance would be subject to annual review by the Board.

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, stated that the Board could place a cap lower than the statutory cap.

Director Caspary amended his motion that the annual adjustment would be no greater than four percent.

Director Polan withdrew his second to the motion.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Director Polan moved to waive the full reading and call for proposed Ordinance No. 286 to be given first reading by title only amending the Administrative Code as it relates to Directors' Compensation. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, read Ordinance No. 286 by title only.

8. GENERAL MANAGER

A Salary Resolution and Management Handbook Update: Approval

Pass, approve, and adopt proposed Resolution No. 2632, establishing salaries for employees, and approve the updated Management Handbook.

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

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

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, responded to questions regarding cashing out accrued sick leave upon separation from employment, and the possibility of implementing a Post-Employment Health Plan on a District-wide basis.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

9. FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

A iGreen Software for Facility Operation Data Management, Analytics, and Decision Making: Agreement Renewal

Authorize the General Manager to execute a one-year professional services agreement with IOsight, in the amount of \$48,840, with three one-year renewal options to continue existing iGreen Software-as-a-Service; approve a one-time cost

of \$183,000 to expand the iGreen deployment to the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility and future Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, together with providing artificial intelligence/machine learning services; and authorize a future increase of iGreen Software-as-a-Service by \$57,000 annually, with three one-year renewal options for the expanded deployment.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, presented the report.

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

Mr. Zhao responded to questions regarding security capabilities and predictive optimization of the software and energy efficiency.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

10. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

A Establishment of Limited Term Field Operations Technician Positions

Approve the establishment of two limited term Field Operations Technician I/II positions.

Sophia Crocker, Human Resources Manager, presented the report.

Director Burns moved to approve Item 10A. Motion seconded by Director Caspary.

A discussion ensued regarding tasks performed and training provided to temporary staff.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

11. ENGINEERING AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A WaterSmart Leak Alert Program Update

Receive and file the WaterSmart Leak Alert Program Update.

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, provided introductory

remarks.

Cason Gilmer, Customer Service Programs Supervisor, presented the report and a PowerPoint presentation.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 11A. Motion seconded by Director Burns.

A discussion ensued regarding efforts to detect customers' water leaks and the possible use of artificial intelligence software that works in conjunction with WaterSmart.

Director Polan stepped out of the Board Room at 10:59 a.m.

Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Polan

12. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A Organization Reports

Director Caspary reported that he attended the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Meeting on December 14th, where elections were held for the Executive Committee. He noted that a representative from Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) mentioned that Mark Gold from the Natural Resources Defense Council attended a workshop to discuss the Pure Water Southern California project, and Mr. Gold had indicated that he did not believe there should be any ocean discharge of brine from the facility. He noted that the Department of Fish and Wildlife completed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document for the Ballona Creek Wetlands Restoration; however, a lawsuit was filed claiming inadequacies in the CEQA document. He stated that the judge upheld eight items in favor of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the comment period was reopened on a revised CEQA document. He also reported that the Commission was planning a workshop to update the Work Plan for the coming year.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

Director Coradeschi reported that he attended the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, December 12th through 15th. He stated that John Entsminger, CRWUA President, provided a presentation regarding the Colorado River guidelines. He also stated that J.B. Hamby, Chair of the Colorado River Board of California, attended the conference.

Director Polan returned to the Board Room at 11:07 a.m.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended the CRWUA Annual Conference, as well as a tour of Hoover Dam. He noted that water leaders from the seven basin states learned that the District pays for Colorado River water; however, it only has access to water supplies from the State Water Project.

Director Burns reported that he attended holiday events at County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's office and Senator Ben Allen's office, and attended a City of Calabasas City Council meeting where The Commons project was approved.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen stated that he and John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, were working on reassignment of projects following Mr. Zhao's retirement. He noted that he was also working with Human Resources regarding hiring Mr. Zhao as a retired annuitant under the provisions of CalPERS rules to assist during the transitionary period, and an item would be brought back to the Board in January for consideration. He reported that work was in process on the installation of the new Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations at Headquarters and the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility. He reported that a tour of the Pure Water Demonstration Facility was provided for Brian Barry, Executive Director of the Ventura County Medical Association. He noted that the MWD Board would consider action at its March 12th meeting regarding a portfolio of projects that would address challenges faced by State Water Project-Dependent Areas to create a new Capital Improvement Program category for drought projects and several additional projects to help convey water to the west side, including Sepulveda/Venice Pumping Stations Phase 2 and the Inglewood Lateral Upgrade. He also stated that MWD formed a Climate Adaptation Master Plan (CAMP4Water) task force to implement a decision-making framework for future climate investments. He reminded the Board that the January 2, 2024 Board meeting was canceled and the next meeting would be held on January 16, 2024, and the next JPA meeting would be held on January 8, 2024. He also reported that the equipment was removed at the co-generation facility at the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility. He responded to a question regarding plans for MWD to convey water from the Pure Water Southern California by stating that MWD Board would evaluate the feasibility of conveying water from the Pure Water Southern California as part of the East-West Conveyance.

(2) Follow-Up Items

None.

D Directors' Comments

Director Polan suggested that implementation of a District-wide Post-Employment Health Plan might provide an opportunity to invest funds while the funds are unused.

Director Burns thanked everyone for his first year serving on the Board. He noted that he distributed a copy of information regarding a firm that could facilitate Board retreats.

Board President Lewitt wished everyone happy holidays.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

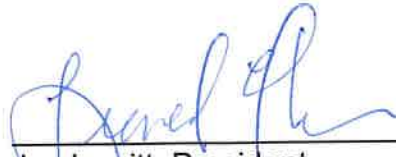
None.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **11:26 a.m.** in recognition of Doug Anders, Joanne Bodenhamer, and John Zhao's retirements.



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

ATTEST:



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

(SEAL)