



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

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

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9:00 AM

February 13, 2024

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Josie Guzman.

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

The meeting was called to order at **9:00 a.m.** by Board President Lewitt in the City of Westlake Village Community Meeting Room, 31200 Oak Crest Road, Westlake Village, California, 91361. Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Gary Burns, Charles Caspary, Andy Coradeschi, Jay Lewitt, and Len Polan (arrived at 10:04 a.m.).

Absent: None

Staff Present: David Pedersen, General Manager  
Darrell Johnson, Interim Director of Facilities and Operations  
Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs  
Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration  
Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board  
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Polan

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

General Manager David Pedersen provided introductory remarks, and introduced Cameron Crotty and Mara Mintz from Blue Beyond Consulting, who facilitated the workshop.

**5. STRATEGIC PLAN: REVIEW AND CONTEXT FOR PLANNING**

Mr. Crotty and Ms. Mintz led team breakout sessions and group discussions, followed by a summary of the group exercise.

Director Polan arrived at 10:04 p.m.

**6. UPDATE ON 2023 PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

A PowerPoint presentation was provided. The Department Directors and Management staff shared their 2023 performance measures and accomplishments, and the Board provided feedback.

The Board recessed to a break at 11:17 a.m., and reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

**7. PROPOSED FISCAL YEARS 2024-26 PRIORITIES**

Joe McDermott, Director of Facilities and Operations, presented the proposed Water Supply Reliability and Diversification Study, and the Board provided feedback.

Mr. McDermott provided a verbal report regarding the Request for Proposals for a Potable Water Pipeline Condition Assessment, Rehabilitation, and Replacement Study.

Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager, presented the 2024 Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan Update and enhancements to the Landscape Transformation Program.

General Manager David Pedersen provided a verbal report regarding fire hardening measures. He noted that the District would be releasing a documentary entitled "Flames to the Ocean - A Woolsey Fire Retrospective." He also noted that the District made investments with the purchase of emergency back-up generators. He stated that several Board Members and staff visited the Yorba Linda Water District's heli-hydrant tour, and staff met with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to discuss potential sites for local heli-hydrants.

A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of seeking collaboration with local cities and public agencies to pursue a regional heli-hydrant program; concerns that the District's water system was not intended to fight wildfires; consideration that the Los Angeles County Fire Department should take the lead on installing heli-hydrants and asking them to provide a presentation; and focusing on the Landscape Transformation Program and fire-scaping as fire hardening measures.

**8. GROUP DISCUSSION: FISCAL YEARS 2024-26 PRIORITIES**

Mr. Crotty and Ms. Mintz summarized overall risks, opportunities, and gaps from the team breakout sessions and group discussions.

A discussion included prioritization; recruitment and employee retention; resources needed to implement priorities; whether to contract out services or bring in additional staff; focusing on the core job and the core mission; water resource reliability; keeping rates affordable; cost of water; upcoming rate study; knowledge transfer; and consideration of the organization's size and structure to better achieve goals and priorities.

**9. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS**

A discussion ensued regarding achieving the proposed *Conservation as a California Way of Life* regulations; encouraging customers' participation in future Strategic Planning Workshops; and increasing Directors' involvement in the community.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **1:15 p.m.**

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

ATTEST:

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

(SEAL)