



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

February 20, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Stone Halpern.

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, California 91302. Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Gary Burns, Charles Caspary, Andy Coradeschi, Jay Lewitt, and Len Polan.

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 Polan. Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

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

ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External affairs, introduced new employee Steve Cano, Engineering Technician II. The Board welcomed Mr. Cano to the District.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Polan asked to pull Item 4D for discussion.

A List of Demands: February 20, 2024: Receive and file

B Minutes Regular Meeting of February 6, 2024 and Special Meeting of February 7, 2024: Approve

C Directors' Per Diem: January 2024: Ratify

Director Polan moved to approve the Consent Calendar Item 4A, 4B, and 4C. Motion seconded by Director Caspary. Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

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

4. CONSENT CALENDAR – SEPARATE ACTION ITEM

D Water Main Breaks at 5745 Parkmor Road and Valley Circle Boulevard near Dorie Drive: Continuation of Emergency

Approve the continuation of an emergency due to a 12-inch water main break at 5745 Parkmor Road in the City of Calabasas and a 30-inch water main break along Valley Circle Boulevard near Dorie Drive in West Hills.

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding the status of the pipeline repair on Parkmor Road by stating that staff were exploring rerouting or eliminating the pipe on the hillside, and developing a strategy to abandon that portion of pipe and install a pressure reducing valve in another location. Darrell Johnson, Interim Director of Facilities and Operations, added that staff were exploring the possibility of replacing the zone valve with a pressure reducing station by Lupin School.

Director Polan moved to approve the Consent Calendar Item 4D. Motion seconded by Director Caspary.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A MWD Representative Report

Glen Peterson, MWD Representative, reported that the MWD Board set a public hearing on March 12th regarding the proposed water rates and charges for Calendar Years 2025 and 2026; introduced new Director Michael Gualtieri from Central Basin Municipal Water District; awarded a construction contract in the amount of \$7,842,856 to install a new floating waive attenuator and refurbish and move the existing attenuator at the Diamond Valley Lake West Marina; authorized change orders for three contracts to conduct urgent rehabilitation of prestressed concrete cylinder pipe on the Allen-McColloch Pipeline; approved committee assignments; and authorized the MWD General Manager to secure one-year water transfers and water exchanges with various water districts for up to \$50 million.

B Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, reported that Senator Mike McGuire was sworn in as Senate President Pro Tempore. He noted that the deadline to introduce new bills was February 16th, and new bills would need to be adopted by August 31st. He also reported that Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled a blueprint for ending the decades-long decline of salmon runs, which calls for tearing down dams and improving passages for migrating salmon, restoring flows in key waterways, modernizing hatcheries to raise fish, and taking other steps to help migrating fish. He also reported that companies and organizations spent \$480 million for lobbying efforts for legislative and regulatory decisions in 2023. He noted that the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) sponsored AB 2409 (Papan), which would require the Office of Planning and Research to create and maintain a permitting transparency website showing the status of each permit issued by state agencies for specific water, energy, and environmental projects with an estimated cost of \$100 million or more.

Director Caspary reported that he attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee Meeting on February 9th, where they discussed the state budget deficit. He noted that Cindy Tuck, ACWA Deputy Executive Director, indicated that the Climate Resiliency Bond was expected to be a smaller amount, and the Governor was pushing a housing and homeless bond. He stated that ACWA was sponsoring AB 2257 (Wilson), which would modify restrictions imposed by Proposition 218 on local governments and ensure that administrative remedies for proposed rate increases would be identified and appealed properly. He also reported that the Conservation League was lobbying to include all salmon lifecycles, including rainbow

trout, and look into the lifecycle of steelhead trout and salmon in the ocean. He also reported that Heal the Bay and the Surfrider Foundation sponsored SB 1167 (Blakespear), which would ban disposable cups at certain sized restaurants. He stated that AB 805 (Arambula), would force consolidation of sewer service agencies serving disadvantaged communities, and ACWA was opposed to AB 805 due to Proposition 218 issues that could arise from having a different cost basis for different types of customers. He also stated that ACWA was in support of AB 817 (Pacheco), which would allow teleconference meetings for non-legislative agencies, and SB 945 (Alvarado-Gil), The Wildfire Smoke and Health Outcomes Data Act. He stated that ACWA took a watch position on AB 1851 (Holden), which would require lead testing in certain schools, and took an oppose unless amended position on SB 937 (Wiener), which would prevent water agencies from collecting connection fees until a certificate of occupancy is issued. He also reported that he spoke with Senator Bill Allen regarding a California State University conference discussion on water agency governance issues and possibly giving the state the authority to force water district consolidations. He stated that he informed Senator Allen that the Local Agency Formation Commissions already had this authority.

A discussion ensued regarding the State Water Resources Control Board proposed *Making Conservation a California Way of Life* regulations, and addressing concerns through the re-opened public review process and possibly seeking administrative remedies.

6. TREASURER

Director Coradeschi stated he reviewed the expenditures.

7. FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

A 2024 Cathodic Protection Program: Award

Waive the competitive bidding process due to the proprietary nature of the work, and authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Corrpro Companies, Inc., in the amount of \$68,500, to provide cathodic protection services.

Ken Kuhlman, Water Distribution Operator II, presented the report.

Director Coradeschi moved to approve Item 7A. Motion seconded by Director Burns.

Darrell Johnson, Interim Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to a question regarding whether the SCADA system would monitor cathodic protection system by stating that the SCADA system would not monitor cathodic protection system; however, an assessment program would be initiated for monthly, quarterly, and annual inspections.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

B Hach Annual Purchase Order Increase and Equipment Replacement: Authorization

Authorize an increase in the current annual purchase order with Hach Company, in the amount of \$57,000, to a not-to-exceed amount of \$200,000, and increases for the two-one-year renewal options to not-to-exceed amounts of \$210,000 and \$220,500 for Fiscal Years 2024-25 and 2025-26, respectively; waive the competitive bidding process due to the proprietary nature of the work, and authorize a purchase order with Hach Company, in the amount of \$103,408.09, for the Hach Equipment Replacement Project.

Veronica Hurtado, Water Reclamation Manager, presented the report.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 7B. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi.

Ms. Hurtado responded to questions regarding the increase to the current purchase order to replace obsolete instruments and due to inflationary effects.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

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

8. ENGINEERING AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A Tapia Water Reclamation Facility Channel No. 2 and Selector Channel Wall Infill Project: Final Acceptance

Authorize the General Manager to execute a Notice of Completion and have the same recorded; waive liquidated damages; and in the absence of claims from subcontractors and others, release the retention, in the amount of \$14,045.64, within 30 calendar days after filing the Notice of Completion for the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility Channel No. 2 and Selector Channel Wall Infill Project.

John Soderberg, Assistant Engineer, presented the report.

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

Mr. Soderberg responded to a question regarding the discovery of a single steel thimble during construction by stating that one of the penetrations of the concrete wall included a hard steel portion through the wall and on the side of Channel No. 2, which impeded the

ability to bolt through the steel, and the plate needed to be welded over the penetration.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

9. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A Organization Reports

Director Caspary reported that he attended the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board meeting on February 15th, where they adopted a revised membership list due to changes in State Assembly and Senatorial district boundaries. He stated that the Governing Board also approved the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Bay Commission and the Bay Foundation, which conducts the restoration work under the supervision and funding of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. He also stated that the revised MOU included additional reporting requirements for the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program. He also stated that public comments were being received for the Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan. He noted that Jenny Newman, formerly from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and now representing the California EPA, attended the meeting. He stated that he discussed the District's breakpoint chlorination system for summer season discharge into Malibu Creek, and the additional treatment facility was required because imported water from Northern California was not suitable to put into Malibu Creek. He noted that the next SMBRC Governing Board meeting would be held on April 18th, the ACWA Legislative Symposium and the ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting would be held on April 10th and 11th in Sacramento, respectively.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

Director Polan reported that he attended the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) WaterWise Program on February 15th, where a presentation was provided by General Manager David Pedersen and Mark Golay from OceanWell regarding plans for pilot and validation testing at Las Virgenes Reservoir with submerged reverse osmosis technology.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended the AWAVC WaterWise Program on February 15th, and stated that there appeared to be more interest in desalination and OceanWell's technology. He commented that interest had increased since the District had taken the lead in exploring this technology.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen reported that 4.7 inches of rain was measured on February 19th at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility (Tapia) during the recent rainstorm for a total of 18.7 inches of rain in February. He noted that there were exceedances in turbidity during prior rainstorms, with 8.8 inches of rain measured on February 4th and 5th. He stated that the storm water was disinfected at Tapia before it reached Malibu Creek, although the turbidity was higher than normal. He also reported that staff was monitoring the eroded hillside on Parkmor Road, and were developing a strategy to repair and restore the hillside with a geotechnical engineer and the property owner. He noted that work to improve the audiovisual system in the Board Room would begin on February 21st, and Board Meetings would continue to be held in the Board Room during construction activities. He announced that Ivo Nkwenji, Information Systems Manager, was featured in *Calabasas Style* magazine as *People to Watch*, and he congratulated Mr. Nkwenji on his recognition. He also announced that Ursula Bosson, Customer Service Manager, would receive a *Rising Star Award* at the *Customer Service Week Expanding Excellence Awards Program* at an upcoming annual conference of customer service professionals, and he congratulated Ms. Bosson on her recognition. He reminded the Board of the International Women's Day Luncheon, which would be held on March 5th where Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsay Horvath would be the keynote speaker. He stated that the Mayors or Mayor Pro Tem of the local cities would participate in a panel discussion. He also announced the premier of *Flames to the Ocean - A Woolsey Fire Retrospective*, which would be held at the Regency Theatre Calabasas Commons on March 7th at 5:00 p.m. Lastly, he stated that the poster boards from the Strategic Planning Workshop were posted in the conference room should the Board wish to post any additional ideas.

(2) Follow-Up Items

None.

D Directors' Comments

Director Coradeschi stated that he concurred with Board President Lewitt's comments regarding General Manager David Pedersen and David Golay's presentation at the AWAVC WaterWise Program.

Board President Lewitt congratulated Ivo Nkwenji, Information Systems Manager, and Ursula Bosson, Customer Service Manager, on their recent recognitions.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **10:16 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)