



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

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9:00 AM

March 5, 2024

**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. 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  
Ivo Nkwenji, Information Systems Manager  
Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board  
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Polan moved to approve the agenda. 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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nicole Richardson introduced herself as the new Government and Public Affairs Representative for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). She stated that she would be assisting MWD member agencies in the area. The Board welcomed Ms. Richardson.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A List of Demands: March 5, 2024: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Special Meeting of February 13, 2024, and Regular Meeting of February 20, 2024: Approve**

**C Monthly Cash and Investment Report: January 2024**

**Receive and file the Monthly Cash and Investment Report for January 2024.**

**D Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position: January 2024**

**Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending January 31, 2024.**

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

**Approve the continuation of an emergency declaration 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.**

Director Coradeschi moved to approve the Consent Calendar. 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 Water Supply Conditions Update**

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, presented the report. He stated that the State Water Project 8-Station Index was at 93 percent of normal following the recent storms in the Northern Sierras, and it was anticipated that the State Water Project allocation would be increased to 30 percent.

**6. TREASURER**

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures.

**7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**A Legal Services Agreement: Amendment**

**Authorize the General Manager to approve an amendment to the agreement with Aleshire & Wynder, LLP for legal services to specify the maximum number of hours provided under the monthly retainer.**

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 7A. Motion seconded by Director Caspary.

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, responded to questions regarding the basic legal services that would be covered under the retainer, and his review of special legal services performed by his associates.

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 Door Tag Process Improvement: Contract Amendment**

**Authorize the General Manager to approve an increase to the contract with Infosend, Inc., in the amount of \$60,000, to implement a new door tag delivery process.**

Ursula Bosson, Customer Service Manager, presented the report.

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

Ms. Bosson responded to questions regarding delivery of door tag notifications via FedEx, which would free up staff resources and allow Field Operations staff to focus on other duties and programs.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**B Drought Resiliency Water Conservation Program: Grant Award**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for Proposition 1 grant funding, in the amount of \$630,000, for the Drought Resilience Water Conservation Program.**

Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager, presented the report.

Director Caspary moved to approve Item 8B. Motion seconded by Director Polan.

Mr. Jones responded to questions regarding the use of existing MWD rebate programs and exclusions to the program, such as replacing turf with artificial turf.

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 Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee Meeting on March 1st, where they discussed AB 1820 (Schiavo) Housing Development Projects, Applications, Fees and Extractions. He noted that ACWA's position was to oppose unless amended. He also reported that the Committee discussed concerns regarding AB 1147 (Portantino) Drinking Water, Bottled Water, Microplastics Levels, since there were no agreed-upon testing methods for microplastics in water. He noted that the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) was opposing a change in the types of agencies that they would accept as customers. He stated that typically ACWA JPIA was only for public agencies; however, there was legislation introduced to include mutual water companies. He also stated that ACWA JPIA was opposed to this change due to the risk profile of mutual water companies. He also reported that SB 1218 (Newman) Water, Emergency Water Supplies, would establish a state policy to encourage and incentivize the development of emergency water supplies. He noted that there were agencies that invested in emergency water supply storage, and they were not allowed to access their emergency water supplies during the drought. He also reported that ACWA had been in discussion regarding the proposed climate

resiliency bond, and they were waiting on the Proposition 1 results from the March 5th Primary Election to assess voters' support for bonds. He noted that the ACWA Legislative Symposium would be held on April 10th in Sacramento, and Board President Lewitt and Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, were working on scheduling meetings in legislators.

## **B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings**

Board President Lewitt noted that a report was provided at the March 4, 2024 JPA Board Meeting regarding the ACWA Washington DC Conference.

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, responded to a request to summarize the activities from the ACWA Washington DC Conference by stating that there were discussions regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) with legislators at the ACWA Washington DC Conference. He noted that a meeting was held with Senator Laphonza Butler's staff, who also met with 30 other agencies to discuss concerns with PFAS. He also noted that there were discussions regarding resiliency, the importance of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation funding, and concerns with tax obligations when the public receives rebates from MWD and other public agencies. He stated that there would be changes in the water community following the retirement of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and with the election of a new Senator to replace Senator Dianne Feinstein.

## **C General Manager Reports**

### **(1) General Business**

General Manager David Pedersen reported that at the March 4, 2024 JPA Board Meeting, the Board took action on three items related to the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: 1) adopted a resolution to enter into an agreement with MWD for participation in the Local Resources Program to supplement funding; 2) approved a contract amendment for Owner's Advisory services with Jacobs Engineering Group during the final design of the project; and (3) awarded a \$21,430,215 contract with the Walsh Construction, Brown and Caldwell, and Carollo Engineers progressive design-build team for Phase 1 design-build services. He noted that staff would send a letter of support regarding SB 1218 (Newman) Water, Emergency Water Supplies. He reminded the Board that the International Women's Day Luncheon would be held later that morning; the premier of *Flames to the Ocean - A Woolsey Fire Retrospective* would be held at the Regency Theatre Calabasas Commons on March 7th at 5:00 p.m.; and the WateReuse Symposium would be held March 10th through 13th in Denver, Colorado. He noted that the MWD Board would be considering proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2025 and 2026, and amending the Capital Improvement Plan to include the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Stage 2 at its March 12th Board meeting.

### **(2) Follow-Up Items**

None.

**D Directors' Comments**

Director Caspary acknowledged staff on their efforts regarding the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

**A Conference with District Counsel – Potential Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9): One case**

**In the opinion of Legal Counsel, disclosure of the identity of the litigants would be prejudicial to the District.**

The Board recessed to Closed Session at **9:51 a.m.** and reconvened to Open Session at **10:15 p.m.**

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, reported that the Board met in Closed Session to receive a report on Item 12A, and there was no reportable action.

**13. OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

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





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

ATTEST:



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

(SEAL)