

**LAS VIRGENES – TRIUNFO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

5:00 PM

May 4, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Jane Nye.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at **5:00 p.m.** by Chair Lewitt via teleconference in the Board Room at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District headquarters at 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302. The meeting was conducted via teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order, N-29-20, which suspended certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act to support social distancing guidelines associated with response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Caspary, Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Renger, Shapiro, Tjulander, and Wall

Absent: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen requested that Item 10A be moved to follow the Consent Calendar in order to receive the federal legislative update from Ana Schwab, representing Best Best & Krieger, LLP.

Director Polan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Director Lo-Hill. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A Minutes: Regular Meeting of April 6, 2020: Approve

B Digester No. 2 Rehabilitation Project: Approval of Scope Change and Change Order

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to execute Change in Scope No. 3 to Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$5,000, and Change Order No. 2 to GSE Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$2,975, for the Digester No. 2 Rehabilitation Project.

Director Renger moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Shapiro. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS - (This item was moved out of sequence)

A State and Federal Legislative Update

Ana Schwab, representing Best Best & Krieger, LLP (BBK), presented the federal legislative update. She noted that BBK was working on securing financial support for public agencies with impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She reported that the Senate was back in session and was currently focused on judicial nominees. She also reported that the House of Representatives was expected to return shortly, and it was expected that a fourth COVID-19 mitigation bill would be proposed by the end of the month. She stated that it was expected that the payroll tax credit for paid sick leave would be extended retroactively to include public agencies. She also reported that the federal government would work on a separate fund for public agencies to address COVID-19 mitigation costs that were being absorbed, as well as to backfill losses in revenue. She noted that BBK received two notifications regarding funding opportunities from the Bureau of Reclamation. She also reported that there was discussion on how testing wastewater for COVID-19 could be used as a key indicator for determining whether an area was ready for reopening.

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A Review of Progress on Pure Water Demonstration Project

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, reported that construction of the Pure Water Demonstration Project was nearly completed. He noted that Southern California Edison completed the electrical service connection and that the building now had electrical power. He also noted that the contractor had begun to install exterior signage, and the equipment was ready to be commissioned. He provided a virtual tour of the Pure Water Demonstration Garden and the Pure Water Demonstration Project. He responded to several questions regarding the installation of the mural, the large sliding doors along the storefront, and the color schemes.

B Scheduling of Strategic Planning Workshop on Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo

Provide staff feedback on the timing of a JPA Board Strategic Planning Workshop on the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen presented the report and suggested that the Board hold a workshop on May 27th or 28th at 5:00 p.m. The Board agreed to hold the workshop on May 27th at 5:00 p.m.

C Fiscal Years 2020-22 Two-Year JPA Draft Budget

Review and provide feedback on the Fiscal Years 2020-22 Two-Year JPA Draft Budget.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen provided introductory remarks and stated that significant budget impacts were not anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, presented the report.

Angela Saccareccia, Finance Manager, presented the Fiscal Years 2020-22 Two-Year JPA Draft Budget.

Ms. Saccareccia responded to a question regarding the estimated actual budget for electricity by stating that the Process Air Improvements Project was expected to decrease electrical consumption at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility by 25 percent. Mr. Patterson added that staff was working with Southern California Edison regarding the various tariffs to maximize cost savings and electricity efficiency. Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen added that a decrease in energy consumption was already being experienced, which has reduced the energy line item cost.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding the inclusion of the Canyon Oaks Park Recycled Water Main Extension (CIP No. 10629) in the JPA draft budget by stating that this project would be for a recycled water main extension on Lindero Canyon Road to serve Canyon Oaks Park located in the City of Westlake Village. He noted that this item was a carry forward budget from prior years, and that the project was part of the larger project to construct the Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection. He noted that this project would follow the same alignment on Lindero Canyon Road, and that Las Virgenes Municipal Water District applied for and received Proposition 84 grant funding. He noted that one of the elements of the grant funding criteria was to support multi-benefit projects that create and free-up potable water supply. He also noted that adding this project helped the Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection Project score better, and the project would be an integral element of the interconnection

project. He also responded to a question regarding whether the grant was received and applied towards this project by stating that staff would follow-up and report back to the JPA Board.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen also responded to a question regarding the inclusion of the Cordillera Tank Rehabilitation (CIP No. 10665) in the JPA draft budget by stating that the Cordillera Tank was part of the JPA backbone recycled water system. He noted that this tank serves the JPA by allowing disposal of recycled water when necessary to the Los Angeles River.

Mr. Patterson responded to a question regarding the decrease in the school education budget as compared to previous years by stating that this program was charged to other areas in the budget and allocated to the JPA. Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, added that education programs were being increased in the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District's service area.

Mr. Patterson noted that staff would further define and demonstrate where school and public education funds would be reflected or allocated in the final budget.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A Rancho Las Virgenes Farm Sprayfields Operation and Maintenance: Contract Extension

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to execute a six-month extension to the existing agreement with W. Litten Land Preparation, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000, for the on-going operation and maintenance of the Rancho Las Virgenes Farm Sprayfields.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Tjulander moved to approve Item 6A. Motion seconded by Director Renger. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Future Supply Actions Funding Program

Authorize the Administering Agent/General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Carollo Engineers, Inc., in the amount of \$68,996, to administer a Future Supply Actions Funding Program Grant from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for the Pure Water Demonstration Project and Tapia Water Reclamation Facility.

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

Director Polan moved to approve Item 6B. Motion seconded by Director Tjulander.

Mr. Zhao responded to a question regarding protecting against malware with the implementation of artificial intelligence through the use of a localized system that would not be directly connected to the Internet. He also responded to questions regarding the study and the use of artificial intelligence to optimize steady-state treatment processes at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility and the Pure Water Demonstration Project.

Director Caspary lost connection to the videoconference at 6:17 p.m.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Nye, Orkney, Polan, Shapiro, Tjulander, Renger, Wall

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary

7. **BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Orkney stated that she was impressed with the new signage for the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility to properly reflect Triunfo Water & Sanitation District.

Director Caspary reconnected to the videoconference at 6:20 p.m.

8. **ADMINISTERING AGENT/GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen provided an update regarding the Rancho Phase II Solar Generation Project. He noted that construction began on April 27th and that no concerns or complaints had been received. He stated that the project was expected to go on-line in the summer. He also provided an update regarding the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility, and stated that it was expected that the facility would run at partial capacity in three weeks and compost would be produced in approximately 30 days. He also reported that influent flows had increased by seven to eight percent at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility with residents staying home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also provided an update regarding an analysis of wastewater to assist with understanding the extent of COVID-19 in communities. He stated that testing for COVID-19 in the wastewater could be more efficient than testing individuals in the community. He noted that staff began to collect samples from influent sewer flows, final effluent treated water, and sludge, which would be frozen based on laboratory guidelines in order to participate in university studies. He stated that it was likely that staff would recommend participating in a study through Stanford University.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to a question regarding whether compost would be tested for COVID-19 by stating that a sample from the digester sludge would be taken before composting. He noted that live viruses were not being sought as the industry standard was to look for remnants

of the virus genetic material. He stated that the study would demonstrate that there is no viable virus found in the compost.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

A State and Federal Legislative Update

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS


None.

12. CLOSED SESSION

None.

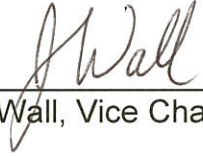
13. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **6:27 p.m.**



Jay Lewitt, Chair

ATTEST:



James Wall, Vice Chair