



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

January 18, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Charlie Caspary.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at **9:00 a.m.** by Board President 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 Assembly Bill 361, 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 Charles Caspary (via teleconference), Jay Lewitt (via teleconference), Lynda Lo-Hill, Len Polan, and Lee Renger (via teleconference)

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
Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel (via teleconference)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF RESOLUTION NO. 2603 (AB 361)

Director Caspary moved to approve the agenda and approve the findings of Resolution No. 2603 (AB 361). Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Polan pulled Item 4G for discussion.

A List of Demands: January 22, 2022: Receive and file

B Minutes Regular Meeting of January 4, 2022: Approve

C Directors' Per Diem – December 2021: Ratify

D Claim by Brandon Hillas

Deny the claim by Brandon Hillas.

E Claim by David Berzinsky

Deny the claim by David Berzinsky.

F Uniform Contract Extension: Authorization

Authorize the General Manager to approve a six-month extension with Prudential Overall Supply, in the amount of \$15,000, for uniform services.

Director Caspary moved to approve the Consent Calendar Item 4A through 4F. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR – SEPARATE ACTION ITEM

G Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position: November 2021

Receive and file the Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending November 30, 2021.

Brian Richie, Finance Manager, responded to a question regarding the terminology used when describing “lifting” under sanitation expenses by stating that staff would make an adjustment to the terminology going forward. He also responded to a question regarding the percentage of budget to date by stating that staff would include the percentage of budget totals to date in future updates.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 4G. Motion seconded by Director Caspary. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A MWD Representative Report

Glen Peterson, MWD Representative, reported that the MWD Board authorized modifications of the On-Site Retrofit Program to increase the \$195 per acre-foot incentive term from five to ten years; authorized execution of an agreement for Temporary Emergency Delivery of a Portion of the Mexican Treaty Waters of the Colorado River to the International Boundary in the vicinity of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, and authorized execution of Minute 327 to the Treaty; approved modifications to the MWD Administrative Code to modify the Board Committee structure to reflect a new committee structure and duties; and received an update regarding proposed water quality laboratory upgrades.

B MWD Briefing on Long-Term Solutions for State Water Project Dependent Areas

Adel Hagekhalil, MWD General Manager, stated that it was his and the MWD Board's priority and commitment to work on diversifying and moving forward to provide reliable and resilient water for areas dependent on the State Water Project. He noted that MWD moved quickly to identify solutions that could be done immediately to shift water at the equivalent of 200,000 acre-feet. He also stated that he strongly believed MWD needed to move quickly on helping to diversify the portfolio of each member agency, provide water supply storage, provide local water supply, provide conservation, storage, resiliency and pipelines to move water, and identify and implement measures to ensure all portions of the service area attain a high level of reliability against multi-year, severe droughts.

Deven Upadhyay, MWD Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of State Water Project reliant area solutions including: actions to address the current drought emergency; strategic Water Surplus and Drought Management and Water Management Actions; operational drought actions; new infrastructure investments to deliver other sources of water; water exchanges; actions to greatly improve future reliability; drought action planning and development; Integrated Resource Planning Assessment to capture State Water Project risks and opportunities to move water to storage; and potential long-term projects with the Greg Avenue Pump Station Expansion and new pump stations at the Sepulveda Pressure Control Structure (PCS) and Venice PCS.

Board President Lewitt expressed the importance of ensuring that the District has access to reliable, affordable water and redundancy. He noted that the District imports 100 percent of the water it serves to its customers, and he expressed concern with the District having only one water source and no access to Colorado River water. He stated that the District was one of the first agencies to produce its own recycled water, and the District was currently producing recycled water for up to 20 percent of the water used in the

District's service area. He also stated that the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo would produce an additional 15 percent of water, and the District would only need to import 65 percent of water from MWD after the project is completed. He expressed concern with DWR's zero percent allocation from the State Water Project, and noted that the District was one of the first agencies in Southern California to activate its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which was currently at Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency. He asked that MWD ensure broad agreement for the portfolio of projects, designate funding, and construct the projects, as well as evaluate improvements to MWD's system to provide access to Colorado River water supplies. He also expressed concern with water availability for outdoor water use due to DWR's zero percent allocation.

Director Polan expressed concern for long-term reliability and a desire to evaluate the presentation for better understanding. Mr. Upadhyay responded that he could return at a future Board meeting to address any of the Board's concerns.

Director Caspary acknowledged MWD's approach in improving water supply reliability for the District's customers. He expressed his hope that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) would allocate a minimum 14 percent allocation from the State Water Project for health and safety purposes.

Director Lo-Hill inquired regarding collaborations with other agencies on projects that would benefit multiple agencies, such as the Sepulveda Feeder PCS Project. Mr. Upadhyay responded that MWD was in discussions with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) regarding land assets that could be used for the pump station. He also noted that MWD held discussions with other water agencies regarding collaboration, specifically with agricultural entities in the Central Valley for water exchanges.

Mr. Upadhyay responded to a question regarding the possibility of building infrastructure to provide Colorado River water to MWD's western service area by stating that options could include the Greg Avenue Pump Station Expansion and Sepulveda Feeder PCS Project. He noted that the design of these projects would not be for just emergency use, and the MWD Board would soon consider initiating a feasibility study and adding the projects to its Capital Improvement Program. He stated that the MWD Board was also committed to looking at other measures, such as storage expansion for the State Water Project and moving water from Diamond Valley Lake and the Colorado River Aqueduct to the western portion of its service area.

Glen Peterson, MWD Representative, addressed the State Water Project allocation and stated it could take three months for the DWR to determine an allocation; however, DWR was working on a new program to determine its allocations more quickly.

C Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, provided an update regarding AB 1434 (Friedman), which seeks to reduce indoor water use standards. He noted that Assemblywoman Friedman pulled the proposed bill and would likely propose

a new or similar bill. He mentioned that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) would hold an in-person conference in Washington D.C. during the first week of March. Board President Lewitt noted that ACWA was planning to reschedule the conference due to a conflict with the President's State of the Union Address and concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding a petition to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to list Southern Steelhead as an endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act. He stated that Southern Steelhead was currently listed as a federal endangered species. He noted that an ACWA working group had convened to evaluate and provide feedback to the Fish and Game Commission. He also noted that ACWA agreed to write a comment letter regarding the need for further study of the Southern Steelhead's life histories, its anadromous form where they spend part of their time in the ocean and the other part in fresh water, and the resident life history, commonly referred to as Rainbow Trout, where they spend their entire life in fresh water. He stated that the Fish and Game Commission would make a decision on whether the species should be listed as a candidate species in February, and if approved, a 12-month period would begin for a more thorough analysis of the technical and scientific issues. He also responded to a question regarding whether there might be a substantial change to the numeric discharge requirements given that the Southern Steelhead already had a federal listing by stating that a primary concern would be whether the state would implement management measures that would be different from the federal ones. He noted that the District circulated the Notice of Preparation for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, and a comment was received from the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding continuing the current flow regime for Malibu Creek.

D Drought and Water Supply Conditions Update

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, presented the report. He noted that Lake Oroville was at 42 percent of capacity, and expressed hope for additional rain and snow to increase water storage levels.

Board President Lewitt asked staff to continue the drought and water conservation messaging.

Director Caspary noted that some of the maps published in the news showed certain areas of the state that were formerly in the extreme drought category were now showing a lesser drought category. He stated that this could be contributing to people's belief that the worst of the drought was over. He asked staff to look into how quickly the state could return to the extreme drought category absent any further storms.

6. TREASURER

Director Lo-Hill stated that the Treasurer's report was in order.

7. GENERAL MANAGER

A Salary Resolution and Management Handbook Update: Approval and Adoption

Pass, approve, and adopt proposed Resolution No. 2604, establishing salaries for employees; and approve the updated Management Handbook.

RESOLUTION NO. 2604

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR EMPLOYEES

(Reference is hereby made to Resolution No. 2604 on file in the District's Resolution Book and by this reference the same is incorporated herein.)

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Lo-Hill moved to approve Item 7A. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A Local, State, and Federal Restricting: Final Maps

B Reimbursable Expenses for Fiscal Year 2020-21

9. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A Organization Reports

None.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

None.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen reported that staff completed a run of the Westlake Filtration Plant during the MWD shutdown of the Foothill Feeder and the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant. He provided an update regarding Mr. Carey Peck's request for the provision of a will serve letter and financial relief for upgrading the water meter for his property to rebuild his house, which was destroyed in the Woolsey Fire. He reported that staff worked with Mr. Peck on a resolution, and staff would bring back an item on the next agenda for the Board's consideration.

(2) Follow-Up Items

General Manager David Pedersen stated that staff would follow-up with MWD staff to provide an update on the Delta Conveyance Project at a future Board meeting.

D Directors' Comments

None.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

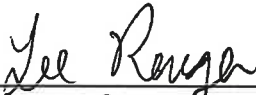
12. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **10:35 a.m.**



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

ATTEST:



Lee Renger, Secretary
Board of Directors
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

(SEAL)