

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

5:00 PM

June 13, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Brian Richie.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at **5:00 p.m.** by Chair Lewitt 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. Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant, conducted the roll call.

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

Absent: Caspary

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Polan moved to approve the agenda and approve the findings of Resolution No. 18 (AB 361). Motion seconded by Director Renger. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A Minutes: Special Meeting of May 9, 2022 and Special Meeting of May 18, 2022: Approve

B Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position: April 2022

Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending April 30, 2022.

Director Renger moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A State and Federal Legislative Update

Syrus Devers, state lobbyist for the JPA with Best Best & Krieger LLP (BBK), reported that the Senate presented a \$21 billion budget package for climate change, drought, and wildfire prevention. He also reported that the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife would hold a hearing on June 14th regarding SB 1157 (Hertzberg), which proposes to lower the existing indoor gallons per capita daily (GPCD) water use efficiency standard. He noted that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), WaterReuse, and California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) were working to oppose this bill unless amended; however, it was anticipated that the Chair of the Assembly Committee would favor passing the bill out of Committee with no amendments. He also noted that Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen would provide testimony at the hearing. He provided an update regarding AB 2639 (Quirk) related to the Bay Delta Plan and water rights, and stated that ACWA led opposition unless amended to ensure that this bill would fail to pass out of the Assembly. He commented that opposition to this bill might lead to a discussion to amend to SB 1157.

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen noted that the JPA had taken an oppose unless amended position on SB 1157; however, this bill was likely to pass due to the drought and due to the study prepared by the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board. He stated that amendments to this bill would be helpful to address issues important to the JPA, which would involve preparing studies to consider the impacts to wastewater, recycled water, and potable water systems, and potentially give more time to achieve the proposed 2030 standards. He stated that this could require

changing the JPA's oppose unless amended position to a neutral position.

A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of additional funding for water conservation through the state budget process, the study to consider the impacts and costs for implementing SB 1157, and development of a specified variance for the use of additional recycled water.

Ana Schwab, federal lobbyist for the JPA with BBK, reported that the House Appropriations Committee would hold hearings regarding appropriation bills. She also reported that the Senate released its Congressionally-directed spending requests; however, no timeline was released. She stated it was expected that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would announce a polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) levels health advisory. She noted that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to consider the Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities (STREAM) Act. She stated that a drought package would be prepared this summer, and it was likely that the STREAM Act would be included in this package. She also reported that meetings would be scheduled prior to the ACWA Washington DC Conference to highlight the severity of the drought for the JPA, discuss how the JPA was taking a leadership role in managing drought, and how the JPA would use technology in managing drought with the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo. She noted that an announcement was expected from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding the Title XVI application, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had released the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan process. She stated that the USBR would accept Letters of Interest until September, and if the letter is accepted, the application may be submitted for review and processing. She noted that there was concern regarding provisions related to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA), and that the EPA was seeking a waiver from the Office of Management and Budget and the Executive Office of the President for the WIFIA Program.

Lowry Crook, federal lobbyist for the JPA with BBK, noted that the Senate held a hearing regarding calling for stronger support for the drought. He noted that conversations were taking place at the White House and water-focused agencies regarding coordination on an Administration response to drought and wildfires for short-term response and long-term water and drought resilience.

B Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Update

Oliver Slosser, Engineering Program Manager, presented the report. He noted that the WIFIA funding notice was released, and staff would discuss next steps for submitting a Letter of Interest for WIFIA funding. He responded to a question regarding feedback received from the Los Angeles County Fire Department by stating that the initial discussion was to provide an overview of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo with no specific details. He also responded to question regarding the availability of the list of attendees to the Pure Water Coffee

Brew event, the upcoming Project Team meeting to discuss feedback from technical workshops, and the Water Code Section 1211 process for the wastewater change petition.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A Proposed Two-Year JPA Budget Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-24

Approve the proposed two-year JPA Budget Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-24 and adopt the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 JPA Budget.

Debbie Rosales, Finance Analyst II, presented the report and a PowerPoint presentation.

Director Lo-Hill moved to approve Item 6A. Motion seconded by Director Nye.

Ms. Rosales responded to questions regarding addressing inflation in the proposed budget, impacts to recycled water costs due to drought conditions, and the amount budgeted for the Pure Water Demonstration Facility.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to questions regarding costs for compost odor control and maintenance of the equipment for the Reactor Building.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary

7. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lo-Hill reported that she attended the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) Annual Water Symposium on May 26th, where a presentation was provided regarding the City of Ventura treating the water released to Santa Clara River Estuary and Ventura County Growers Fox Canyon water market. She also reported that she attended the MWD Committee Meetings earlier in the day where they discussed displaying "Save Water" on Caltrans sign boards, and approved \$4 per square foot rebate for turf replacement. She noted that the City of Calabasas recently discussed converting medians irrigated by potable water to recycled water.

A discussion ensued regarding the medians along Mulholland Highway that were currently irrigated using potable water, and reconsidering whether installing a recycled water pipeline would be practical.

Director Orkney reported that she also attended the AWAVC Annual Water Symposium, and she commended Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen on his presentation regarding water shortage impacts. She stated that she was interested in the VenturaWaterPure Project's two-phase program and the effect on the Santa Clara River Estuary.

8. ADMINISTERING AGENT/GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Administering Agent/General Manager David Pedersen reported that the flow in Malibu Creek measured 8.4 cubic feet per second (CFS), and there was no need for potable water supplement. He noted that recycled water demand had decreased and wells were shut off as they were not needed for potable water supplement. He also reported that there was increased interest in the recycled water fill station, which had increased three to four times the usual number of customer, and approximately 50 people recently enrolled in recycled water fill station training. He noted that the ACWA Washington DC Conference would be held July 12th through 14th. He also noted that the City of Thousand Oaks City Council would consider approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Water Resources Collaboration. He stated that he would attend the City Council meeting to speak in support of the MOU. He responded to a question regarding the status of branding and messaging signage for LVMWD vehicles by stating that he would follow-up with staff.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **5:50 p.m.**



Jay Lewitt, Chair

ATTEST:



Leon E. Shapiro, Vice Chair