



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

April 4, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Josie Guzman.

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
Sophia Crocker, Human Resources Manager
Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs
John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations
Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board
Steven O'Neill, District Counsel

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

General Manager David Pedersen suggested that Item 5A be moved to immediately follow Public Comments.

Director Polan moved to approve the agenda and amend the order of the agenda as suggested. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi. Motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A Presentation on Regulatory Challenges by Mauricio Guardado, General Manager from United Water Conservation District

Mauricio Guardado, General Manager of United Water Conservation District, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding regulatory challenges experienced by public agencies, including litigation, mitigation, and regulations. He noted that AB 1563 (Bennett), Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Extraction Permit Verification, would require a county to forward permit requests for construction of new groundwater wells, enlarging existing groundwater wells, and reactivation of abandoned groundwater wells to the groundwater sustainability agency before permit approval. He asked the Board to consider opposing this bill. He also reviewed impacts from current storm events; impediments to water storage projects; costs to ratepayers for litigation, mitigation, and regulation; and United Water Conservation District's regulatory costs.

A discussion ensued regarding engaging the public to reach out to legislators to oppose AB 1563, and working with state and federal legislators regarding regulatory challenges.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A List of Demands: April 4, 2023: Receive and file

B Minutes Regular Meeting of March 21, 2023: Approve

C Monthly Cash and Investment Report: February 2023

Receive and file the Monthly Cash and Investment Report for February 2023.

D Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position: February 2023

Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending on February 28, 2023.

E Annual Supply of Ammonium Hydroxide: Award

Accept the bid from Airgas Specialty Products, Inc., and authorize the General Manager to approve a one-year purchase order, in the amount of \$73,354.05, with four one-year renewal options for ammonium hydroxide.

F Annual Supply of Ferric Chloride: Award

Accept the bid from Pencoco, Inc., and authorize the General Manager to approve a one-year purchase order, in the amount of \$196,607.25, with four one-year renewal options for ferric chloride.

G Annual Supply of Cla-Val Parts: Award

Accept the bid from Famcon Pipe and Supply, Inc., and authorize the General Manager to approve a one-year purchase order, in the amount of \$150,000, with four one-year renewal options for Cla-Val parts and accessories.

H Annual Supply of Meter Service Brass Fittings: Award

Accept the bid from Famcon Pipe and Supply, Inc., and authorize the General Manager to approve a one-year purchase order, in the amount of \$100,000, with four one-year renewal options for meter service brass fittings.

I Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility Sludge Pump Replacement: Authorize of Purchase Order

Authorize the General Manager to issue a purchase order to National Oilwell Varco, in the amount of \$21,484.38, for a replacement sludge pump at the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility.

j Extension of Retired Annuitant Part-Time Limited Duration Assignment

Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract extending the part-time, limited duration assignment for retired annuitant, James Green, through May 31, 2024.

Director Polan moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Burns. Motion carried unanimously.

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

B Water Supply Conditions Update

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, presented the Water Supply Conditions Report.

A discussion ensued regarding water supply conditions and water storage in the Southern Sierra, and MWD's plan and schedule to convey water from Diamond Valley Lake to the Westside State Water Project-Dependent Area.

C 2023 Water and Wastewater Rate Comparison

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, presented the report. He responded to a question regarding the effect that the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-

Triunfo would have on rates by stating that the average bill would increase \$4 per month and would be compounded annually.

Mr. McDermott also presented a cost comparison per unit of water per tier per monthly bill, and readiness to serve or meter charge.

A discussion ensued regarding averaging the water consumption within the District's service area; asking neighboring agencies to share their water consumption rates; and using the average \$167 monthly bill as the basis to explain the impact that the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, MWD increases, and typical inflationary costs would have on the average monthly bill.

6. TREASURER

Director Coradeschi reported that he reviewed the expenditures.

7. ENGINEERING AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A LV-2 Pump Station Variable Frequency Drives Replacement Project: CEQA Determination and Call for Bids

Find that the work is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, and authorize issuance of a call for bids for the LV-2 Pump Station Variable Frequency Drives Replacement Project.

Alex Leu, Senior Engineer, presented the report.

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

A discussion ensued regarding the cause of the deterioration of the variable frequency drives (VFD) due to moisture and heat, and the efficiency of the new VFDs.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A Special District Leadership Foundation: District Transparency Certificate of Excellence

9. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A Organization Reports

Director Caspary reported that he attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Legislative Symposium and State Legislative Committee Meeting in Sacramento on March 23rd and 24th. He noted that there was substantial concern regarding proposed water rights bills, and he suggested that Board President Lewitt and General Manager

David Pedersen meet to discuss public outreach to encourage customers to become involved on this issue as it was in the customers' best interests in having a reliable, economical source of water that is also protective of the environment.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

None.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen noted that the District was currently under Stage 2 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and an item would be presented at the April 18th Board meeting recommending the deactivation of the implementation of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan due to improved hydrologic conditions in the state. He stated that the District would continue to explain the need for customers to continue to use water wisely and to make changes to their landscaping. He reported that Las Virgenes Reservoir captured 1,000 acre-fee of water from runoff, and it was currently at 84 percent of capacity following the recent heavy rains at a value of \$1.2 million of free water. He also reported that tours were provided to Senator Ben Allen of the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility, and the Pure Water Demonstration Facility. He reminded the Board to submit their comments for the upcoming customer survey.

(2) Follow-Up Items

None.

D Directors' Comments

Director Polan suggested seeking support from the local American Medical Association for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo. He also suggested that the District consider creating a landscape transformation demonstration project in Westlake Village.

Director Coradeschi noted that discussion regarding atmospheric rivers and atmospheric thirst were discussed during the ACWA Legislative Symposium. He stated that atmospheric thirst caused droughts when snow falls much higher in the mountains, which is then absorbed, assimilated, and evaporated. He also noted that he attended the Great Race of Agoura Hills, where Board President Lewitt suggested it could have been an opportunity to set up a booth for people to taste water from the Pure Water Demonstration Facility. He suggested setting up booths at upcoming community concerts and events.

Board President Lewitt noted that the Great Race of Agoura Hills was well-attended, and he suggested that the District hand out water, sparking water, and coffee made from pure water at upcoming community concerts and events. He noted that he and Syrus Devers, the District's lobbyist with Best Best & Krieger, LLP, attended the tours of District facilities provided to Senator Allen, who currently serves as the Chair of the Senate Environmental

Quality Committee.

Director Burns noted that he attended the District's Firescaping Workshop on April 1st. He also noted that the Fire Department would be conducting mandatory inspections of all residential homes for brush clearance in Calabasas. He addressed Mr. Guardado's presentation and suggested that the District join with other agencies to conduct public outreach regarding regulatory challenges, litigation, mitigation, and regulations.

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding the status of the Population Viability Assessment for Southern California Steelhead by stating that the District was a partner in the preparation of study led by ACWA. He noted that a key part of the study was recognizing the anadromous form life history of the species, and the study would take approximately one year to complete.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

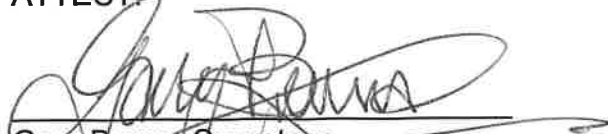
12. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **10:59 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)