



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

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9:00 AM

May 2, 2023

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Craig Jones.

**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  
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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Polan moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi. Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan  
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A List of Demands: May 2, 2023: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Regular Meeting of April 18, 2023: Approve**

**C Monthly Cash and Investment Report: March 2023**

**Receive and file the Monthly Cash and Investment Report for March 2023.**

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

**Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending on March 31, 2023.**

**E American Water Works Association ACE23 Water Conference: Board Member Attendance**

**Authorize Board Member attendance and per diem compensation for the American Water Works Association ACE23 Water Conference that will be held June 11 through 14, 2023, in Toronto, Canada.**

Director Polan 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, reported that the California Department of Water Resources announced an increase to the allocation from the State Water Project to 100 percent. He noted that Lake Oroville was at 90 percent of capacity, San Luis Reservoir was at 97 percent of capacity, and the peak snowpack in the Northern Sierra was nearly 200 percent. He also noted there was still concern regarding water levels in the Colorado River Basin.

6. **TREASURER**

Director Coradeschi stated that the Treasurer's report was in order.

7. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**A Fiscal Year 2023-24 Draft Budget Review**

**Review and provide feedback on the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Draft Budget**

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

A discussion ensued regarding the projected 20 percent decrease in potable water sales, and the possibility of increased sales due to the end of the drought emergency.

Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager, responded to a question regarding the proposed budget for the Landscape Transformation Program, which would include an Integrated Regional Water Management grant to fund water efficiency rebates and incentives for landscape design, irrigation retrofitting, drip irrigation conversion, and garden kits. Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, added that of the \$440,000 budgeted for this program, \$200,000 would be used for landscape design assistance for residential homeowners. He stated that customers could receive up to \$1,000 to hire a landscape architect to assist with design, and the District was expecting 200 customers to participate in this program in the coming fiscal year.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to a question regarding the Recycled Water Pump Station Battery Energy Storage budget by stating that the District had leveraged grant funds and had an agreement with Tesla; however, the Board decided to postpone the project due to Tesla's battery shortages.

Eric Schlageter, Principal Engineer, responded to a question regarding the budget reduction for the Tapia Effluent Pump Station Rehabilitation Project by stating that consideration was being made to reduce the budget to align with other identified projects.

**B Telephone System Upgrade and Implementation: Approval**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a three-year agreement with RingCentral, Inc., in the amount of \$127,312.52 plus applicable taxes, for implementation of a Unified Communications as a Service platform for the office telephone system.**

Ivo Nkwenji, Information Systems Manager, presented the report.

Director Coradeschi moved to approve Item 7B. Motion seconded by Director Polan.

A discussion ensued regarding management of new telephone equipment, past and current call volume, and security of a cloud-based telephone system.

Carley Williams, representing RingCentral, responded to a question regarding support of 911 emergency calls by stating that RingCentral would support 911 and E911 calls.

Andrew Lombardo, representing RingCentral, stated that the reason 911 service this was not included in the proposed agreement was because RingCentral would not host or become the physical 911 number as this would still be done through emergency services; however, they would support E911 service.

Shawn Hines, representing RingCentral, responded to a question regarding overage rates by stating that this was standard language on every contract; however, domestic minute rates would apply for toll free minutes when using the automatic dialer for local and long-distance calls made in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of including two renewal options to extend the proposed contract with RingCentral, the other proposals received, cooperative purchasing allowed under the Las Virgenes Code, and RingCentral's call back in queue feature.

Mr. Hines noted that RingCentral could include a feature on the District's website for an agent to make a scheduled time for customer call back.

Mike Lane, representing RingCentral, noted that there would be additional one-time implementation cost should the District want to add chat, email, or social media platforms.

Director Caspary amended the motion to approve Item 7B, and have staff investigate and obtain prices for two one-year options for Years 4 and 5. Amended motion seconded by Director Polan.

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 Automatic Meter Reading/Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project: Final Acceptance**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute Change Order No. 12 for a credit, in the amount of \$112,887.33; approve payment, in the amount of \$68,672.93, for surplus meters placed in warehouse inventory; execute a Notice of Completion and have the same recorded; and, in the absence of claims from subcontractors and others, release the retention/retainage bond, in the amount of \$463,143.10, 30-calendar days after filing the Notice of Completion for the Automatic Meter Reading/Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project.**

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, provided a brief overview and acknowledged staff on their efforts.

Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager, presented the report and a PowerPoint presentation.

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

A discussion ensued regarding identifying network failures, pending grant funding, reasons why customers opted out of new meter installation, and promoting that the new meters were made in the United States.

General Manager David Pederson acknowledged District staff, contractors, and vendors on their efforts with this project. He noted that the WaterSmart system was very helpful during the drought emergency.

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 the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee met on April 14th, and voted to oppose several bills. He stated that the committee would meet again on May 5th to review additional bills.

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

Director Polan reported that he attended the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) Water Symposium on April 20th, where presentations included water rights, water policy, and water adjudications.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended the AWAVC Water Symposium. He noted that he spoke with Henry Graumlich, Associate General Manager from Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas), regarding water policy and groundwater adjudication and the possibility of the District receiving groundwater from Calleguas. Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, stated that it was possible for the District to receive water stored in the ground from Calleguas as part of the judgement to be approved by the court in June and with watermaster approval.

Board President Lewitt noted that he was inducted to the AWAVC Board, and he would ask for a discussion regarding seawater for next year's Water Symposium. He also noted

that David Guy, President of the Northern California Water Association, provided a presentation. He also reported that a joint LVMWD and Calleguas Board meeting would be held in July to discuss water supply strategies.

## **C General Manager Reports**

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

General Manager David Pedersen reported that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation, which would require California fleet owners and operators to purchase 50 percent of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) medium- and heavy-duty trucks beginning with model year 2024, and 100 percent beginning with model year 2027. He noted that the District's concern was market availability and having the vehicles equipped to meet the District's needs. He also noted that there was some recognition at CARB to continue discussions to ensure that ZEVS would be commercially available for public agencies. He also reported that AB 1594 (Garcia), Authorized Emergency Vehicles, Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles, Public Agency Utilities, would intend to ensure that issues with the ACF regulation would be addressed. He provided an update regarding the California Fish and Wildlife Commission identifying the Southern Steelhead as a candidate endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act. He noted that he and Director Coradeschi held a phone meeting with Kyle Evans, South Coast Regional Director from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife responsible for Steelhead recovery, to discuss what they envision in listing the Southern Steelhead as an endangered species and the Rindge Dam removal. He also reported that the Board was provided with a microphone-shaped brochure promoting the District's podcast to highlight the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo (Pure Water Project). He noted that he and MWD Representative Glen Peterson were featured on the first podcast discussing the history of the District and the early planning of the Pure Water Project. He recognized Public Affairs and Communications Manager Mike McNutt, and Public Affairs Associates II Steven Baird and Riki Clark for their efforts in developing the podcast. He reminded the Board of the upcoming ACWA Spring Conference scheduled May 9th through 11th in Monterey, and the Pure Water Soquel tour on May 8th.

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

General Manager David Pedersen stated that follow-up items included a report on evapotranspiration adjustment factors and the merits of increasing the General Manager's current delegated authority for contracts.

## **D Directors' Comments**

Director Caspary inquired how to access the District's podcast. General Manager David Pedersen responded that the podcast was accessible through several podcast networks.

Director Caspary suggested moving up the purchase of cabin chassis vehicles for future use prior to the implementation of CARB's ACE regulations. He asked that staff remove the banner regarding the one-day per week watering restriction that was still on display

by the pump station on Calabasas Road.

Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, stated that additional information regarding accessing the District's podcast would be added on the next brochure reprint. He noted that the podcast was currently available on Amazon Music and Audible, and staff was exploring other podcast platforms. He acknowledged Public Affairs Associates II Steven Baird and Riki Clark for their efforts in developing the podcast.

Director Coradeschi inquired regarding the status of purchasing an electric backhoe. John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded that the plan was for the District to purchase vehicles based on the District's need, and allow the market to develop electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

Director Polan suggested that the podcast brochure be made to look more like a microphone in the reprint. He stated that he would deliver copies of the brochures at Westlake Village City Hall, library, and coffee shops.

Board President Lewitt acknowledged Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, for preparing a calendar for the Directors listing all Board Meetings, conferences, and events that qualify for per diem compensation.

Director Burns expressed concern with the JPA and LVMWD Board Meetings scheduled for the same week as the July 4th Independence Day holiday as people might be out of town. Board President Lewitt suggested that Director Burns' concern be brought up at the next JPA Board Meeting.

Director Burns reported that he, Director Coradeschi, and General Manager David Pedersen attended the Southern California Water Coalition Quarterly Luncheon on April 28th, where a presentation was provided by Susan Kennedy, Executive Director from Cadiz, Inc. He noted that the current issue of *ACWA News* included an article regarding Pure Water Antelope Valley Demonstration Facility's implementation of technology to remove brine and convert it to hydrochloric acid, and he suggested that the District explore this option for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo. General Manager David Pedersen stated that staff would follow-up.

**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 **11:03 a.m.**



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

ATTEST:



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

(SEAL)