



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

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9:00 AM

June 6, 2023

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Adam Kelly.

**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. Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant, 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  
Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant  
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

General Manager David Pedersen suggested that the Board move Item 7A to follow Item 7E.

Director Caspary moved to approve the agenda as amended to move Item 7A to follow

Item 7E. 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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A List of Demands: June 6, 2023: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Special Meeting of May 8, 2023; Regular Meeting of May 16, 2023; and Special Meeting of May 17, 2023: Approve**

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

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

**D Pontoon Boat Replacement: Revised Purchase Order**

**Authorize the General Manager to issue a purchase order to Leisure Kraft Pontunes, in the amount of \$49,953.21, for a 24-foot pontoon boat at Las Virgenes Reservoir; and, re-appropriate \$6,000 from CIP No. 10776, Backhoe Replacement, to CIP No. 10810, Pontoon Boat Replacement, for the additional cost resulting from the manufacturer change.**

**E Kimberly Pressure Reducing Station No. 45 Rehabilitation Project: Final Acceptance**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a Notice of Completion and have the same recorded; extend the contract duration by 147 calendar days; and in the absence of claims from subcontractors and others, release the retention, in the amount of \$10,122.64, within 30 calendar days after filing the Notice of Completion for Kimberly Pressure Reducing Station No. 45 Rehabilitation Project.**

Director Polan moved to approve the Consent Calendar. 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

5. **ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS**

**A MWD Representative Report**

Glen Peterson, MWD Representative, reported that due to budget constraints, MWD-member agencies would only be allowed one shared three-day trip to either the State Water Project or the Colorado River Aqueduct, and he inquired which trip the Board would prefer to attend. The Board expressed an interest in a shared State Water Project Trip. Mr. Peterson stated that he would follow-up with Calleguas Municipal Water District on sharing this trip. He also reported that the MWD Board authorized preparation of a commendatory resolution supporting Cathy Green as the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) President; appointed him to the Subcommittee on Bay-Delta; increased the existing agreement with Stantec Consulting for preliminary design of a mechanical dewatering facility at the Joseph Jensen Treatment Plant; adopted a resolution to support a \$20,900,000 grant application to restore habitat and sustainability to an entire island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conveyance; and authorized entering into an agreement to provide assistance with water deliveries to the Rubidoux Community Services District. He also reported that an agreement was reached to conserve three million acre-feet of water over the next three years from the Colorado River Water Lower Basin, which would be placed and stored into Lake Mead. He noted that MWD Chair Adán Ortega, Jr., was provided a tour of District facilities on May 30th.

**B Water Supply Conditions Update**

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, presented the report.

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding flooding risks due to high flows from the Sierras by stating that flooding was not as severe due to recent mild temperatures.

6. **TREASURER**

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

7. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**B Boardroom Audiovisual System Upgrade: Award**

**Accept the proposal from Western Audiovisual & Security; authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement, in the amount of \$203,308, plus applicable taxes; and re-appropriate \$94,658.77 from CIP No. 10694, Building No. 8 Office Space Rehabilitation Project, to upgrade the District's boardroom audiovisual system.**

Ivo Nkwenji, Information Systems Manager, presented the report.

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

A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of installing a one-way glass window between the audiovisual control room and the boardroom; ensuring that the wall behind the dais was fire-rated; confirming a fixed cost for the work; and ensuring easy access to electrical outlets and USB connections for computer equipment.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

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

Director Caspary moved to amend the motion to approve Item 7B at a not to exceed amount of \$203,308 plus applicable taxes. Amended motion seconded by Director Polan.

Amended motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

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

### **C Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility DCS Migration to SCADA System**

**Accept the proposal from The Rovisys Company and authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement, in the amount of \$1,092,050, to upgrade the operational technology system at the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility.**

Ivo Nkwenji, Information Systems Manager, presented the report.

Director Caspary moved to approve Item 7C. Motion seconded by Director Polan.

A discussion ensued regarding migrating the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility to the SCADA system to match the system currently being implemented at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

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

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

**Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending on April 30, 2023.**

Brian Richie, Finance Manager, presented the report and a PowerPoint presentation. He responded to questions regarding the operating revenues and expenses for the potable water, recycled water, and sanitation enterprises.

Director Caspary moved to approve Item 7D. Motion seconded by Director Burns.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

#### **E CalPERS Pension and Other Post-Employment Liabilities Update**

**Receive and file an update on the CalPERS pension and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) liabilities, and authorize the General Manager to approve an additional contribution, in the amount of \$1,121,833, to reduce the net OPEB liability in Fiscal Year 2023-24.**

Brian Richie, Finance Manager, presented the report.

A discussion ensued regarding the pay-down of the District's unfunded OPEB liabilities.

Director Coradeschi moved to approve Item 7E. 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

#### **A Fiscal Year 2023-24 Proposed Budget: Adoption**

**Adopt the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget.**

Debbie Rosales, Financial Analyst II, presented the report.

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

A discussion ensued regarding the budget for school education programs.

Craig Johns, Resource Conservation Manager, responded to a question regarding the Landscape Transformation Program.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to questions regarding the Water Tank Rehabilitation – Jed Smith/Dardenne CIP No. 10757.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A Updated Nepotism and Workplace Relationships Policy**

**B Request for Proposals for Organizational and Staffing Analysis**

**9. NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**A Organization Reports**

Director Caspary reported that he attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee Special Meeting on June 2nd, where they discussed sending requests for letters of support for budget trailer bills, including the drought and flood streamlining budget trailer bill. He noted that a workgroup was formed to discuss which approach to take in support of this bill. He also reported that 75 environmental organizations signed a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom asking that he reject proposed changes to water law. He noted that the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) Governing Board Meeting that was scheduled on June 15th was canceled, and the SMBRC selected a new Chief Administrative Director. He also stated that water rights holders now had strong interest in negotiating to protect the majority of their water rights.

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

Board President Lewitt reported that he and General Manager David Pedersen attended the City of San Bernardino's Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1B Groundbreaking event on June 2nd, and he suggested that that the District invite water industry and water agencies to any of the District's groundbreaking events. He also reported that he attended the tour of District facilities provided to MWD Chair Adán Ortega, Jr. and MWD Director Miguel Luna on May 30th. He noted staff discussed the need to keep water affordable, safe, and reliable for all District customers, and the need to have water supplied to the District from all MWD sources. He also noted that MWD Chair Ortega expressed support for conveying water supplies from all MWD sources to the District, and support for the District's "Drink from the Sink" program.

Director Coradeschi reported that he also attended the tour of District facilities provided to MWD Chair Ortega and MWD Director Luna on May 30th, where they discussed the depth of the meaning of "One Water" and the inclusion of all MWD member agencies.

Board President Lewitt noted that San Bernardino and Riverside were unable to access water from the State Water Project due to lack of conveyance because their pipes were

too full, and there was not enough capacity for extra water. He stated that pipes needed to be large enough to convey water from west to east in the MWD system. General Manager David Pedersen commented that MWD was moving water to Diamond Valley Lake; however, the challenge was that water could not be conveyed to Western Municipal Water District. He stated that connectivity and conveyance were very important, conveyance would be more challenging due to climate change, and there was a need to move larger amounts of water in shorter periods of time over longer distances.

Director Burns referred to an article from *Water Source Magazine* indicating that MWD was aware of water shortages that occurred because MWD could not move stored water from the Colorado River to the San Fernando Valley or to Ventura County. He reported that he, General Manager David Pedersen, and Director Polan met with Scott Slater and Susan Kennedy from Cadiz, Inc., and he would request a Future Agenda Item for them to provide a presentation to the Board.

## **C General Manager Reports**

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

General Manager David Pedersen stated that the tour and discussion with MWD Chair Ortega went very well, and one of MWD Chair Ortega's key observation was the need for an interconnected MWD system that would benefit everyone. He noted that he would be attending a meeting at MWD on June 7th to discuss East-West Conveyance, and to consider rebranding this effort as Interconnected Regional Conveyance. He also noted that he would be attending another MWD meeting on June 8th for the State Water Project-Dependent Areas Principals Meeting to discuss key priorities and challenging issues. He reported that the District was participating in discussions regarding the proposed water bond and including water recycling as part of the water bond. He stated that the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo was timed perfectly for a water recycling category of funding in the proposed water bond. He also stated that efforts were taking place regionally with MWD, Los Angeles, San Diego, and WaterReuse to advocate for \$1.8 billion in funding for water recycling. He also reported that the District received approximately 560 responses from the Customer Experience survey, and staff was in the process of evaluating and compiling data. He stated that a report would be presented at the July 18th Board Meeting. He noted that United Water Conservation District invited the Board and staff to tour the Freeman Diversion on June 15th. He stated that the Freeman Diversion on the Santa Clara River diverts water to the groundwater basin in Ventura County, which helps reduce pressure on imported water. He also noted that he would be on vacation from June 17th through July 7th.

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

General Manager David Pedersen stated that an item regarding purchasing limits would be brought back at a Board meeting in September, and items regarding evapotranspiration adjustment factors and penalty revenues would be brought back at the July 18th Board Meeting.

## **D Directors' Comments**

Director Burns suggested that a link to the District's podcast be included in outgoing emails.

Director Caspary referred to an article in the *Malibu Times* regarding the Rindge Dam removal, and stated that it appeared that two-thirds of the material would be placed in the Calabasas Landfill. He expressed concern with the landfill's design cap for receiving material, and that it was determined that the material was not suitable for beach replenishment.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Burns moved to invite Susan Kennedy and Scott Slater from Cadiz, Inc., to provide a presentation at a future Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Director Polan.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **11:34 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)