



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

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9:00 AM

August 15, 2023

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Veronica Hurtado.

**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, Andy Coradeschi, and Jay Lewitt.  
Absent: Directors Charles Caspary and Len Polan.  
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 Burns moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi. Motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Lewitt  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary, Polan

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

Joe McDermott, Director of Facilities and Operations, introduced new employees Cindy Chau, Management Analyst I, and Steve Perry, Field Customer Service Representative I. The Board welcomed Ms. Chau and Mr. Perry to the District.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A List of Demands: August 15, 2023: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Regular Meeting of July 18, 2023 and August 1, 2023: Approve**

**C Directors' Per Diem: July 2023: Ratify**

**D ACWA Region 8 Board Election: Approval of Recommended Slate**

**Cast a vote for the Nominating Committee's Recommended Slate for the ACWA Region 8 Board Election, and authorize the General Manager to return the completed ballot to ACWA no later than September 15, 2023.**

**E Monthly Cash and Investment Report: June 2023**

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

**F Online Billing Presentment Services: Contract Extension**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a three-year contract extension with Invoice Cloud, Inc., in an annual amount not to exceed \$155,000, for online billing and presentment services.**

**G Las Virgenes-Triunfo Public Financing Authority: Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement**

**Pass, approve, and adopt proposed Resolution No. 2626, authorizing the Board President to execute the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement forming the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Public Financing Authority.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2626**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF THE LAS VIRGENES-TRIUNFO PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY AND APPROVING THE JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT WITH THE TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION**

**DISTRICT AND APPROVING CERTAIN DOCUMENTS AND TAKING CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

(Reference is hereby made to Resolution No. 2626 on file in the District's Resolution Book and by this reference the same is incorporated herein.)

Director Coradeschi moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Burns. Motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Lewitt

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary, Polan

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

**A Proclamation Recognizing Mikel Caldwell, Electrical/Instrumentation Technician II, for 18 Years of Service**

Board President Lewitt read and presented a proclamation to Mikel Caldwell, Electrical/Instrumentation Technician II, in recognition of his retirement after 18 years of service. Mr. Caldwell thanked the Board and his coworkers, and stated that it was a pleasure and an honor to work at the District.

**B Recognition of Staff for Response to 24-inch Water Main Break at Lindero Canyon Road and Agoura Road**

General Manager David Pedersen presented a video showing the District's response to a 24-inch water main break at Lindero Canyon Road and Agoura Road, which occurred on August 6th. He noted that staff and Toro Enterprises made repairs, restored water service, and repaved the street within 48 hours.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, acknowledged the following staff on their efforts: Frank Almaguer, Andy Arenas, Duane Bockelman, Thomas Bodenhamer, Tony Gagnon, Logan Kiblinger, Jim Korkosz, Ken Kuhlman, Spencer Lee, Mario Magana, Joseph Montano, Shawn Triplett, Brett Vollmar, and Justin Walden, as well as Mike McNutt and Steven Baird for conducting public outreach and Toro Enterprises.

Brad Halpern, Councilmember from the City of Westlake Village, acknowledged the District's efforts in making the repairs quickly with minimal impacts to residents and commuters.

**C Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, reported that a tour of the Pure Water Demonstration Facility was provided to Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo on July 21st. He stated that Assemblymember Shiavo and her staff were very impressed with the facility,

and they expressed an interest in touring other District facilities. He also reported that approximately 90 Assembly Bills and approximately 50 Senate Bills were forwarded to Governor Gavin Newsom, and several hundred Assembly and Senate Bills were still under consideration. He also reported that the District continued to monitor the climate bond and lobby to include significant investment in water recycling. He noted that the District joined a coalition organized by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) asking for \$1.8 billion in state investments in grants for planning, design, and construction of water recycling projects and related facilities. He provided an update regarding AB 1594 (Garcia), Medium and Heavy Duty Zero Emission Vehicles Public Agency Utilities, and noted that this bill was moved to the suspense file. He stated that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) would provide input prior to the September 1st deadline. He also reported that a letter was sent to U.S. Senator Alex Padilla requesting his support for liability protections for wastewater systems that follow all laws and regulations for the disposal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). He also reported that Los Angeles County Supervisor Leslie Horvath's office asked the District to speak in support of a motion to help accelerate the implementation of the County's Safe, Clean Water Program (Measure W). He noted that the motion passed unanimously, and Supervisor Horvath acknowledged the District for its support.

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding exemptions in AB 1594, which would allow for the purchase of non-zero emission vehicles when they are not commercially available.

#### **D Water Warriors: 2023 Customer Appreciation Program**

Ally Alejo and Alaya Arriola, Public Affairs Associate Interns, provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Water Warriors 2023 Customer Appreciation Program, including program objectives to recognize customers that go above and beyond to be more water efficient, award categories, and July 2023 winners.

Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager, acknowledged Ms. Alejo and Ms. Arriola for taking the initiative to lead the program.

### **6. TREASURER**

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures and the Treasurer's report was in order.

### **7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **A ACWA Committee Appointment Nominations for 2024-25 Term**

**Select candidates for ACWA committee appointment or re-appointment consideration, and authorize the General Manager to sign and return the completed Committee Consideration Form to ACWA no later than September 30, 2023.**

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report and noted that Director Burns provided his preferences for committee assignments, which were not included in the staff report.

Director Coradeschi moved to approve Item 7A. Motion seconded by Director Burns. Motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

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

**B Knowledge to Implementation (K2i) Platform Subscription: Authorization**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Booky Oren Global Water Technologies, in the amount of \$70,000, for a one-year subscription to its Knowledge to Implementation Platform.**

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Booky Oren, representing Booky Oren Global Water Technologies Ltd., provided a PowerPoint presentation supporting the District's continuous improvement by leveraging the K2i platform.

Director Coradeschi moved to approve Item 7B. Motion seconded by Director Burns. Motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

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

**8. FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

**A Memorandum of Understanding with Natural Ocean Well Company: Authorization**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Natural Ocean Well Company, in a form approved by Legal Counsel, to cooperate on the development of subsea water harvesting technology.**

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, presented the report.

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

A discussion ensued regarding support for the Memorandum of Understanding and public outreach.

Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, stated that staff was working on issuing a press release and speaking with a reporter from the *Los Angeles Times*.

Motion carried 3-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Lewitt

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Caspary, Polan

## 9. **NON-ACTION ITEMS**

### **A Organization Reports**

Board President Lewitt reminded the Board that the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) would hold its annual Member and Elected Officials Reception on September 12th at the Ronald Reagan Library. He noted that attendees from Los Angeles County may bring one guest.

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

Director Coradeschi reported that he attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Annual Conference held August 9th through 11th. He noted that presentations included CalPERS funding, an update on PureWater San Diego, and a discussion seeking support for PFAS liability exemptions.

Director Burns reported that he also attended the CASA Annual Conference, and that he was impressed by speakers Tani Cantil-Sakauye, President of the Public Policy Institute of California; Joaquin Esquivel, Chair from the State Water Resources Control Board; and Jimmy Slaughter from the law firm of Beveridge and Diamond who spoke regarding PFAS.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended the CASA Annual Conference. He stated that there was a discussion between David Tobias from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Jimmy Slaughter regarding PFAS, and he expressed concern with PFAS and the ability to get rid of "forever chemicals." He noted that 3M agreed to a \$12.5 billion settlement, and he inquired who would receive funding from this settlement. General Manager David Pedersen responded that he would follow-up on the details of the settlement; however, there was controversy on whether the settlement was broad enough to address the need in its entirety. He stated that a summary of the settlement would be brought back at the September 5th JPA Board Meeting.

Board President Lewitt also reported that he attended the MWD Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee Meeting on August 14th, where staff shared an update on water conservation outreach, advertising, and messaging. He stated that MWD could share materials with all member agencies. He also stated that the MWD Board would consider renaming the Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Plant as the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center.

**C General Manager Reports**

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen stated that due to the recent wildfire in Maui, it was a good reminder for the District to prepare for wildfire season. He reported that flow in Malibu Creek measured 9.7 cubic feet per second (CFS).

(2) Follow-Up Items

General Manager David Pedersen stated that an item regarding penalty revenue would be presented at the September 5th Board meeting, and items regarding the purchasing policy update and expandability of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo would be presented at the September 19th Board meeting. He noted that a presentation by Cadiz, Inc. would be scheduled for a future Board meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding water systems design capacities and wildfire suppression, preparing the water system for wildfire season, the District's previous webinar on hardening landscapes and structures, public outreach during wildfires and natural disasters, and upcoming community workshops.

**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 **10:37 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)