



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

October 3, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by John Zhao.

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 Caspary 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

Director Caspary asked to pull Item 4A for discussion.

B Proposed Insurance Provider Plan Renewals

Accept the proposals from EyeMed, in the annual amount of \$15,000, for employee vision insurance with a four-year rate guarantee; and Anthem Blue Cross, in the annual amount of \$81,985, for employee life, accidental death/dismemberment (ADD&D) insurance, and short and long-term disability coverage.

C Annual Report : Records Review and Destruction

Authorize the destruction of records in accordance with the District's records retention schedule and the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Code.

D Monthly Cash and Investment Report: August 2023

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

Director Polan moved to approve the Consent Calendar Items 4B through 4D. 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

4. CONSENT CALENDAR – SEPARATE ACTION ITEM

A List of Demands: October 3, 2023: Receive and file.

Eric Schlageter, Principal Engineer, responded to a question regarding a payment to Cannon for the Wildlife Crossing Relocation by stating that all costs for this project would be reimbursed by Caltrans under the reimbursement agreement.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to questions regarding a payment for sodium nitroprusside and where this chemical was used by stating that this

chemical was used in the laboratory, and that he would follow-up on the specific use.

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding a payment for \$19,000 to National Water Research Institute by stating that this was for Progress Payment No. 1 for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo Independent Advisory Panel for the hydrodynamic and tracer studies.

Director Caspary moved to approve the Consent Calendar Item 4A. 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

5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS

A Proclamation in Recognition of Water Professionals Appreciation Week

Board President Lewitt read the proclamation in recognition of Water Professionals Appreciation Week.

John Zhao, Director of Facilities and Operations, highlighted the efforts by Facilities and Operations staff.

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, highlighted the efforts by Engineering and External Affairs staff.

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, highlighted the efforts by Finance and Administration staff.

The Board acknowledged staff for their efforts.

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 MWD's Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) Plan.

6. TREASURER

Director Coradeschi stated he reviewed the expenditures.

7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Local Agency Formation Commission: Election of Special District Alternate

Select a candidate to serve as the Local Agency Formation Commission Special District Alternate Member, and authorize the General Manager to execute and return the official voting ballot no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 27, 2023.

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Caspary moved to support Director Gary Burns as the candidate and approve Item 7A. 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 2023 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan: Adoption

Pass, approve, and adopt proposed Resolution No. 2627, adopting the 2023 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 2627

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT ADOPTING THE 2023 CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN

(Reference is hereby made to Resolution No. 2627 on file in the District's Resolution Book, and by this reference the same is incorporated herein.)

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

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

A discussion ensued regarding pending legislation that would provide flexibility by allowing public water agencies to work with the California Air Resources Board to identify situations where traditional vehicles may be purchased at the end of their useful life instead of zero emission vehicles.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

B On-Call Grant Writing and Administration Services: Award

Accept the proposal from West Yost & Associates, Inc., and authorize the General Manager to execute a one-year professional services agreement, in the amount of \$100,000, with four one-year renewal options, for on-call grant writing and administration services.

Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager, presented the report.

Director Coradeschi moved to approve Item 8B. Motion seconded by Director Polan.

A discussion ensued regarding West Yost & Associates team members' availability percentages.

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 stated that the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Meeting would be held on October 19th, and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee would be held in Sacramento on October 20th.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

None.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen stated that the District would hold its annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon on October 11th, and a Special Board Meeting would be scheduled on October 30th at 9:00 a.m. for a tour of Las Virgenes Reservoir aboard the new boat. He reported that the State Water Resources Control Board was holding a hearing regarding *Making Conservation a California Way of Life*, and Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager, would provide testimony at the hearing. He also

reported that MWD Chair Adán Ortega, Jr., was inviting member agency General Managers to sit at the dais during MWD Board Meetings, and he was invited to attend the MWD Board meeting on October 10th. He shared the “Rambo” award presented by the Urban Water Institute recognizing the District for its strength in response to the recent drought.

(2) Follow-Up Items

General Manager David Pedersen stated that a follow-up item included amendments to the Purchasing Code. He also stated that staff would be bringing back updates to the Board’s compensation.

D Directors’ Comments

Director Coradeschi reported that he attended Heal the Bay’s ONE Water Day Event on September 22nd, where General Manager David Pedersen served on a panel discussion.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended Heal the Bay’s ONE Water Day Event. He noted that he, Director Coradeschi, and General Manager David Pedersen spoke with MWD General Manager Adel Hagekhalil regarding conveying water from all MWD sources to the District’s service area.

Director Caspary noted that MWD’s recent monthly newsletter included an article regarding the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Station Projects, which would increase water supply across the western portion of MWD’s service area.

Director Burns reported that he and staff met with representatives from Capture6 on September 26th. He also reported that he attended the OceanWell Site Advisory Group meeting on September 27th; met with General Manager David Pedersen, and MWD Representative Glen Peterson, and Susan Kennedy from Cadiz, Inc., on September 28th; and listened to Southern California Water Coalition’s podcast on desalination.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gine Arnau inquired regarding testing for fluoride in the District’s potable water and security of the District’s water supply. Board President Lewitt responded that staff would meet with Mr. Arnau after the meeting.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Director Coradeschi recused himself from the Closed Session due to a conflict of interest.

A Conference with District Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code

Section 54956.9(d)(2): One Item

Tort Claim by Christopher and Ashley Grismer

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 10:10 a.m. Director Coradeschi was not present during the Closed Session.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 11:01 a.m. Director Coradeschi returned to his seat at the dais.

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, reported that the Board received a report in Closed Session and upon motion by Director Caspary, seconded by Director Polan, voted 4-0, with Director Coradeschi absent, to deny the tort claim by Christopher and Ashley Grismer.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 11:02 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)