



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

June 18, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Sophia Crocker.

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, California 91302. Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Gary Burns, Charles Caspary, Andy Coradeschi, and Jay Lewitt
Present via
teleconference: Director 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
Eric Schlageter, Interim Director of Facilities and Operations
Susan Brown, Administrative Assistant
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel

Director Polan requested attendance via teleconference under the AB 2449 "Just Cause" provision due to his sustaining an injury, and he confirmed that no one was in the room with him at his teleconference location.

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, explained the "Just Cause" provision under AB 2449.

Director Caspary moved to make a finding that telephonic attendance by Director Polan was warranted. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi. Motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

General Manager David Pedersen noted that an amendment to the agenda was published to include Item 4G, Water Main Break at 5745 Parkmor Road: Continuation of Emergency Declaration.

Director Caspary moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, introduced new employee Amelia Dawson, Management Analyst II.

The Board welcomed Ms. Dawson to the District.

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, introduced Intern Emma Nguyen, who would be working in the Resource Conservation Division.

The Board welcomed Ms. Nguyen to the District.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Polan asked to pull Item 4F for discussion.

- A List of Demands: June 18, 2024: Receive and file**
- B Minutes Regular Meeting of June 4, 2024: Approve**
- C Directors' Per Diem: May 2024: Ratify**

D American Water Works Association ACE24 Water Conference: Board Member Attendance

Authorize Board Member attendance and per diem compensation for the American Water Works Association ACE24 Water Conference held June 10 through 13, 2024, in Anaheim, California.

E Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position: April 2024

Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending on April 30, 2024.

G Water Main Break at 5745 Parkmor Road: Continuation of Emergency Declaration

Approve the continuation of an emergency declaration due to a 12-inch water main break at 5745 Parkmor Road in the City of Calabasas.

Director Caspary moved to approve the Consent Calendar Items 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, and 4G. Motion seconded by Director Burns. Motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

4. CONSENT CALENDAR – SEPARATE ACTION ITEM

F Fuel Polishing and Pump Repair Services: Contract Amendment

Authorize the General Manager to execute contract amendments with Tait Environmental to increase the annual not-to-exceed amount of the current term and renewal options to \$75,000 for quarterly sampling and annual polishing of diesel fuel, and with Vaughan’s Industrial Repair Company, Inc., to increase the annual not-to-exceed amount of the current term and renewal options to \$100,000 for pump repair services.

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding how these services would affect the need to eliminate the future purchase of gas-powered engines by stating that the District did not expect to retire all diesel-powered engines, including generators, and the District would continue to need diesel fuel.

Director Polan moved to approve the Consent Calendar Item No. 4F. Motion seconded by Director Caspary.

Eric Schlageter, Interim Director of Facilities and Operations, responded to a question regarding the delivery of contaminated fuel by stating that the District would seek

reimbursement if there were known deliveries of contaminated fuel that could be traced. Jim Korkosz, Facilities Manager, added that typically fuel contamination included water, and fuel polishing would clean up water from condensation and sedimentation in the tank.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call 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

Board President Lewitt, MWD Representative, reported that he was appointed to the MWD One Water and Stewardship Committee, Legislation and Communications Committee, and Ad Hoc Committee on Bay Delta Negotiations. He noted that Director Karla Nemeth from the Department of Water Resources provided a presentation regarding the Delta Conveyance, and the MWD Board placed MWD General Manager Adel Hagekhalil on administrative leave for up to 90 days.

B Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, announced that Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, was out on leave following the birth of his baby boy. He reported that AB 1827 (Papan), Low-Water User Protection Act, would be considered by the Senate Local Government Committee on June 26th. He stated that this bill would ensure that water suppliers could continue to use meter size and peaking factors to proportionally allocate costs associated with providing water service among customers. He also reported that AB 1218 (Newman), Water, Emergency Water Supplies, would be considered by the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on June 25th, which seeks to enact a policy in the Water Code that recognizes emergency water supplies, encourages their development, and supports their use during times of water shortage. He stated that AB 2257 (Wilson), Local Government, Property-Related Water and Sewer Fees and Assessments, Remedies, would be considered by Committee later in the day, and would require organizations or individuals to exhaust administrative remedies in a timely manner before filing a complaint or taking action through court on Proposition 218 votes. He also stated that SB 1255 (Durazo), Public Water Systems, Needs Analysis, Water Rate Assistance Program, would be for low-income rate assistance, and which would be discussed at an MWD Committee Meeting on June 20th. He provided an update regarding bond measures and stated that it appeared that Governor Gavin Newsom would support a \$9 billion climate bond. He noted that Governor Newsom's proposed budget included cuts to low-income housing programs and in-home health care assistance; however, the Legislature adopted a budget bill that restored those programs, cut \$500 million from voluntary agreements and \$1 billion from the prison's fund.

Director Caspary noted that Draft No. 4 of *Making Conservation a California Way of Life* was published, and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) was working to ensure that the proposed regulation would be reasonable and not adversely impact water or wastewater agencies.

6. **TREASURER**

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures.

7. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A Naming the Board Room in Honor of Glen D. Peterson: Approval

Approve naming the Board Room in honor of Glen D. Peterson.

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

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

Motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

8. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

A Fiscal Years 2024-26 Proposed Biennial Budget: Approval and Adoption

Approve the proposed Biennial Budget Plan for Fiscal Years 2024-26; adopt the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget; and approve the addition of a new Director of Facilities & Engineering position and classification at Salary Range E137, a new Director of Water Operations position and classification at Salary Range E137, and a new Assistant General Manager classification at Salary Range E149, all on the Executive & Unrepresented Group Salary Schedule.

Debbie Rosales, Financial Analyst II, presented the report and PowerPoint presentation regarding the Fiscal Years 2024-26 biennial budget plan.

Sophia Crocker, Human Resources Manager, continued the PowerPoint presentation regarding the Organizational Assessment and Staffing Analysis.

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

Ms. Rosales responded to a question regarding the forecast for projected potable water sales.

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, responded to a question regarding the Assistant General Manager of Administration and External Affairs position by stating that this position would be focused on administrative and operational functions. He noted that the recommendation for this position came from a process that included justification from similar agencies and from extensive interviews and surveys. He also responded to a question regarding future staffing needs for the Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) by stating that the Organizational Study attempted to anticipate the District's needs for the next ten years, including the AWPF. He also responded to a question regarding working capital making up 40 percent of the budget by stating that the two-year budget would draw down funds over the next two years for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo while maintaining \$61 million in required reserves.

Ms. Crocker responded to a question regarding the duties of the new Director of Water Operations position.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call 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 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Committee Governing Board would meet on June 20th, where they would receive an update regarding the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. He also reported that the ACWA Legislative Committee would meet on June 21st to discuss AB 2149 (Connolly), Gates Standards Inspection, which would mandate the design, inspection, and safety of all gates more than 48 inches wide or more than 84 inches high. He noted that ACWA staff was recommending a not in favor position.

Board President Lewitt reported that he was serving on the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) committee regarding the annual Elected Officials' Reception at the Reagan Library. He asked the Board for recommendations for a Guest Speaker for this event.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

Director Polan reported that he attended American Water Works Association ACE24 Conference June 10th through 13th, where he attended presentations regarding the development of responses by owners, engineers, and others who have built major projects. He noted that Oliver Slosser, Engineering Program Manager, served on the panel. He also reported that he attended an ACWA webinar on June 17th titled "Turning Electricity Reliability Challenges into an Opportunity to Save on Energy Costs."

Director Coradeschi reported that he viewed MWD's Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee Meeting on June 10th via Zoom where they received a presentation regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Memorandum of Agreement with Coalition Members to fund proposed Targeted Zero-Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure for Water Utilities Program. He noted that the District is part of this coalition.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen reported that staff was focusing on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan through the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo. He noted that the Water Board would be adopting the Intended Use Plan in July for management of the fund. He also noted that the project would be included on the fundable list. He mentioned that the District offices would be closed on July 4th for the Independence Day holiday, and the JPA would meet on July 1st. He recommended the Board cancel the July 2nd LVMWD Board meeting as there were not many items on the agenda. He noted that due to meeting date conflicts for Board President Lewitt serving on the MWD Board of Directors, he recommended that the Board cancel the August 20th Regular Board meeting and schedule a Special Meeting on August 19th, and cancel the November 5th Regular Board meeting and schedule a Special Meeting on October 29th. He reminded the Board of the Pure Pizza event scheduled on June 29th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., which would include pizza, gelato, and shaved ice made from pure water, and tours of the Pure Water Demonstration Facility. He reported that repair work was progressing on the water main break emergency repair at the slope on Parkmor Road, and he announced that Brett Vollmar was promoted to Water Systems Supervisor.

(2) Follow-Up Items

None.

D Directors' Comments

Director Caspary inquired whether a soils engineer was contracted to provide soils testing for the emergency repairs at the slope on Parkmor Road. General Manager David Pedersen responded that the District contracted with MV5, who provided a preliminary report and who were involved with oversight of construction activities.

Board President Lewitt noted that the AWAVC Committee was agreeable to having a pure water sampling at the Elected Officials' Reception.

Director Caspary announced that former Director Joe Bowman had passed away, and he asked that the meeting be adjourned in his memory. He also asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Tim Quinn's daughter, Audrey MacManus.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. CLOSED SESSION

A Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957)

Title: General Manager

B Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representative: Board of Directors

Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

The Board recessed to Closed Session at **10:25 a.m.** and reconvened to Open Session at **10:57 a.m.**

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, reported that the Board met in Closed Session for items 12A and 12B, and reconvened into Open Session to take action.

Director Caspary moved to increase the General Manager's base salary to the 73rd percentile from the 12 General Manager positions surveyed, which would equate to a rate increase of 6.5 percent effective with the next pay period beginning June 22, 2024, approve buyout of his accumulated vacation, and approve the health benefit program participation offered by the District to be exactly the same terms and conditions that the rest of the represented units have available to them. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

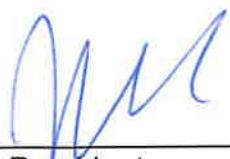
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None


13. OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **11:00 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)

