



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

9:00 AM

August 6, 2024

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Jeremy Wolf.

**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  
Darrell Johnson, Director of Water Operations  
Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration  
Eric Schlageter, Director of Engineering and Facilities  
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 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: July 2, 2024 and August 6, 2024: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Regular Meeting of July 16, 2024 and Special Meeting of July 19, 2024: Approve**

**C Supply and Delivery of Water Meters: Award**

**Waive the competitive bidding process, and authorize the General Manager to issue a one-year purchase order to Ferguson Waterworks, in the amount of \$75,000, with four one-year renewal options using a mutually agreeable inflationary factor for the supply and delivery of water meters.**

**D Rancho SCADA System Upgrade Project: Change Order**

**Accept the proposal from The RoviSys Company, and authorize the General Manager to execute a change order, in the amount of \$194,464, for the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility SCADA System Upgrade Project.**

**E Replacement of Virtual Server Environment: Award**

**Waive the competitive bidding process, and authorize the General Manager to issue a purchase order to SHI International Corporation, in the amount of \$78,000, to replace the virtual server environment.**

**F 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. 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

The Board acknowledged Darrell Johnson, Director of Water Systems, and Eric Schlageter, Director of Engineering and Facilities, on their recent promotions.

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

**A Water Supply Conditions Update**

General Manager David Pedersen reported that the State Water Project allocation was set at 40 percent this year. He referred to the storage capacity at San Luis Reservoir and noted that the reservoir was not at full capacity due to challenges in moving water through the Delta. He also reported that Diamond Valley Lake was at 90 percent capacity.

**6. TREASURER**

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures.

**7. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**A Cost of Service and Rate Study, Capacity Fee Study, and Miscellaneous User Fees and Penalties Study: Award**

**Accept the proposal from Water Resources Economics, LLC, and authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement, in the amount of \$167,400, for preparation of a cost of service and rate study, capacity fee study, and miscellaneous user fees and penalties study.**

Brian Richie, Finance Manager, presented the report.

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

Mr. Richie responded to a question regarding Water Resource Economics' experience with Proposition 218 challenges by stating that Sanjay Gaur, President of Water Resource Economics, was experienced in defending Proposition 218 rate adjustments. He also responded to a question regarding how rates would be set for the next five years when costs are unknown by stating that Water Resources Economics would develop a five-year financial plan based on staffs' input, and staff would refresh the ten-year Infrastructure Investment Plan for upcoming projects.

Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, responded to a question regarding budgeting for unknown rainfall conditions by stating that the Board took several actions to make the District less dependable on variable water sales as a result of the two previous rate studies developed over the past ten years. He noted that fixed cost recovery had gone from five percent to 55 percent, meaning that the District recovers 55 percent of the fixed costs through fixed fees. He stated that water budgets were designed for customers to be efficient, and the rate structure and actions of the Board had made the District significantly less dependable on variable water sales. He noted that the District also has the ability to pass-through MWD rate increases.

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 Calabasas Recycled Water Pipeline Improvement Park Entrada Project: Construction Award

**Award a construction contract to Dominguez General Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$1,537,900, and reject all remaining bids upon receipt of duly executed contract documents for the Calabasas Recycled Water Pipeline Improvement Park Entrada Project.**

John Soderberg, Assistant Engineer, presented the report.

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

Mr. Soderberg responded to questions regarding verifying Dominguez General Engineering's references from other public agencies for similar projects, and working with the contractor to mitigate construction issues during rainy weather conditions.

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 he would attend the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee Meeting on August 9th, where they would consider SB 1088 (Alvarado-Gil) - Office of Emergency Services State Matching Funds Water System Infrastructure Improvements, and SB 1390 (Caballero) - Groundwater Recharge Floodflows Diversion. He noted that Syrus Devers, state lobbyist with Syrus Devers Advocacy LLC, provided an update regarding AB 1255 (Durazo) at the Las Virgenes - Triunfo Joint Powers Authority meeting held on August 5th. He stated that AB 1255 would require all water agencies to establish a Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program funded by voluntary contributions, and there was concern that LIRA could be considered a water tax. He suggested that someone write a Letter to the Editor of *The Acorn* to inform residents how this legislation would impact rates. He also reported that

he would attend the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Meeting on August 15th.

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

Director Coradeschi reported that he attended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Annual Conference July 30th through August 2nd. He noted that he attended a session regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) regulations, and the removal of liability from passive receivers.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended the CASA Annual Conference, and toured the Monterey One Water Regional Treatment Plant.

Director Caspary reported that he attended the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) WaterWise Program on July 18th, where a presentation was provided regarding MWD's Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) High Desert Water Bank, which would store water from the State Water Project in the Antelope Valley groundwater basin.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended the AWAVC WaterWise Program on July 18th, and noted that there was concern with the need to treat for arsenic in the Antelope Valley groundwater basin.

Director Polan reported that he also attended the CASA Annual Conference, where he attended sessions regarding leadership and carbon energy management in microgrids.

## **C General Manager Reports**

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

General Manager David Pedersen reported that two small brush fires occurred during the past weekend, which were extinguished quickly. He noted that the Fire Department accessed water from the fire hydrant at Encinal and Mulholland Highway, which caused a water main break due to high water demand that had since been repaired. He also reported that the Westlake Filtration Plant was currently online and running at six million gallons per day (MGD) to level water demands and control MWD costs during the summer. He noted that staff were responding to customers' concerns regarding the taste and smell of the water. He reminded the Board that the next Board meeting would be held on August 19th due to a conflict with the MWD Board meeting on August 20th. He also noted that at the previous Board meeting there was an inquiry regarding how the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo would affect recycled rates by stating that rate impacts would be included in the Cost of Service and Rate Study, including how the cost of pure water would be allocated to the three enterprises. He also reminded the Board that a Special JPA Meeting would be held on August 8th for a review of the Advanced Water Purification Facility architecture and public benefit area concept plan.

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

None.

**D Directors' Comments**

Director Burns inquired regarding the replanting plan for the property affected by the water main break at 5745 Parkmor Road in Calabasas. Darrell Johnson, Director of Water Operations, responded that hydroseed would be replanted, and the stack block wall would be replaced along with other repairs.

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, advised that Directors' Comments were limited to items that were not on the agenda.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

**A Conference with District Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2): Two Items**

**Tort Claim by Valley Circle Townhomes Association**

**Tort Claim by Julie and Brian Whiteman**

**B Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54956.6)**

**Agency Designated Representatives: David W. Pedersen, General Manager; and Donal Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration**

**Employee Organizations: Supervisor, Professional, and Confidential Employees Association Unit; and Management Employees Association Unit.**

The Board recessed to Closed Session at **9:53 a.m.** and reconvened to Open Session at **11:41 a.m.**

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, reported that the Board met in Closed Session for Items 12A and 12B, and there was no reportable action.

**13. OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **11:43 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)