



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

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING

9:00 AM

August 19, 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, California 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, Assistant General Manager
Darrell Johnson, Director of Water Operations
Brian Richie, Finance Manager
Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel

Staff Present

Via Teleconference: Eric Schlageter, Director of Engineering and Facilities

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Coradeschi 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

There were no public comments.

Brian Richie introduced new Intern Ashlyn Hammond. The Board welcomed Ms. Hammond to the District.

Mr. Richie also introduced new employee Kyle Vardel, Control Systems Supervisor. The Board welcomed Mr. Vardel to the District.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A List of Demands: August 19, 2024: Receive and file**
- B Minutes Regular Meeting of August 6, 2024: Approve**
- C Directors' Per Diem: July 2024: Ratify**
- D Monthly Cash and Investment Report: June 2024**

Receive and file the Monthly Cash and Investment Report for June 2024.

- E 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 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 Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, reported that the Cities of Calabasas and Westlake Village would not be holding City Council elections in November as no one

besides the incumbents had filed nomination papers. He noted that the City of Agoura Hills would hold elections to fill two City Council seats, the City of Hidden Hills would hold an election to fill two City Council seats, and the Las Virgenes Unified School District would hold an election to fill two Trustee seats.

Director Caspary announced that he had chosen not to run for reelection after having served as the District's Division 1 Director for 24 years. He stated that he was looking forward to great achievements by the District.

Mr. Wolf also reported that 830 state bills were placed in the Senate and Assembly suspense file, and 270 bills were blocked partly due to the state budget deficit. He stated that the surviving 500 bills had until August 31st to reach Governor Gavin Newsom's desk. He also stated that bills that were held in suspense included SB 1218 (Newman) Water, Emergency Water Supplies; and SB 1255 (Durazo), Public Water Systems, Needs Analysis, Water Rate Assistance Program. He noted that the District opposed SB 1255 because the language was not well-defined regarding voluntary contributions to subsidize low-income ratepayers. General Manager David Pedersen added that administration of this bill would have been costly, and there was concern with default enrollment of customers as opposed to voluntary enrollment.

Mr. Wolf also reported that the District would continue to monitor SB 366 (Caballero), The California Water Plan, Long-Term Supply Targets; SB 1072 (Padilla) Local Government, Proposition 218, Remedies; and AB 1827 (Papan) Low-Water User Protection Act. He noted that Proposition 4 Climate Resilience Bond would be included on the November 5, 2024 ballot.

B Customer Billing Changes

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, provided introductory remarks regarding proposed changes to customer billing.

Derek Krauss, Customer Service Office Supervisor, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding billing and meter reading program changes and new billing structure, which would issue customer bills twice per month with a set due date of either the 5th or 20th of each month. He provided an overview of the benefits of the new billing structure, which would become effective February 2025.

The Board provided feedback on the new billing structure.

Ursula Bosson, Customer Service Manager responded to a question regarding the status of redesigning customers' water bill by stating that she and staff were working on preparing a draft bill that would include water usage by units and gallons, QR code, and a color-coded graph. She noted that staff was also working on developing a customer report card that would include customer water usage, tips on lowering water usage, and other messaging. She also responded to questions regarding adding information on toilet replacement rebates and other types of rebate programs.

6. TREASURER

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures.

7. ENGINEERING AND FACILITIES

A Knowledge to Implementation (K2i) Platform Annual Subscription: Renewal

Authorize the General Manager to execute a subscription agreement with Booky Oren Global Water Technologies, in the amount of \$70,000, for a one-year subscription renewal to its Knowledge to Implementation Platform (K2i).

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

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

General Manager David Pedersen responded to questions regarding the use of artificial intelligence in the K2i platform, allowing staff the time to view recorded sessions, and accessing transcribed sessions.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

8. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A Organization Reports

Director Caspary reported that he attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee Meeting on August 9th, where they discussed AB 2060 (Soria), Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements, Exemptions, which would codify groundwater recharge for high floodflows. He noted that MWD was opposed due to possible impacts to their water rights, and the Committee took no position on this bill. He also noted that Adam Quiñonez, ACWA State Relations Director, announced his resignation. He also reported that he attended the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Meeting on August 15th. He noted that Commissioner Laurie Newman tendered her resignation, and the Commission received a presentation regarding the Safe Clean Water Program and considered a draft resolution prepared by LA Waterkeeper regarding recommendations to advance and improve the Safe Clean Water Program.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

Director Polan reported that he and Director Burns attended the ACWA Region 9 Program

on August 13th regarding Water Workforce Development Solutions, which included discussions regarding public agencies assisting in providing housing for their employees who cannot afford to live in their service area, and in-house training and education.

Director Burns noted that the ACWA Region 9 Program included discussions regarding asking current employees for referrals of potential employees, and seeking 16- to 25-year-old disenfranchised youth as future employees.

Board President Lewitt reported that he attended the Heal the Bay ONE Water Day Event on August 16th, where General Manager David Pedersen served on a panel discussion regarding stormwater capture.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen provided an update regarding Director elections for Districts 1 and 4. He noted that Randy Levine was the only candidate who filed nomination papers for Division 1, and he would be appointed in lieu of election. He also noted that Director Polan was the only candidate who filed nomination papers for Division 4, and he would be reappointed in lieu of election. He reported that recently a 5.2 magnitude earthquake occurred, which was centered 19 miles from Bakersfield, and a 4.4 magnitude earthquake occurred in South Pasadena. He noted that staff followed the emergency response protocol and procedure, and inspected the dam and other facilities for earthquake damage. He referred to the November 5, 2024 General Election, and noted that vote-by-mail ballots would be mailed 29 days before the election. He reminded the Board that the next Board meeting would be held on September 3rd, and the Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority meeting would also be held on September 3rd at 5 p.m. in the Board Room.

(2) Follow-Up Items

None.

D Directors' Comments

Director Coradeschi stated that he was pleased with the presentations provided at the August 8th JPA workshop regarding the Advanced Water Purification Facility architectural renderings and public benefit area concept plan. He also stated that the City of Agoura Hills had presented him with a plaque acknowledging the District for sponsoring its Summer Concert series.

Director Caspary acknowledged staff for their efforts in applying for grants and funding totaling approximately \$300 million for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

Director Burns stated that he traveled through Bakersfield days before the 5.2 magnitude earthquake, and he inquired whether residents from the Three Springs area in Westlake Village were informed regarding the District's response in inspecting the dam. General

Manager David Pedersen responded that the dam was an earthen dam, which was excavated to bedrock, and it has very low risk for earthquake damage.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **10:19 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)