



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

9:00 AM

September 3, 2024

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 **9:11 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, Assistant General Manager
Veronica Hurtado, Water Reclamation Manager
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: September 3, 2024: Receive and file

B Minutes Special Meeting of August 19, 2024: Approve

C On-Call SCADA System Support and Professional Services

Authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with The RoviSys Company, in the amount of \$100,000, for on-call SCADA system support and professional services.

D 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 Polan 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 MWD Representative Report

Board President Lewitt, MWD Representative, stated that the primary issue for the District was obtaining water from other sources. He introduced Jim Green, formerly with MWD and currently a retired annuitant on assignment for the District, and he asked that Mr. Green provide a presentation regarding MWD's water operations and Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Phase 2 Project.

B Overview of MWD Water Systems

Jim Green provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding MWD's water operations. He

responded to questions regarding MWD's lack of infrastructure to convey water from the Colorado River to the west side, and the need for additional storage for the State Water Project. He also responded to questions regarding treating arsenic and nitrate levels in the Antelope Valley-East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency groundwater storage; conveying water from the Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Phase 2 Project to the west side; and the update that would be provided to the Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance on September 24th.

C Public Affairs and Communications Update

Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, reported that the District launched the Irrigation Retrofit Outreach Program, and over 150 customers had scheduled water use surveys. He noted that KCLU and *The Acorn* published information regarding this program, and he was working with the local CBS affiliate regarding a possible interview with a customer to discuss the program. He also reported that staff implemented Social News Desk, a social media management platform which will streamline postings with a singular post. He noted that staff were working on outreach strategies regarding the tree removal for the Advanced Water Purification Facility project, Pipeline Replacement Project Park Entrada, and Chatsworth Pipeline Project. He also reported that staff recorded two Full Circle podcast episodes, and recorded a special episode with Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath. He noted that tours of District facilities were provided to staff from Senator Alex Padilla's office and staff from Supervisor Horvath's office. He noted that staff was updating *The Future of Water* video with additional footage, content, and information. He also reported that staff was working with Ladyface Brewery to produce a new batch of pure beer, which would be provided at the WaterReuse California Conference and possibility at the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) Annual Member and Policymakers Reception. He noted that the Water (R)evolution Symposium would be held on October 15th, where pure water, pure sorbet, and pure pizza might be provided. He also reported that Riki Clark, Public Affairs Associate II, was working on the Turnkey Turf Transformation campaign, and she would serve on a panel regarding the Pure Water Demonstration Facility at the upcoming WaterReuse California conference. He also reported that Steven Baird, Public Affairs Associate II, was serving on the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) Board, and he recently attended a CAPIO Strategic Planning Board retreat and meeting. He also reported that the Los Angeles County Medical Association issued a letter supporting the development and implementation of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo.

6. TREASURER

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures.

7. ENGINEERING AND FACILITIES

A Service Agreement for Leak Detection: Award

Authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Utilis, Inc., in the

amount of \$70,000, for satellite-based leak detection and analysis of the potable water system

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, presented the report.

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

Mr. McDermott responded to questions regarding working with the vendor to identify leaks in high moisture areas; the amount of non-revenue water loss; and the District's goal in maintaining, rehabilitating, or replacing water pipelines

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

B Water Supply Reliability and Diversification Study: Award

Accept the proposal from Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc., and authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement, in the amount of \$499,871, for the Water Supply Reliability and Diversification Study

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, presented the report.

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

General Manager David Pedersen responded to a question regarding whether a study was previously done in-house by stating that the Urban Water Management Plan included some topics; however, it was not forward-looking. He also stated that Facilities Master Plans were prepared for potable water, recycled water, and sanitation systems; however, they did not include water supply planning.

Mr. McDermott responded to a question regarding opportunities for other local water supply sources.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

8. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A LVUSD Science Team Water-Related Curriculum for 4th and 5th Grade

Education Program: Grant Agreement

Authorize the General Manager to execute a two-year agreement with Las Virgenes Unified School District, in the amount of \$214,000 with separate annual payments of \$107,000, for the Science Team Water-Related Curriculum for 4th and 5th Grade Education Program.

Riki Clark, Public Affairs Associate II, presented the report.

Jana Davenport, LVUSD Director of Elementary Education, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the LVUSD Science Team Water Education Program.

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

The Board commended Ms. Davenport on the LVUSD Science Team Water Education Program.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

B Fiscal Year 2023-24 Capacity Fee Report

C Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget in Brief

10. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A Organization Reports

None.

B Director's Reports on Outside Meetings

Director Polan reported that he attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 8 Program on August 21st.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended the ACWA Region 8 Program, and noted that Patricia Mulroy from the University of Las Vegas spoke regarding a gas pipeline that was built from Alaska to California. He suggested that building a pipe to convey ocean water was feasible. He also reported that he attended a tour of the Tapia Water

Reclamation Facility and the Pure Water Demonstration Facility provided to Hal Siegel, President of the Lake Lindero Homeowners' Association. He also reported that he attended a meeting with Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, where they discussed pure water, Los Angeles water plans, the possibility of conveying Colorado River water via Malibu, and the possibility of combining the District with Waterworks District 29.

C General Manager Reports

(1) General Business

General Manager David Pedersen introduced Emma Nguyen, Resource Conservation Intern, who provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Water Warriors 2024 Customer Recognition Program.

General Manager David Pedersen provided an update regarding the partnership with OceanWell to conduct a subsea water harvesting pilot study at Las Virgenes Reservoir. He noted that he and Tim Quinn from OceanWell would be interviewed for *Municipal Water Magazine*, and he stated that he would provide monthly updates. He mentioned that MWD's poster contest winners were displayed in the Board Room lobby. He noted that the September 16th Board Meeting would be canceled due to a conflict with the WaterReuse California conference; the next Board Meeting would be held on October 1st; and the AWAVC Annual Member and Policymakers Reception would be held on September 19th at the Reagan Library.

(2) Follow-Up Items

None.

D Directors' Comments

Director Polan inquired regarding the status and cause of the leak on Lindero Canyon Road and Agoura Road. General Manager David Pedersen responded that the leak was caused by severe pipeline corrosion. He noted that staff were looking into a project to relocate a portion of the pipe that is affected by contaminants and determine the source of the contaminants.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13. CLOSED SESSION

A Conference with District Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)): One Item

Tort Claim by Mary Charitan

B Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9): One Case

Tim Hazelwood and City of Westlake Village v. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

C Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54956.6) to consider and potentially approve new Memorandum of Understanding terms

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

Employee Organization: Management Employees Association Unit

D Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54956.6)

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


Employee Organizations: Supervisor, Professional, and Confidential Employees Association Unit; and General and Office Units represented by the Service Employees International Union Local 721

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 11:38 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 12:39 p.m.

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, reported that the Board met in Closed Session and denied the tort claim by Mary Charitan by a vote of 5-0 with Directors Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, and Polan voting to deny the claim; rejected the claim by Tim Hazelwood and the City of Westlake Village v. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District by a vote of 4-0-1 with Directors Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, and Lewitt voting to reject the claim and Director Polan abstaining; approved the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Management Employees Association Unit by a vote of 5-0 with Directors Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, and Polan voting to approve the draft MOU; and no reportable action regarding labor negotiations with the Supervisor, Professional, and Confidential Employees Association Unit, and General and Office Units represented by the Service Employees International Union Local 721.

14. OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 12:41 p.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)