



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

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

9:00 AM

October 1, 2024

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Duane Bockelman.

**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, Assistant General Manager  
Darrell Johnson, Director of Water Operations  
Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration  
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: October 1, 2024: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Regular Meeting of September 3, 2024: Approve**

**C Directors' Per Diem: August 2024:**

**Ratify.**

**D Annual Report: Records Review and Destruction**

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

**E Monthly Cash and Investment Report: July 2024**

**Receive and file the Monthly Cash and Investment Report for July 2024.**

**F Proposed Insurance Provider Plan Renewals**

**Accept the proposals from MetLife, in the annual amount of \$99,708, for employee life insurance, accidental death/dismemberment (AD&D) insurance, and short- and long-term disability coverage with a two-year rate guarantee; and BBP Admin, in the annual amount of \$2,496, for employee flexible spending accounts.**

**G Travel Expense Policy Update: Adoption**

**Adopt the proposed update to the Travel Expense Policy**

**H Third Amendment to Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement**

**Approve a Third Amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the Las Virgenes – Triunfo Public Financing Authority.**

**I GIS Software: Renewal of Small Utility Enterprise License Agreement**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a three-year Small Utility Enterprise License Agreement with ESRI, Inc., at an annual cost of \$29,300, for the District's Geographical Information System software.**

**J 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

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

**A Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Frontline Utility Worker of the Year**

General Manager David Pedersen announced that Duane Bockelman, Senior Water Construction Specialist, was named the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Frontline Utility Worker of the Year. He and the Board presented the award to Mr. Bockelman.

**B Association of Government Contact Center Professionals Award of Distinction**

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, announced that the District's Customer Service Division was awarded the 2024 Association of Government Contact Center Professionals (AGCCP) Award of Distinction. He noted that Ursula Bosson, Customer Service Manager, and Derek Krauss, Customer Service Office Supervisor, would attend the AGCCP Conference to provide a presentation and receive the award. The Board acknowledged Customer Service Division staff.

**C Proclamation in Recognition of Water Professionals Appreciation Week**

Director Coradeschi read the proclamation in recognition of Water Professionals Appreciation Week.

The Board recessed to a break for refreshments at 9:15 a.m. and reconvened at 9:25 a.m.

**D MWD Representative Report**

Board President Lewitt reported that MWD Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay provided an update regarding the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project at the MWD Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance Meeting on September 24th. He noted that the report did not include that Southern California Edison

would need to construct a substation to pump water, and there were gaps in the timeline for the project's 2032 completion date. He stated that he and General Manager David Pedersen provided public comment at this meeting, and he reminded the Subcommittee that the MWD Board unanimously voted in support of this project. He responded to a question regarding the status of MWD General Manager Adel Hagekhalil's administrative leave by stating that the MWD Board would discuss in closed session at a future board meeting.

## **E Water Supply Conditions Update**

Joe McDermott, Director of Engineering and External Affairs, noted that October 1st was the first day of the new water year. He reported that the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index Precipitation for the previous water year ended at 48.2 inches with a historical average 53.2 inches, which represented a 91 percent of the historical average. He noted that the wettest year occurred in 2016-17 with 94.7 inches precipitation in the Northern Sierra, which was the year that the Oroville Dam experienced damage to the spillway. He also noted 2022-23 ended at 66.6 inches precipitation in the Northern Sierra.

## **F Public Affairs and Communications Update**

Steven Baird, Public Affairs Associate II, reported that Riki Clark, Public Affairs Associate II, provided a presentation at the WaterReuse California Conference regarding the Pure Water Demonstration Facility. He also reported that staff participated in Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin's Safety Faire in the City of Thousand Oaks, and attended the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Policy Makers Reception at the Ronald Reagan Library, where pure beer was provided. He noted that staff would participate at the Reyes Adobe Days, Westlake Village Annual City Celebration, and Calabasas Pumpkin Festival, and at the Pure Beer Event at Tavern Tomoko and Ladyface Brewery on October 10th. He also reported that staff provided a presentation at MWD's California Public Information and Officer Work Group regarding the District's Irrigation Efficiency Retrofit Program. He noted that 150 District customers had scheduled irrigation survey requests to verify qualification for the program. He stated that commercial and industrial customers could also be targeted should there be additional funding available. He also reported that staff launched Season 2 of the Full Circle Podcast, which featured Andy Salveson and Adam Zacheis from the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo Design-Build Team. He also reported that the Fall Landscape Workshop Series began on September 21st with a Firescaping Workshop. He also reported that staff would promote *Water Professionals Appreciation Week*, participate in *Imagine a World without Water Day*, implement a strategic outreach plan for customers to enroll in text alerts, conduct public outreach to inform customers of work related to Capital Improvement Projects, and conduct outreach for upcoming site work for the Advanced Water Purification Facility. He noted that staff was working with WaterReuse regarding outreach for Direct Potable Reuse regulations, which became effective October 1st. He also provided an update regarding the plaque for the *Glen D. Peterson Board Room*, and work related to reviewing and updating the District's website content. He responded to questions regarding production of short videos for social media and providing updates to Mayors' offices, which they may include with their Mayors' updates.

6. **TREASURER**

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures.

7. **GENERAL MANAGER**

**A Approval of Proposed Changes for Unrepresented Employees: Management Handbook and Salaries**

**Approve the proposed updates to the Management Handbook, implement salary adjustments as of September 30, 2024, and authorize a cost of living adjustment effective January 1, 2025, based on the October-to-October change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, with a minimum of 1.5 percent and a maximum of 4.5 percent.**

General Manager David Pedersen presented the report.

Director Burns moved to approve Item 7A. 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

**B Support for Proposition 4: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024**

**Express support for Proposition 4: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.**

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, presented the report. He responded to questions regarding monitoring the bond, if approved by the voters, for funding allocations and timelines, and working with Calleguas Municipal Water District, the City of Thousand Oaks, and the County to apply for grants for the brine line.

Director Coradeschi moved to approve Item 7B. 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. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A **Westlake Filtration Plant Landscaping Project: Award**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a contractual services agreement with Urban Greening, in the amount of \$159,665.20, and reappropriate funding, in the amount of \$100,000 from CIP No. 10787, Fire Hardening-LVMWD Facilities, to CIP No. 10790, Woolsey Fire-Landscape Restoration, for the Westlake Filtration Plant Landscaping Project.**

Alexa Hendricks, Resource Conservation Supervisor, presented the report.

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

General Manager David Pedersen responded to questions regarding settlement funds received from Southern California Edison to use towards landscape restoration.

Ms. Hendricks responded to questions regarding installation of California natives as planting materials based on fire zones, and production of videos so that customers may view the Westlake Filtration Plant demonstration garden.

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

9. WATER OPERATIONS

A **John Deere Track Loader: Authorization of Purchase Order**

**Authorize the General Manager to issue a purchase order to Coastline Equipment, in the amount of \$213,420.40, for a 2024 John Deere 333P Track Loader.**

Andy Arenas, Construction Supervisor, presented the report.

Director Caspary moved to approve Item 9A. Motion seconded by Director Polan.

Mr. Arenas responded to questions regarding the capabilities of the track loader.

Motion carried 5-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

10. NON-ACTION ITEMS

## **A Organization Reports**

Board President Lewitt reported that he attended the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) Annual Policymakers Reception at the Ronald Reagan Library on September 19th.

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

Director Coradeschi reported that he attended the WaterReuse California Conference on September 15th through 17th. He acknowledged Riki Clark, Public Affairs Associate II, for her presentation at the conference regarding the Pure Water Demonstration Facility.

Director Burns reported that he attended the California Special Districts Association Annual Conference September 9th through 13th, the WaterReuse California Conference, and the AWAVC Annual Policymakers Reception.

Board President Lewitt reported that he also attended the WaterReuse California Conference.

## **C General Manager Reports**

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

General Manager David Pedersen noted that the Board Room was updated with new carpeting and chairs, new paint, refaced dais, and cabinet removal. He stated that a new District logo and Mission and Vision Statements would be installed behind the dais, and new lettering would be installed at the entrance of the *Glen D. Peterson Board Room*. He acknowledged staff on their efforts in updating the Board Room. He reported that the Westlake Filtration Plant ended its run on September 26th. He also reported that staff would conduct pumping and flow testing in the Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection, and an event would be planned to commemorate the completion of this project. He also reported that Direct Potable Reuse regulations became effective October 1st, and the District would issue a press release. He provided an update regarding District elections and noted that Director Len Polan would be reappointed in lieu of election for Division 4, and Randy Levine would be appointed in lieu of election for Division 1. He stated that their terms would begin on December 6th. He reminded the Board that nominations for Board President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and MWD Representative would take place at the December 17, 2024 Board Meeting, and the close of nominations and elections would take place at the January 7, 2025 Board Meeting. He noted that Board President Lewitt asked him to provide monthly updates regarding the Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Stations Project and OceanWell. He stated that staff would work with MWD regarding the items discussed at the September 24th Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance Meeting, including the 2032 Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Stations Project completion date and steps leading up to the project completion to ensure that this project remains a top priority. He stated that two of the next steps included completion of conceptual studies to upgrade the pumping facility to 160 cubic feet per second (CFS) pumping capacity, and increased electrical power capabilities at Southern California Edison and the City of Los Angeles locations. He also

provided an update regarding the partnership with OceanWell for a deep ocean desalination project and the installation of a pilot unit at Las Virgenes Reservoir tentatively scheduled in November. He stated that another element of this partnership was working with a coalition of water agencies for the onshore portion of the proposed full scale installation in the ocean, which would bring purified desalinated water to the shoreline. He noted that a study was needed to explore the existing conveyance and distribution network in order to move this water from the shoreline to the end users. He stated that an item would be brought back at the next Board meeting for the Board to consider a reimbursement agreement for this study. He noted that Kubota Company had expressed interest in a potential partnership and funding role. He responded to a question regarding the possibility of installing dewatering infrastructure in the Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection as a source of raw water feed for the Advanced Water Purification Facility by stating that staff would follow-up on the possibility of diverting this water into the sewer system. He also responded to a question regarding the status of the Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Stations Project by stating that the MWD Board awarded a design-build contract for this project. He also responded to a question regarding whether groundwater was found and the depth of rocks at the Advanced Water Purification Facility site by stating that he did not expect there would be high groundwater due to the slope at the site; however, it was expected that rock would be encountered. He also responded to questions regarding alternative energy alternatives for OceanWell's onshore and offshore installation, and the status of a water conveyance opportunity with Waterworks District 29.

General Manager David Pedersen reminded the Board regarding the Pure Beer Tasting event scheduled on October 10th at Tavern Tomoko/Ladyface Brewery, and Las Virgenes-Triunfo Public Finance Authority and Joint Powers Authority meetings on October 7th beginning at 4:45 p.m.

(2) Follow-Up Items

None.

**D Directors' Comments**

Director Caspary reported that the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Meeting would be held on October 10th, where they would consider a resolution to support adding the Commission as an advisory member to the Steering Committee for the County's Clean Safe Water Program, and a resolution to support the City of Los Angeles's Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program..

**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 Jennifer Hardy

**B 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

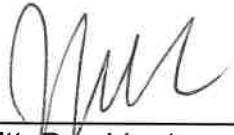
Employee Organizations: Supervisor, Professional, and Confidential Employees Association Unit; and General and Office Units represented by the Service Employees International Union Local 721

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 11:04 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 12:02 p.m.

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, reported that the Board met in Closed Session and denied the tort claim by Jennifer Hardy by a vote of 5-0 for Item 13A, and there was no reportable action for Item 13B, 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 12:03 p.m.



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Jay Lewitt, President  
Board of Directors  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

ATTEST:



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Gary Burns, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

(SEAL)

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