



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

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

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9:00 AM

October 29, 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, CA 91302. Director Polan participated from the teleconference location at 31755 Bedfordhurst Court, Westlake Village, California 91361. Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Gary Burns, Charles Caspary, Andy Coradeschi, and Jay Lewitt

Present via

Teleconference: Director Len Polan (joined the teleconference at 9:32 a.m.)

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  
Eric Schlageter, Director of Engineering and Facilities  
Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board  
Keith Lemieux, District Counsel

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Coradeschi moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Director Burns. Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Burns asked to pull Item 4E for discussion.

**A List of Demands: October 29, 2024: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Regular Meeting of October 15, 2024: Approve**

**C Monthly Cash and Investment Report: August 2024**

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

**D Contract Amendment for Website Hosting and Gov Delivery Services**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract amendment with Granicus, Inc., in the amount of \$19,322.19, for a one-year extension of website hosting and Gov Delivery services.**

Director Caspary moved to approve the Consent Calendar Items 4A through 4D. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi. Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

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

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR – SEPARATE ACTION ITEM**

**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.**

Darrell Johnson, Director of Water Operations, responded to a question regarding the

original retaining wall material by stating that it was previously wood material, and the retaining wall would be replaced with block in accordance with the City of Calabasas' code. Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, noted that the replacement cost for the retaining wall would be covered by insurance.

Director Burns moved to approve the Consent Calendar Item 4E. Motion seconded by Director Caspary. Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Caspary, Coradeschi, Lewitt

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Polan

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

### A Water Supply Conditions Update

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, reviewed the MWD Water Supply Conditions Report for Water Year 2023 – 2024. He stated that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) would announce an initial State Water Project allocation on December 1st. He noted that the previous year's initial allocation was ten percent, and it was increased to 40 percent by April 2024 following a series of atmospheric rivers (storms). He stated that it was anticipated that DWR would announce an initial five percent allocation for the coming water year.

### B Public Affairs and Communications Update

Riki Clark, Public Affairs Associate II, reported that staff participated in the Pure Beer Event, Reyes Adobe Days, Westlake Village Celebration, and Calabasas Pumpkin Festival. She also reported that Season 2 of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo (Pure Water Project) Full Circle Podcast was underway, and an episode was recorded featuring General Manager David Pedersen. She stated that other podcasts included Michelle Green, who discussed progressive design-build, and Don Patterson, Director of Finance and Administration, who provided a project cost update. She also reported that staff posted the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Pure Water Project Construction Outreach and General Outreach "On Call" Services, which included Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)/Women Business Enterprise (WBE) requirements. She stated that proposals would be due by November 29th. She also reported that a quarterly tour for potable water was tentatively scheduled for November 16th. She provided an update regarding social media campaigns, including *Water Professionals Appreciation Week* and *Imagine a Day Without Water*, which was spearheaded by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) that produced a video compilation with different agencies and one that featured Burton Brill, Chief Water Reclamation Plant Operator. She also reported that staff were working on updating the "Future of Water" video, and a draft video was currently under review. She also reported that campaigns had begun regarding seasonal irrigation adjustments and enrollment in the Irrigation Efficiency Retrofit Program. She stated that staff had begun email outreach to residents of the Lexington

Apartments regarding the geotechnical studies for the Advanced Water Purification Facility, as well as outreach regarding capital improvement projects. She noted that staff distributed copies of the *California Water* publication to the Board, which featured information on the Pure Water Project, OceanWell, and the District's water conservation program. She responded to questions regarding distributing copies of the *California Water* publication to local elected officials and City Managers, and the possibility of including the publication as a supplement in *The Acorn*.

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, responded to a question regarding the DBE requirement for the Pure Water Project Construction Outreach and General Outreach "On Call" Services by stating that this was a federal requirement due to Water Innovation Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan funding. He explained the requirements of the Good Faith Efforts (GFE), which requires making solicitations for sub-consulting services available to DBE's and posting for a minimum of 30 calendar days.

Ms. Clark responded to a question regarding presenting the updated "Future of Water" video at a Board Meeting by stating that the video should be ready for either the November 13th or December 17th Board Meeting.

Mike McNutt, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, responded to a question regarding the cost to insert portions of the *California Water* publication in *The Acorn* and include information on the website by stating that the publication was made with a specific company with multiple water agencies throughout the state. He noted that the company had specific agreements with different publications where they are inserted, and the copy that was provided to the Board was specifically for the northwestern Los Angeles County and Eastern Ventura County. He noted that the cost to place a half page advertisement in *The Acorn* was more than \$1,000, and if an insert were to be placed staff would need to obtain additional copies of the publication and the cost would be multiple thousands of dollars; however, staff would follow direction from the Board. He stated that a link to the publication could be provided through email notifications and social media.

## 6. TREASURER

Director Coradeschi stated that he reviewed the expenditures.

## 7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### A Proposed 2025 Board Meeting Calendar

**Review the proposed 2025 Board Meeting Calendar and make any scheduling changes.**

Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, presented the report.

Director Burns moved to discuss the proposed 2025 Board Meeting Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Coradeschi.

Director Polan joined the teleconference at 9:32 p.m.

The Board discussed obtaining Director-elect Randy Levine's input on the proposed 2025 Board Meeting Calendar. The Board also discussed cancelling the March 18th, June 3rd, August 19th, October 7th, November 18th, December 2nd, and December 16th Board Meetings, and possibly scheduling special meetings on March 24th, September 30th, November 19th, and December 10th.

Director Burns withdrew his motion.

This item is to be brought back to the December 17, 2024 Board Meeting.

## 8. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### A Proposal to Sponsor: Authorization

**Authorize the sponsorship or co-sponsorship of state legislation to increase fines and modify the provisions of Government Code Section 53069.45 for the purpose of deterring water theft.**

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, presented the report.

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, shared photographs depicting unauthorized use of water from hydrants.

Mr. Wolf stated that the loss of revenues from water theft is passed onto District customers. He noted that Syrus Devers, the District's state lobbyist, would work with the California Municipal Utilities Association and the Association of California Water Agencies on sponsorship for this proposed bill.

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

A discussion ensued regarding concerns with the annual penalties reset, health and safety issues due to tampering with the water system, the loss of revenues from water theft being passed onto District customers, and there currently being two different categories for water theft in the state statute.

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

None.

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

Board President Lewitt reported that he and Director Coradeschi met with staff to view the OceanWell desalination pod at Las Virgenes Reservoir. He noted that a *Grand Splash* event would be scheduled in January.

General Manager David Pedersen stated that he could arrange for Board Members to view the desalination pod.

## **C General Manager Reports**

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

General Manager David Pedersen reported that OceanWell was preparing for the *Grand Splash* event in January when the desalination pod would be placed in Las Virgenes Reservoir. He noted that the Board approved the Letter of Intent and reimbursement agreement for the multi-agency feasibility study, and the eight agencies were currently seeking their agencies' approval. He also noted that a regulatory process was underway related to seawater desalination known as the *Amendments to the California Ocean Plan*. He stated that Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, provided comments at the State Water Resources Control Board's (Water Board) public hearing held on October 28th asking the Water Board to incorporate language acknowledging that there is new technology related to deep ocean, deep desalination, and to include a pathway for this technology. He also stated that Mr. Wolf shared that the main question asked by customers during the District's town hall meeting was why desalination was not being implemented. He noted that November 13th would be the deadline to submit written comments regarding the *Amendments to the California Ocean Plan*.

He also provided an update regarding MWD's Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Project. He noted that Stage 1 was underway, which would involve pumping facilities that would move water up to 30 cubic feet per second (CFS) northerly through the Sepulveda Pass. He stated that the District's focus was on Stage 2, which would involve expanding the pumping facilities up to 130 CFS. He noted that Stage 2 was under conceptual review, and MWD staff were planning to complete the conceptual studies and preliminary design by December 2025 and then seek MWD Board approval to move forward with final project design. He stated that the ultimate completion date for Stage 2 was anticipated for 2032. He also stated that the project would need to go through MWD's Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) review process. He noted that both pumping facilities would include an expansion of electrical power capacity from Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and MWD was making progress in obtaining power to those facilities. He responded to a question regarding reaching out to Anselmo Collins, LADWP Senior Assistant General Manager of the Water System, to communicate with MWD that LADWP was aware of the project and ensure that electrical power would not be an impediment. He also responded to a question regarding the proposed desalination amendments to the *California Ocean Plan* by stating

that the amendment would outline a plan on how California would approach seawater desalination, develop criteria to streamline the process and permitting, and clarify what would be a successful project. He also responded to a question regarding infrastructure costs for OceanWell's desalination pod at Las Virgenes Reservoir by stating that the costs were being borne by OceanWell and there was no cost to the District except for limited, in-kind staff support. He also responded to a question regarding what would happen with the water output from the desalination pod by stating that the water would be recirculated to the reservoir. Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, added that the water output from the desalination pod would be approximately five gallons per minute (GPM), and the water would be processed and placed back into the reservoir.

Director Burns requested the link to Mr. Wolf's presentation at the Water Board meeting.

General Manager David Pedersen reminded the Board that the next Board meeting would be on November 13th, and a joint meeting would be held with Calleguas Municipal Water District on November 20th at 5:00 p.m.

(2) Follow-Up Items

General Manager David Pedersen stated that follow-up items included Director Polan's request for Malibu Creek fish flow requirements and options to improve the lighting to the Mission Statement in the Board Room. Director Polan asked that wide shots be taken periodically of the Mission Statement behind the dais so that it is visible via the teleconference.

**D Directors' Comments**

Board President Lewitt reported that he and MWD Director Jacquelyn McMillan would travel to the Bay Delta on November 14th prior to the joint meeting with Calleguas Municipal Water District.

Director Burns reported that he traveled to Italy and toured Roman aqueducts.

Director Coradeschi acknowledged staff for arranging the visit to view the OceanWell desalination pod.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

**A Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6)**

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

Employee Organizations: General and Office Units represented by the Service Employees International Local 721

The Board recessed to Closed Session at **10:26 a.m.** and reconvened to Open Session at **10:52 a.m.**

Keith Lemieux, District Counsel, reported that the Board met in Closed Session and unanimously approved the tentative agreement with the General and Office Units represented by the Service Employees International Local 721, and directed staff to place the tentative agreement on the next agenda for final approval.

**13. OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

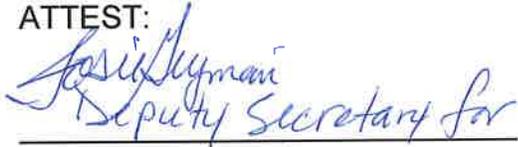
Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **10:53 a.m.**



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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)