

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

August 10, 2021

Valley Sanitary District conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 and COVID-19 protocols.

A regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board of Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was held on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 45-500 Van Buren St., Indio, CA 92201.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sear called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Directors Present:

Debra Canero, Dennis Coleman, Mike Duran, Scott Sear, William Teague

Staff Present:

Beverli Marshall, General Manager, Holly Gould, Jeanette Juarez, Anna Bell, Branden Rodriguez, and Robert Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 August Employee Anniversaries

- Branden Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant – 3 years

The Board congratulated Branden and thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the District.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time set aside for public comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Please notify the Secretary in advance of the meeting if you wish to speak on a non-hearing item.

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approve July 27, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

3.2 Approve Warrants for July 22 through August 4, 2021

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Director Teague made a motion to approve the consent calendar items as presented. Director Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
MINUTE ORDER NO. 2021-3124

4. NON-HEARING ITEMS

4.1 Adopt a Resolution 2021-1152 Employee Wages and Benefits to Amend PEMCHA Contribution for Calendar Year 2022

At the July 13, 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution 2021-1149 establishing the VSD Bi-Weekly Wage Schedule (Schedule) effective July 1, 2021. After the Schedule was adopted, staff identified an error in Section 6 Medical Plan Premiums. The required PEMHCA Minimum Employer Contribution to CalPERS on behalf of employee's rate was not updated to the calendar year 2022 rate. The calendar year 2022 rate is \$149. The \$149 PEMCHA contribution is included in the fiscal year 2021/22 approved operating budget.

“A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT AMENDING EMPLOYEE WAGES & BENEFITS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021 AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2021-1149”

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Director Duran made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-1152 Amending Employee Wages & Benefits Effective July 1, 2021 and Rescinding Resolution 2021-1149. Secretary Canero seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-1152

4.2 Receive CalPERS Health Insurance Rates Effective January 1, 2022, and Give Direction

Resolution 2021-1152 established the District's contributions toward employees' health premiums. For calendar year 2022, the total District contribution will be up 1,800 into a cafeteria plan toward medical, dental, and vision plan premiums and \$149 toward the required PEMHCA minimum employer contribution, for a total of 1,949 per month. Any premiums over that amount will be deducted from the employee's paycheck. On July 13, 2021, the CalPERS Board of Administration adopted the medical plans and premiums for calendar year 2022. All plans will see an increase to rates, some significant, which will affect about 20 % of on family plans. After discussion it was decided to bring this item back for consideration of possibly raising the cafeteria amount to coincide with inflation. This is an informational only item.

4.3 Discuss and Adopt the Valley Sanitary District Investment Policy

California Government Code Section 53646 requires that all public agencies adopt an investment policy and that the policy be reviewed and approved annually. On April 14, 2015, the District adopted Resolution No. 2015-1063 adopting the District's Investment Policy and no amendments have been executed.

Local Agency Investment Guidelines highly recommend that the internal treasury staff conduct a review annually. The revised Investment Policy has been updated to reflect the District's investment guidelines and conformed to meet California statutes governing local agencies. Secretary Canero thanked staff for the time and effort put into updating the policy. Staff recommends Resolution No. 2021-1151, adopting the District's Investment Policy, and rescind Resolution No. 2015-1063.

**“A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
ADOPTING THE DISTRICT’S INVESTMENT POLICY AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2015-
1063”**

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Director Duran made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-1152 Amending Employee Wages & Benefits Effective July 1, 2021 and Rescinding Resolution 2021-1149. Secretary Canero seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-1151

4.4 Approve Refund to Coachella Valley Housing Coalition for \$10,037.50

On October 14, 2020, The Fred Young Farm Labor Camp, aka The Coachella Valley Housing Coalition was issued VSD Permit No. 3910 to disconnect 73 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) consisting of one (1) sewer lateral for APN 612-170-013. The permit was finalized on January 8, 2021. The tax roll information for fiscal year 2020/2021 was submitted in August of 2020. At that time APN 612-170-013 was charged for 181 EDU's for a total of \$59,730. The Coachella Valley Housing Coalition paid the total in full for fiscal year 2020/21. Since the 73 EDU's were disconnected in February 2021, they are due a refund of \$10,037.50 for five (5) months of non-use.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Director Duran made a motion to authorize a refund of \$10,037.50 to the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition for overpayment of sewer use fees for fiscal year 2021/21. Secretary Canero seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2021-3125

4.5 Authorize the Purchase of a Ford F150 Hybrid Utility Truck from Fiesta Ford in an Amount Not to Exceed \$60,000

Staff determined that the existing utility truck, a 2009 Ford F150, needs to be replaced due to age, mileage, and overall annual maintenance costs. This vehicle is used primarily by the Pre-treatment division and is utilized for multiple purposes. Staff recommends the purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 Hybrid Utility Truck from Fiesta Ford in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. The price includes the purchase of the truck, ancillary costs, which include the installation of traffic control perimeter lighting, and a locking bed cover.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Secretary Canero made a motion to authorize the General Manager to purchase a Ford F150 Hybrid Utility Truck from Fiesta Ford in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. Director Duran seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2021-3126

4.6 Authorize the Purchase of a Hybrid Explorer LTD from Fiesta Ford in an Amount Not to Exceed \$64,000

This vehicle will serve multiple purposes for the District staff and the General Manager. The vehicle will serve as a transport vehicle for meetings, conferences, field trips, etc; since it can seat multiple individuals. The vehicle will also be outfitted with ancillary items (i.e., traffic control perimeter lighting, siren, and speakers) to serve as an emergency response vehicle during disaster events. Staff recommends the purchase of a 2021 Ford Explorer Hybrid LTD from Fiesta Ford in an amount not to exceed \$64,000. The price includes the purchase of the SUV and ancillary costs. The quote did not specify if the vehicle included third-row seating. The Board requested staff to find out if the quote included the third row and bring this item back at the next board meeting.

4.7 Authorize the Purchase of Clarifier Weirs and Baffles in an Amount Not to Exceed \$50,000

Staff has determined that the secondary treatment clarifier weirs and baffles on each of the three (3) clarifiers have reached their useful life span and need to be replaced. This replacement will maintain the efficiency of the secondary treatment clarification process and extend the life of the clarifier. Staff recommends purchasing the replacement weirs and baffles from the equipment manufacturer DC. Frost in the amount not to exceed \$50,000. This is a sole-source procurement.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Director Duran made a motion to authorize the General Manager to purchase the replacement weirs and baffles from the equipment manufacturer DC. Frost in the amount not to exceed \$50,000. Secretary Canero seconded the motion.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2021-3127

4.8 Wastewater COVID-19 Surveillance Program

Anna Bell, Acting Facility Operations Manager, gave a presentation to the Board on the Wastewater COVID-19 Surveillance Program that the District is participating in. In May 2021, BioBot Analytics was selected by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a national disease surveillance program, using wastewater epidemiology. The 12-week program utilizes samples from 320 wastewater treatment plants, covering 100 million people across 50 states. Since patient testing is limited, research has shown that the virus is shed in the stools of patients and makes its way into the sewers. By analyzing wastewater influent samples, the presence of infected individuals and an estimate of the number of cases can be determined. In June 2021, VSD was selected to participate in the 12-week wastewater COVID-19 surveillance program with Biobot. Laboratory staff collects two (2) weekly wastewater influent composite samples which are sent to BioBot for analysis. They isolate the genetic signature of SARS-CoV-2 and analyze the amount of the virus present. Then utilizing the samples collected, they estimate the prevalence of COVID-19 in the population. The District's participation in the program is working towards creating a robust Nationwide Wastewater Monitoring Network to trend analysis and provide early warning detection. The Board thanked Anna for taking this project on.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S ITEMS

Ms. Marshall updated the Board on the WEF/AWWA Conference she attended. There was also a discussion about going to a hybrid Zoom option for board meetings.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Director Teague and Anna Bell gave an overview of the Operations Committee Meeting held on August 3, 2021. Ehab Gerges and Elizabeth Reyes, of Harris and Associates, were present to give a project update on the Collection System Rehabilitation and Replacement Project, and Valerie Houchin, of Schneider Electric, was present to give a project update on the Reclaimed Water Project – Phase I. A video of the recent CCTV inspections was also shown.

8. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Director Teague suggested that Board Members take monthly tours of the treatment plant to become more acquainted with what goes with the equipment used. Director Duran complimented Beverli Marshall on the apprenticeship program she helped to implement with Mt. San Jacinto College and suggested a press release be put out.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held on August 27, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board
Valley Sanitary District