

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**
February 8, 2022

A regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board of Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 45-500 Van Buren St., Indio, CA 92201.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sear called the meeting to order at 1:08 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, Ron Buchwald, Dave Commons, Ed Luna, Kenny Kepley, Lorraine Shinnette, Anna Bell, Tino Tijerina, and Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger

Guests:

Gloria Franz, Coachella Valley History Museum
Valarie Houchin, Schneider Electric

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 February Employee Anniversaries

- Tito Moreno, Collection System Supervisor – 17 years
- Kenny Kepley, Operator III – 16 years
- Ed Luna, Maintenance Technician I – 2 Years
- Lorraine Shinnette, Lab Technician I – 2 Years

The Board thanked Tito, Kenny, Ed, and Lorraine for their years of service, 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 January 25, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

3.2 Approve Warrants for January 25, through February 1, 2022

3.3 Monthly Financial Report for December 31, 2021

Jeanette Juarez, Business Services Manager, presented the monthly financial report for December 31, 2021.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Director Duran motioned to approve the consent calendar as presented.
Vice President Canero seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3172

4. NON-HEARING ITEMS

- 4.1 Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract with the Coachella Valley History Museum for a Three-Year Term for a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$90,000

Gloria Franz of the Coachella Valley History Museum was present and informed the Board of what the Coachella Valley History Museum offers and what a partnership with the museum could offer the District. The three-year contract would include adding wastewater education to their existing programs, an exhibit around the "outhouse," and the waiver of facility rental fees for hosting an annual event. CV Strategies would also promote the partnership as part of the community outreach strategic plan.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Director Duran made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with the Coachella Valley History Museum for a three-year term in an amount not to exceed \$90,000. Secretary/Treasurer Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3173

- 4.2 Authorize the District to Proceed with the Design Alternative for the Recycled Water Project – Phase I at an Estimated Cost of \$387,497

Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager, stated that during the 30% design phase, VSD staff worked with the design-build team on key design components. Once the components were selected by operations staff, the design-build team provided the engineering design and specifications to ensure they would fit within the plant. One specific component was the sludge thickening of the primary waste before entering the digester. There were three (3) primary types of waste thickeners presented to VSD staff: gravity belt thickeners (GBT), rotary drum thickeners (RDT), and dissolved air floatation thickeners (DAFT). The design-build team selected the DAFT system. In November of 2021, VSD hired Dave Commons, Facility Operations Manager. Dave's review of the design reports and drawings noticed that a DAFT system was selected for the sludge thickening. Dave has substantial experience with each of the three (3) primary devices. He did not favor the DAFT unit because it represented an older technology, lower operational efficiency, and maintenance difficulties. After careful consideration, management staff recommended that the team revisit this design component and consider the rotary drum thickener option. The design of the DAFT unit is complete and is available as an option. If the

Board authorizes the design alternate, the estimated schedule to complete the 60% design of the rotary drum thickener is December 2022. A guaranteed maximum price will then be completed and brought to the Board for approval as amendment #2 to the contract. The cost of this component will be included in the financing of the entire project.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Director Teague made a motion to authorize the District to proceed with the design alternative to the Recycled Water Project – Phase 1 at an estimated cost of \$387,497. Director Duran seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3174

4.3 Update on the COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program

Anna Bell, Laboratory and Compliance Supervisor updated the Board on the COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program. In June 2021, VSD was selected to participate in the 12-week wastewater COVID-19 surveillance program with Biobot. Laboratory staff collected weekly wastewater influent composite samples and sent them to BioBot for analysis. After the 12-week grant-funded program with Biobot, VSD has continued to monitor the wastewater influent for COVID-19 with GTmolecular to continue contributing to the nationwide monitoring system. On January 26, 2022, VSD was selected to participate in a 6-month, fully funded public health program to monitor the presence of COVID, its variants, and influenza in wastewater on a national scale with Biobot. The comprehensive public health data gathered through the project will be made available to the public through the VSD website and at the county level at biobot.io/data.

4.4 Nominate Representative to CSDA Board of Directors – Seat B

Secretary/Treasurer Coleman nominated Beverli Marshall, General Manager, as a candidate for the California Special District Association Board of Directors Vacancy – Seat B Southern Network. Director Teague seconded the nomination.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Secretary/Treasurer Coleman made a motion to nominate Beverli Marshall, General Manager, as a candidate for the California Special District Association Board of Directors Vacancy – Seat B Southern Network. Director Teague seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3175

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S ITEMS

5.1 Monthly General Manager's Report – December 2021

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Operations Committee – February 1, 2022

Director William Teague and Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager, reported on the Operation Committee meeting held on February 1, 2022. The committee discussed the design alternative for the rotary drum thickener for the Recycled Water Project – Phase I and reviewed the draft fiscal year 2022/23 capital improvement projects and their rankings. Dave Commons, Facility Operations Manager, informed the Board of the pilot project to remove ammonia and total nitrogen through a facility process control modification.

7. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Secretary/Treasurer Coleman requested a closed session item update for the potential litigation issue. Robert Hargreaves, District Counsel, stated that he had forwarded the General Manager's contract to the board members for review. He requested that any revisions or suggestions be sent to him, and once received, he will forward the contract to the labor negotiation committee. Vice President Canero asked staff for the collections department call-out data. Director Teague thanked Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board, for her accurate minute taking.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be on February 22, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board
Valley Sanitary District