

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 22, 2022**

A regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board of Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 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, Holly Gould, Jeanette Juarez, Dave Commons, Adrian Contreras, and Robert Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time 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 March 8, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

3.2 Approve Warrants for March 2, 2022, through March 16, 2022

3.3 Monthly Financial Report for February 28, 2022

3.4 Approve Credit Card Report for February 28, 2022

3.5 Approve Quarterly Investment Report as of December 31, 2021

3.6 Adopt Resolution No. 2022-1156 Authorizing an Application for Grant Funding by the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow)

Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Project Grants for a Groundwater Replenishment Project

“A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING BY THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S WATERSMART TITLE XVI WIIN ACT WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE PROJECTS FOR A GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT PLANNING PROJECT”

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Director Duran motioned to approve the consent calendar and Resolution No. 2022-1156 as presented. 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. 2022-3185 / RESOLUTION NO. 2022-1156

4. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- 4.1 Conduct a Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding Boundaries and the Composition of Divisions to be Established for Division-Based Elections

A notice of public hearing was published in the Desert Sun newspaper on December 16, 2021, and December 23, 2021. Beverli Marshall, General Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Valley Sanitary District Division-Based Elections and the Census 2020 Population Changes. Ms. Marshall's presentation included the District's current Elections Divisions Map and three (3) map options that would reflect the new census data. President Sear declared the public hearing open at 1:21 p.m. No members of the public were present. No written or verbal communication was received from the public. Due to an error in the posted agenda packet and the public hearing information not being made available to the public, President Sear declared a continuance of the public hearing until April 12, 2022. The Board discussed the three (3) map options. Map Option 1 is aligned north and south, anticipates growth mostly north of Interstate 10, avoids directors in the same Division, and requires election in Divisions A and C in 2022. Map Option 2 is aligned east and west and anticipates growth mostly north of Interstate 10; two (2) directors would fall in Division C and require an election in Divisions A and C in 2022. Map Option 3 is aligned north and south, anticipates growth mostly north of Interstate 10, avoids directors in the same Division, and would require election of Divisions A and C in 2022. The Board will adopt one of these map options at the April 12, 2022 board meeting.

5. NON-HEARING ITEMS

- 5.1 Accept Easement Agreement with Twenty-Nine Palms Bands of Mission Indians Across VSD Property and Authorize the General Manager to Sign the Agreement for Recording Purposes

The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians (Tribe) requested the Valley Sanitary District to grant a public utility easement across the District's property to install utility conduits. The Tribe plans to build a distribution warehouse on their property adjacent to the east of the District's reclamation plant facility. The warehouse will require water, fiber optic, and other potential future utilities that can be accessed from Cabazon Road. The requested easement will be within and adjacent to the roadway to the Wild Bird Center and extends from Cabazon Road to the Tribe's property. The Wild Bird Center staff is aware of the Tribe's easement request and the upcoming construction of the utilities.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Director Teague made a motion to accept the Easement Agreement with Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians and authorize the General Manager to sign the Easement Agreement for recording purposes. 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. 2022-3186

- 5.2 Discuss Proposals Submitted in Response to the District's Request for Proposals for State Legislative Advocacy Services, Select a Consulting Firm, and Authorize the General Manager to execute a Contract with Selected Firm

On February 8, 2022, staff published the Request for Proposals for State Legislature Advocacy Services. Three proposals were received, ranging from \$60,000 to \$96,000. The Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22 included \$30,000 as an estimate for these services. At its March 15, 2022, meeting, the Community Engagement Committee discussed the proposals and directed staff to provide all three proposals, without making a recommendation, to the full Board for discussion and possible action. After discussion it was suggested to bring this item back to the April 26 board meeting.

- 5.3 Discuss the 2022 Ballot for Special District Election (Western Riverside County Seat) of the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission and Authorize the Board President to Submit the Ballot Reflecting the Board's Selection

After discussion, it was decided to rank the Local Agency Formation Commission Western Riverside County candidates as 1. Phil Williams, 2. John Skerbelis, 3. Steve Pastor, 4. Larry Smith, and 5. David Hoffman. President Scott Sear will submit the ballot to reflect this ranking.

- 5.4 Authorize General Manager to Execute a One (1) Year Contract with Southwest Networks, Inc., for Information Technology Services, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$41,196

The District utilizes contractual services for the District's information systems support services. This agreement serves as a master agreement and applies to services rendered as well as licenses for software, hardware, support, maintenance services, and subscriptions. Staff requests approval to execute a one (1) year contract with Southwest Networks, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$41,196.

ACTION TAKEN:**MOTION:**

Director Duran made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute a one (1) year contract with Southwest Networks, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$41,196. Director Teague seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3187

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S ITEMS

Beverli Marshall, General Manager, requested feedback from the Board on how they would like to receive the information regarding the impact the 20-year loan term for the Recycled Water Project Phase 1 will have on the budget. They suggested having staff bring the conversation to the next regular board meeting on April 12, 2022.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**7.1 Community Engagement Committee – March 15, 2022**

Committee member Debra Canero reported to the Board on the March 15, 2022, Community Engagement Meeting. She stated the committee discussed the RFP and proposals received for the State Legislature Advocacy Services. They also received an update from CV Strategies on the Communications Plan. They informed the committee of the deliverables completed to date, such as the brand style sheet, presentation template, newsletter masthead, agency mascot, and customer survey. The metrics to date were also presented. They also gave an update on the video short series, which will consist of six (6) one-minute videos that will go into production in May.

8. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

None.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dave Commons, Facility Operations Manager, updated the Board on the new vehicle deliveries. He stated that the six-seater golf has already arrived, three (3) utility golf carts will be delivered this week. The Ford Explorer is expected to be delivered by the end of April, and the backhoe will be delivered on Friday.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time set aside for public comment on any item discussed in Closed Session.

None.

11. CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

Items discussed in Closed Session comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

11.1 Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Labor Negotiations for General Manager

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 3:31 p.m.

12. CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Report out on Closed Session items

The Board reconvened in open session at 4:21 p.m. President Sear stated that there was nothing to report. Mr. Hargreaves, District Counsel, said that the Board authorized a settlement agreement with Caselle at the previous closed session. The agreement has been signed and is available to the public.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be on April 12, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board
Valley Sanitary District