

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

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Sear called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Directors Present:

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

Staff Present:

Beverli Marshall, Holly Gould, Jeanette Juarez, Ron Buchwald, Dave Commons, Mark Wiseman, Miguel Serna, and Craig Hayes, Best Best & Krieger

Guests Present:

Dr. Bruce Underwood, Healthy Futures

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES**

- Mark Wiseman, Wastewater Operator II – 2 years
- Dave Commons, Chief Operating Officer – 1 year
- Miguel Serna, Human Resources Specialist – 1 year

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The Board of Directors thanked Mark, Dave, and Miguel for their hard work and years of service to the District.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Please notify the Secretary in advance of the meeting if you wish to speak on a non-hearing item or any item not appearing on the agenda.*

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Dr. Bruce Underwood, Healthy Futures, Inc., gave public comment.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

6.1 Approve Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2022

6.2 Approve Warrants for November 8, 2022

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### **ACTION TAKEN:**

#### **MOTION:**

Director Duran motioned to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Teague seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3247**

## **7. NON-HEARING ITEMS**

7.1 Declare 2009 Ford Crew Cab 4x4 Surplus Equipment and Authorize the General Manager to Dispose of it as Appropriate

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The 2009 Ford Crew Cab 4x4 truck has reached the end of its useful life as a primary District vehicle and was identified in the Vehicle and Equipment replacement fund for the Fiscal Year 2022-23. It has 43,028 miles of use, but the vehicle shows wear, and replacement parts are getting harder to find and costly. In 2005, SCAQMD and California Resources Control Board (CARB) passed a rule that requires all gas stations to retrofit the gasoline dispensers at all pumps. All gas stations have complied. VSD is upgrading our gas dispensing system, which will not work on vehicles older than 2014, even though it complies with AQMD and CARB regulations. VSD has purchased a 2022 Ford Hybrid truck to replace the 2009 Ford Crew Cab. If approved, the surplus truck will be sold on GovDeals.

### **ACTION TAKEN:**

#### **MOTION:**

Director Teague motioned to declare the 2009 Ford Crew Cab 4x4 truck as surplus equipment and authorize the General Manager to dispose of as appropriate. Secretary/Treasurer Coleman seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Coleman, Sear, Teague

NOES: Duran

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3248**

7.2 Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract with Elevation Health to Provide Employee Health and Wellness Program Services in an Amount Not to Exceed \$37,750 for 12 months

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Dr. Bruce Underwood, Healthy Futures, Inc., commented publicly on Item 7.2.

On September 20, 2022, the District released a second Request for Proposals (RFP) for Employee Wellness Program services. The Board requested this after concerns were expressed regarding the previous RFP. Since the existing contract has been in place for three years, the District's policy requires soliciting proposals for a new contract. Staff prepared an RFP for a consulting and/or wellness firm to develop a wellness program for District employees. The consulting and/or wellness firm needs expertise and experience in implementing a customized wellness program that promotes healthy behaviors. The District received three proposals: Elevation Health, Healthy Futures, and Pinnacle Training Systems. A four-member evaluation committee comprised of VSD employees independently reviewed the submitted Valley Sanitary District Recommendation proposals utilizing the six evaluation criteria in the RFP. According to the evaluation scores, the Committee determined that Elevation Health represents the best option for VSD's Employee Health and Wellness Program. Elevation Health provides the best overall wellness options utilizing onsite, web-based, and virtual connections. After much discussion, the Board requested to review all submitted proposals and bring this item back to the next board meeting.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**MOTION:** Director Duran motioned for staff to present the Board of Directors with all proposals for review and to bring this item back to the Board at the next board meeting on November 25, 2022. Vice President Canero seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: Coleman

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3249**

**7.3 Adopt Valley Sanitary District Legislative Advocacy Guidelines**

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Staff will bring this item back to the next board meeting. The Legislative Advocacy Guidelines should have been included in the staff report.

**7.4 Discuss Attending the CASA 2023 Washington DC Policy Forum and Authorize Specific Directors to Attend and Reimbursement of Related Expenses and Provide Direction to Staff**

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Each year the California Association of Sanitation Agencies holds a policy forum in Washington, D.C., to discuss and advocate for wastewater-related issues. In the past, three or four directors have attended this event. District policy requires prior approval by the Board for Directors to participate in events outside the local area (Coachella Valley). The cost associated with attending the conference is approximately \$4,500 per attendee.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**MOTION:** Director Duran motioned to authorize Directors Scott Sear, Debra Canero, and Mike Duran to attend the CASA Washington DC Policy Forum and the reimbursement of related expenses. Vice President Canero seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague  
NOES: Coleman  
**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2022-3251**

7.5 Establish an Ad Hoc Committee for the Purpose of Recruiting a General Manager

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President Sear established an ad hoc committee to recruit a General Manager. He appointed himself and Vice President Canero to the Committee.

**8. GENERAL MANAGER'S ITEMS**

8.1 Monthly General Managers Report – September 2022

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Secretary/Treasurer Coleman congratulated Ivan Monroy, Environmental Compliance Inspector, for being accepted into the Leadership Coachella Valley 2022-2023 Cohort.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

9.1 Budget & Finance Committee Report for November 1, 2022

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Chairperson Dennis Coleman reported on the Budget & Finance Committee meeting on November 1, 2022. Staff worked with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC to conduct an internal audit of the 457 retirement plans and make recommendations. The Committee directed staff for two additional quotes for 321 Financial Advisor Services and to present all three quotes at the next Budget & Finance Committee meeting in January 2023. The Committee also received an update on the Fiscal Year 2022 audit. Jeanette stated that the auditors are in the final stage of completing the audit. The visuals have been submitted by staff, and the audit is going through a final review. She stated that the audit took longer than usual due to additional bond disclosures.

**10. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS**

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Vice President Canero stated the Día de Los Muertos event at the Coachella Valley History Museum was a very nice event. Secretary/Treasurer Coleman may not be able to attend the November 22, 2022, board meeting due to jury duty. President Sear will speak at the City of Indio State of the City event on November 6, 2022. He will also present the award to the school that won the water bear naming contest at the Desert Sands Unified School District board meeting on November 15, 2022. President Sear will also shadow two VSD employees to better understand the water reclamation facility.

**11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

11.1 Recognize November 19, 2022, as United Nations World Toilet Day

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The World Toilet Day 2022 campaign, called 'Making the invisible visible, focuses on the impact of the sanitation crisis on groundwater, exploring how inadequate sanitation systems spread human waste

into rivers, lakes, and soil, polluting underground water resources. Groundwater is the world's most abundant source of freshwater. The central message of World Toilet Day 2022 is that safely managed sanitation protects groundwater from human waste pollution.

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Please notify the Clerk of the Board in advance of the meeting if you wish to speak on an item to be discussed in Closed Session.

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None.

**President Sear called for a short recess at 3:13 p.m. The Board of Directors reconvened at 3:21 p.m. Roll call was taken, and all Directors were present.**

## **13. CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION**

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

- 13.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Discussion to Consider Initiation of Litigation Pursuant Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2) Under existing facts and circumstances, legal counsel believes that there is significant exposure to litigation.
- 13.2 Public Employment Recruitment  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957  
Title: General Manager

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The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 3:22 p.m.

## **14. CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Report out on Closed Session items

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The Board reconvened in open session at 4:15 p.m. President Sear stated there was nothing to report.

## **15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be on November 22, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board  
Valley Sanitary District