

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

January 10, 2023

A regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board of Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 45-500 Van Buren St., Indio, CA 92201.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

Directors Present:

Jacky Barnum, Debra Canero, Mike Duran, Scott Sear, William Teague

Staff Present:

Beverli Marshall, Holly Gould, Ron Buchwald, Jeanette Juarez, Dave Commons, Karen Hopper, Branden Rodriguez, Israel Garcia, and Craig Hayes, Best Best & Krieger

Guests Present:

Josh Boudreaux, Koff & Associates

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES – DECEMBER**

- Israel Garcia, Engineering Technician – 1 year

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The Board congratulated Israel for his hard work and year 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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None.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 6.1 Approve Board Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022, and December 20, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes

- 6.2 Approve Warrants for January 10, 2023
  - 6.3 Receive and File Credit Card Report for November 30, 2022
  - 6.4 Approve Monthly Revenue & Expense Report for the Period Ending November 30, 2022
  - 6.5 Authorize General Manager to Execute and Record Two Easement Quitclaim Deeds Located Within a Subdivision South of Avenue 49 Between Jefferson Street and Madison Street
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**ACTION TAKEN:**

**MOTION:** Director Sear motioned to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Teague seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:  
AYES: Barnum, Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague  
NOES: None  
**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2023-3264**

**7. NON-HEARING ITEMS**

- 7.1 Presentation of Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the Fiscal Year 2022/23

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The District received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Budget from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). President Canero presented Branden Rodriguez, Karen Hopper, and Jeanette Juarez with the GFOA Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation for their hard work in preparing the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Budget. The Board thanked staff for their achievements.

- 7.2 Discuss the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA) Loan for the Recycled Water Project Phases II and III and Authorize General Manager to Proceed with the Application Process

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On December 21, 2022, the District received a response from the EPA notifying the General Manager that the Recycled Water Project was selected to apply for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding. Based on the estimated project cost of \$90.9 million, the total amount that the EPA has reserved for this project is \$44.06 million. The application phase requires a detailed financial and engineering review of the project by EPA staff. District staff will receive assistance from Engineering Solutions Services to compile and submit the loan application. The submission deadline is December 31, 2023. The costs associated with applying for the loan include a \$100,000 application fee and approximately \$25,000 in loan application assistance.

**ACTION TAKEN:****MOTION:**

Director Teague motioned to authorize the General Manager to proceed with the WIFIA loan application for the Recycled Water Project Phase II and III. Secretary/Treasurer Sear seconded the motion. Motioned carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnum, Sear, Teague

NOES: Canero, Duran

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2023-3265**

**7.3 Authorize Specific Directors to Attend the CASA 2023 Washington DC Policy Forum and the Reimbursement of Related Expenses**

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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. At the November 8, 2022, Board Meeting, before Director Barnum took office, the Board approved Directors Canero, Duran, and Sear to attend the conference. Director Duran stated that he would not attend the Washington, DC, conference. Director Barnum stated that she would like to attend.

**ACTION TAKEN:****MOTION:**

Director Duran motioned to authorize Directors Jacky Barnum, Debra Canero, and Scott Sear to attend the CASA 2023 Washington DC Policy Forum and the reimbursement of related expenses. Secretary/Treasurer Sear seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnum, Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2023-3266**

**7.4 Receive and File the Annual Connection Capacity Fee Report**

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Government Code Section 66013 requires a financial accounting of the transactions dealing with sewer connection capacity fees to be made available to the public. The annual report shows actual values for the 2022/22 fiscal year and estimated values for the 2022/23 fiscal year. Pursuant to Government Code Section 66013, this report is for review purposes only. A copy of this report was mailed to the Desert Valley Builders Association (DVBA) and the Building Industry Association (BIA) for review and comment. The Board thanked Jeanette for keeping the District transparent.

**ACTION TAKEN:****MOTION:**

Director Duran motioned to receive and file the Annual Connection Capacity Fee Report. Director Barnum seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnum, Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2023-3267**

7.5 Review the Budget Timeline for the Fiscal Year 2023/24

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The action for approval and adoption of the annual budget is completed in June of each calendar year. In preparation for the fiscal year 2023/24 budget, staff has prepared a budget timeline for the Board to review. The timeline includes deliverable due dates and meeting dates. The timeline will serve as a guide during the upcoming weeks to continue budget discussions and allow for any modifications if needed.

**8. GENERAL MANAGER'S ITEMS**

8.1 Monthly General Manager's Report – December 2022

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Ron Buchwald, District Engineer, gave an update on the Influent Pump Station Project. He informed the Board that a change order was needed for two stormwater pipes that were heavily corroded. The 12-inch and 24-inch pipes will be cleaned and lined. This item will be taken to the Board at a future meeting.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

9.1 Draft Minutes of the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – January 3, 2023

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Chairperson Canero reported on the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting on January 3, 2023. The Committee discussed the budget timeline for fiscal year 2023/24 and the financing needs for the Rotary Screw Thickener and Phase II and III of the Recycled Water Project. They also discussed the invitation to apply for funding through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) for the Recycled Water Project Phase II and III for \$44M.

**10. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS**

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The Directors discussed the upcoming Strategic Planning Workshop on January 20, 2023. The consultant will be emailing the Directors to set up interviews. Directors Barnum, Canero, Duran, and Sear requested to attend the CSRMA meeting on January 25, 2023, in Palm Springs.

**11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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None.

**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 Canero called for a short recess at 3:35 p.m. The Board of Directors reconvened at 3:40 p.m. Roll call was taken. Directors Barnum, Canero, Duran, Sear, and Teague 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 2:40 p.m.

**14. CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Report out on Closed Session items

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The Board reconvened in open session at 3:51 p.m. President Canero stated there was nothing to report.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be on January 24, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board  
Valley Sanitary District