

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
February 23, 2023**

A special Board Meeting of the Governing Board of Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2023, at 45-500 Van Buren St., Indio, CA 92201.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Canero called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

Jacky Barnum (arrived at 1:07 p.m.), Debra Canero, Mike Duran, Scott Sear, William Teague

Staff Present:

Beverli Marshall, Holly Gould, Ron Buchwald, Jeanette Juarez, Dave Commons, and Robert Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger

Guests Present:

Alice Bou, NBS

Allen Highstreet, NBS

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

None.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 5.1 Approve Annual Renewal of the Environmental Pollution Liability Coverage Through Desert Cornerstone Insurance in an Amount Not to Exceed \$18,641

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Vice President Duran motioned to approve the consent calendar as presented. Secretary/Treasurer Sear seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague
NOES: None
ABSENT: Barnum
MINUTE ORDER NO. 2023-3275

6. NON-HEARING ITEMS

6.1 Discuss 20-Year Financial Plan Presented by NBS and Provide Direction to Staff

At the October 25, 2022, meeting, the Board authorized the General Manager to execute a contract with NBS to perform a Comprehensive Wastewater Rate Study. As part of the study, NBS was tasked to create a financial plan that includes all revenue sources, expenditures, reserves, capital improvement costs, repair and replacement costs, and net revenue requirements. NBS prepared a financial plan presentation that addresses three key issues; develop net revenue requirements from Fiscal Year 2022-23 to Fiscal Year 2041-42, establish and maintain reserve funds and targets, and fund the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). To meet all three targets, NBS developed three Financial Plan Alternatives for District staff and the Board of Director to consider; Alternative 1, full funding of CIP with no debt, Alternative 2, full funding of CIP entering into \$57 million in debt, and Alternative 3 full funding of CIP entering into \$1.14 million debt. The Financial Plan presentation examines the District's targets and establishes a baseline for each alternative. Alice Bou of NBS, and Ron Buchwald, District Engineer, gave a presentation on the CIP projects and the findings of the study. The Board directed staff to bring forward additional information for a special board meeting on March 7, 2023, to look more closely at the rate study and possible rate changes.

6.2 Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract (Task Order #23-01) with Harris & Associates to Provide Design Plans for the Rehabilitation of the Calhoun Lift Station in an Amount Not to Exceed \$140,474

On November 9, 2021, the Board authorized the execution of a contract with Harris & Associates to perform a condition assessment on VSD's four lift stations. Harris, with the help of two sub-consultants, completed the condition assessment report in June 2022. The Lift Station Condition Assessment report shows that the four lift stations are generally in moderate to good working condition. The Calhoun Lift Station was one of the lift stations needing more immediate repairs. Specifically, the concrete liner protecting the concrete still well has deteriorated. It needs to be replaced with a new protective liner. Other improvements include an upgrade of the electrical panel and control panel, install a new sump termination panel, paint above ground pipe and fixtures, upgrade/replace lighting both within and exterior to the wet well, adding SCADA capability, and provide other improvements as listed in the report and proposal. Harris was solicited for the Collection System Program Management through an RFP in 2018. The contract was for five years. Harris has performed well through this contract and is equipped to perform this design work after completing the Lift Station Condition Assessment. The schedule for this design work will likely carry on into the next fiscal year.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Director Teague motioned to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract (Task Order #23-01) with Harris & Associates to provide design plans for the Rehabilitation of the Calhoun Lift Station in an amount not to exceed \$140,747. Director Teague seconded the motion. Motioned carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnum, Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2023-3276

- 6.3 Authorize President Canero and Secretary/Treasurer Sear to Meet with State Legislatures in Sacramento, CA, on March 22, 2023, and Reimburse Related Expenses

The District has identified increasing legislative advocacy as a goal in the adopted Strategic Plan. With new legislators this term, it is even more important for directors to meet with them to advocate for District needs. Staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize President Canero and Secretary/Treasurer Sear to meet with state legislators in Sacramento, CA, on March 22, 2023, and reimburse related expenses. A representative from the Townsend Public Affairs consulting firm will accompany the directors. The estimated cost for the trip to Sacramento is approximately \$500 per director, which includes travel and related expenses and one day of service.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Director Teague motioned to authorize President Canero and Secretary/Treasurer Sear to meet with State Legislatures in Sacramento, CA, on March 22, 2023, and reimburse related expenses. Director Barnum seconded the motion. Motioned carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnum, Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2023-3277

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Please notify the Clerk of the Board before the meeting if you wish to discuss an item to discuss in Closed Session.

None.

President Canero called for a short recess at 2:25 p.m. The Board of Directors reconvened at 2:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. Directors Barnum, Canero, Duran, Sear, and Teague were present.

8. CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

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

- 8.1 Public Employment Recruitment Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
Title: General Manager
- 8.2 Conference with Labor Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 –
Unrepresented Employee: Interim General Manager

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 2:30 p.m.

9. CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Report out on Closed Session items.

The Board reconvened in open session at 2:47 p.m. President Canero stated there was nothing to report.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be on March 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board
Valley Sanitary District