

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

April 7, 2023

A special Board Meeting of the Governing Board of Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was held on Tuesday, April 7, 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 (arrived at 1:41 p.m.), Scott Sear, William Teague

Staff Present:

Ron Buchwald, Holly Gould, Jeanette Juarez, Dave Commons, and Craig Hayes, Best Best & Krieger

Guests Present:

Andrea Carter, Andres Carter & Associates

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

5. NON-HEARING ITEMS

5.1 Discuss the Proposition 218 Notice and Reasons for the Increase

The Board of Directors discussed the public's concerns regarding the proposed sewer rate increase. Together with Andrea Carter of Andrea Carter & Associates, the Board developed common talking points to further assist in getting the information out. They discussed the concerns of the disadvantaged community and those on fixed incomes, the pros and cons of moving forward with the increase, and the commitment to finding state and federal funding to offset costs to the constituents. Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager, informed the Board that the District's presence was requested at the City of Indio Council Meeting on April 19, 2023. Staff has received 44 protest letters so far and have been fielding multiple phone calls per day from the public requesting more information about the rate increase. The Board decided to move forward with the Public Hearing scheduled for May 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be on April 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board
Valley Sanitary District