

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

March 12, 2024

A regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board of Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 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:

Debra Canero, Mike Duran, Scott Sear, William Teague

Staff Present:

Jason Dafforn, General Manager; Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board; Ron Buchwald, Jeanette Juarez; Tino Tijerina, Anna Bell; Steve Shepard, Andy Boyd, Ed Luna; Chris Rahman, Ray Marroquin; Octavio Briones, Victoria Nelson; Michael Placencia, Christopher Lewis, and Craig Hayes, Best Best & Krieger

Guests:

High Curtis, George Petersen Insurance Agency

Paul Fuller, George Petersen Insurance Agency

David Getka

Edgar Santana

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION

- Christopher Lewis, Collection System Technician-in-Training

The Board of Directors welcomed Christopher to the Valley Sanitary District team.

5. FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

- Tito Moreno, Collection Systems Supervisor – 19 years
- Kenny Kepley, Wastewater Operator III – 18 years
- Ed Luna, Maintenance Technician III – 4 years
- Chris Rahman, Maintenance Technician I – 2 years

MARCH EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

- Steve Shepard, Development Service Supervisor -28 years
- Octavio Briones, Maintenance Technician I - 1 year
- Victoria Nelson, Wastewater Operator II - 1 year

The Board of Directors thanked Tito, Kenny, Ed, Chris, Steve, Octavio, and Victoria for their years of service and dedication to the District.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Colorado River Basin Section (CORBS) Awards Presentation

The Board of Directors recognized Ray Marroquin as Mechanical Technician of the Year, Austin Lopanec as Operator of the Year, and Dave Commons as Supervisor of the Year. The Board also recognized the staff members involved in the history museum project, which earned the Community Engagement & Outreach Project of the Year and Safety Plant of the Year awards, which were also won at the state level. The Board congratulated Staff on their achievements.

6.2 P3S Conference Highlights

Michael Placencia, Environmental Compliance Technician III, gave a presentation of the the P3S Conference he attended and presented at.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8.1 Approve the Minutes for the Board of Directors Special Meeting held February 20, 2024

8.2 Approve Warrants for March 12, 2024

8.3 Monthly Credit Card Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2024

8.4 Monthly Investment Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2024

8.5 Monthly Financial Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2024

8.6 Disposition of 2004 Vactor 2100 Truck Through Sale on GovDeals

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

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2024-3368

9. NON-HEARING ITEMS

- 9.1 Authorize the General Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Contract with George Peterson Insurance Agency for the Purchase of the Business Package Policy in an Amount not to Exceed \$195,832

Hugh Curtis and Paul Fuller from George Petersen Insurance Agency presented the renewal of the Business Package Policy. The 12-month coverage period is from April 1, 2024, to April 1, 2025. The Business Package Policy includes the Property, General Liability, Management Liability, Inland Marine, Auto, and Umbrella coverage. The proposed renewal for April 1, 2024, is \$195,832.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION:

Vice President Duran motioned to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with George Peterson Insurance Agency to purchase the Business Package Policy in an Amount not to exceed \$195,832. Director Teague seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Duran, Sear, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2024-3369

Secretary/Treasurer Sear left the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

- 9.2 Award of Contract to Prepare a Recycled Water Project Feasibility Study to Hoch Consulting, Inc. for a Two-Year Term for a Not to Exceed Amount of \$388,415.50

Staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to prepare a Recycled Water Project Feasibility Study to develop a One (1) MGD tertiary treatment facility that can be expandable and will use a portion of the secondary effluent treated wastewater from VSD's Water Reclamation Facility as a source. Staff received four (4) proposals from qualified consultants. Each of the proposals was reviewed to verify their qualifications and whether their proposal met the criteria outlined in the RFP. Staff performed extensive due diligence on the four (4) proposals submitted. Three (3) individual District staff members from two different departments evaluated the proposals, independently reviewing each firm's qualifications and whether their respective proposed services met the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. Based on total scores, Hoch Consulting was deemed the most qualified. The evaluation panel recommends an award of contract to Hoch Consulting for a two-year term for \$388,415.50. The District

has received some funding from the State Water Resources Control Board that will be utilized for this project, as well as a preliminary notification from the Bureau of Reclamation for funding that will cover the majority of the cost for this study.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Vice President Duran motioned to award a contract to prepare a Recycled Water Project Feasibility Study to Hoch Consulting, Inc. for a two-year term for a not to exceed Amount of \$388,415.50. Director Teague seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Duran, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2024-3370

9.3 Review Board Member Candidate Applications, Conduct Interviews of Applicants, and Appoint a New Board Member to Represent Ward A

The Board of Directors reviewed the Board of Directors applications of David Getka and Edgar Santana to fill the vacancy for Ward A. Each candidate was permitted time to speak before the Board. After discussion, Vice President Duran motioned to appoint Edgar Santana to the Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors for Ward A.

ACTION TAKEN:

MOTION: Vice President Duran motioned to appoint Edgar Santana to the Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors for Ward A. President Canero seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Canero, Duran, Teague

NOES: None

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2024-3371

President Canero called for a short recess at 2:40 p.m. The Board of Directors reconvened at 2:43 p.m. Roll call was taken. Directors Canero, Duran, and Teague were present.

The Clerk of the Board administered the Oath of Office to Edgar Santana, and he took his seat.

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S ITEMS

10.1 Receive Monthly General Managers Report for February 2024

The Board received the monthly General Managers Report for February 2024.

11. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Vice President Duran stated that he completed the CV Water Counts Academy, a five-week program for emergent leaders on water resources in the desert. He also attended the State of the College event and the Indio High School tour. President Canero and Vice President Duran congratulated the Staff on a wonderful tour program they put together for Indio High School.

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

President Canero and Mr. Dafforn attend the CASA DC Forum in Washington, D.C. They received updates on the federal climate and met with representatives from Senator Butler's office, Congressman Calvert's office, Congressman Ruiz's office, and the Bureau of Reclamation and FEMA. Jason gave an update on the status of FEMA and the Westward Ho Sewer Siphon Project. Mr. Dafforn also informed the Board of his upcoming meeting with Congressman Ruiz's grant writer, the upcoming State of the 4th District on March 18, 2024, and the Desert Recreation Foundation Bowling Tournament on March 22, 2024.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be on March 26, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board
Valley Sanitary District