

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

April 9, 2024

A regular Board Meeting of the Governing Board of Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was held on Tuesday, April 9, 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, Edgar Santana, William Teague

Staff Present:

Jason Dafforn, General Manager; Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board; Jeanette Juarez, Chief Administrative Officer; Ron Buchwald, District Engineer; James Mills, Operations Supervisor; Tino Tijerina, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor; Andrew Sorensen, Wastewater Operator III; Octavio Briones, Maintenance Technician I; and Oscar Verdugo, Best Best & Krieger

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. APRIL EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES**

- Andrew Sorensen, Wastewater Operator III – 3 years

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The Board of Directors thanked Andrew for his dedication and years of service to the District.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

6.1 Approve the Minutes for the Board of Directors Regular Meeting held March 26, 2024

6.2 Approve Warrants for April 9, 2024

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**MOTION:**

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

AYES: Canero, Duran, Santana, Sear, Teague

**7. NON-HEARING ITEMS**

- 7.1 Approve the purchase of Two (2) Ford F-150 Lightning Trucks and Ancillary Cost for an Amount Not to Exceed \$133,000

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The District has two (2) Ford F-150 trucks purchased in 2014 that are reaching the end of their useful life and are scheduled for replacement. The state is mandating that all public agencies transition to hybrid and EV vehicles over the next decade. Staff would like to get a head start on this effort by purchasing EV trucks instead of traditional trucks that have been purchased historically. This will allow Staff to get acclimated to EV vehicles and their requirements. The two new F-150 Lightning EV trucks will transport District staff. The vehicles will be outfitted with ancillary items (i.e., traffic control perimeter lights) to serve as emergency response vehicles during disaster events. Approximately \$120,000 will be spent on the purchase of the two (2) vehicles. The ancillary costs will be approximately \$13,000. The old trucks will be sold, and the funds will be returned to the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**MOTION:**

Vice President Duran motioned to authorize the General Manager to purchase two (2) Ford F150 electric vehicle (EV) trucks from Fiesta Ford, including ancillary costs not exceeding \$133,000. Secretary/Treasurer Sear seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:  
AYES: Canero, Duran, Santana, Sear, Teague  
NOES: None

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2024-3383**

- 7.2 Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract Amendment to the Contract with Leighton & Associates for Third-Party Electrical Inspection Services for the Recycled Water Project - Phase 1 in an Amount Not to Exceed \$39,744

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In November 2022, the Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Leighton & Associates to provide third-party inspection services for the Recycled Water Project - Phase I. Leighton & Associates original proposal was based on limited information available of the needed testing and inspection work throughout the three-year project. The amount of inspection work required was not quantifiable, and the consultant had to provide an initial work phase to execute the contract. Amendment #1 was approved in January 2024 due to most of the contract amount being utilized. Amendment #2, for \$39,744, is for the work that is currently being completed, including specialty inspections for the electrical-related improvements that were outside the original scope of the agreement, and additional funding is required to cover the costs.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**MOTION:** Director Teague motioned to authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment #2 to the Contract with Leighton & Associates for Third-Party Electrical Inspection Services for the Recycled Water Project - Phase 1 in an Amount Not to Exceed \$39,744. Director Santana seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:  
AYES: Canero, Duran, Santana, Sear, Teague  
NOES: None  
**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2024-3384**

### 7.3 Approve the Revision to the Bilingual Pay Premium Policy

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A bilingual pay differential is a compensatory policy implemented by an employer to recognize the value and importance of language skills in the workforce. Bilingual pay differential includes many community, organization, and staff benefits. The modifications to the District's Bilingual Pay Premium Policy include a third-party vendor's standardized assessment of a non-English language. All employees receiving bilingual premium pay must pass an assessment examination every two (2) years to continue receiving bilingual premium pay. A maximum of one (1) bilingual pay differential is allowed per eligible employee. A maximum of two (2) employees per department (e.g., Administration, Collections, Engineering, Laboratory, Maintenance, Operations) are eligible for bilingual premium pay. The revisions to the District's Bilingual Pay Premium Policy will ensure alternates in each department to provide support and a structured process for applying and qualifying for the bilingual pay premium.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**MOTION:** Secretary/Treasurer Sear motioned to approve the revision to the Bilingual Pay Premium Policy. Director Teague seconded the motion. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:  
AYES: Canero, Duran, Santana, Sear, Teague  
NOES: None  
**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2024-3385**

### 7.4 Review District Logo

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In 2020, Valley Sanitary District began utilizing the current logo. It has since been recognized that several other entities use the same or a very similar logo. The shared logo may confuse constituents, especially as the District embarks on a focused and deliberate public outreach campaign. After discussion, the Board gave direction to the General Manager to work with Ardurra on a new custom logo for the District.

## 8. GENERAL MANAGER'S ITEMS

### 8.1 Receive Monthly General Managers Report for March 2024

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Jason Dafforn, General Manager, updated the Board on his meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation in Temecula to discuss the recycled water Project and Feasibility Study. Mr. Dafforn also gave a presentation to the Indio Sunrise Rotary about the District and what it does. He sent out Save the Date emails to constituents for the Centennial Celebration. Staff will attend the CWEA Awards Luncheon in Sacramento on April 11, 2024, to receive the state-level awards for the Public Outreach Project of the Year and Safety Plant of the Year. President Canero suggested hosting a luncheon to recognize Staff's achievements.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **9.1 Draft Minute of the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – March 27, 2024**

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Chairperson Scott Sear reported on the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on March 27, 2024. The Committee reviewed the proposed FY 24/25 budget.

### **9.2 Draft Minute of the Operations Committee Meeting – April 2, 2024**

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The Operations Committee reviewed the updates to the Capital Improvement Projects, discussed which projects will be included in the proposed FY 24/25 budget, and toured the plant. Director Santana thanked the Staff for the tour.

## **10. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS**

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President Canero informed the Board of the CSDA Legislative Days in Sacramento on May 21-22, 2024. She also reminded the Board to send their bios to the Clerk of the Board by April 11, 2024. Director Santana informed the Board that he will be in San Diego from April 14 to 17, 2024, for the Special District Leadership Academy.

## **11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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The Turning of the Valve Ribbon Cutting is May 3, 2024, for any interested Directors.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be on April 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board  
Valley Sanitary District