

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2023**

A meeting of the Valley Sanitary District (VSD) Community Engagement Committee was held at 45-500 Van Buren Street in Indio, California, on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee member Duran called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:
Committee Member Mike Duran

Directors Absent:
Chairperson Scott Sear

Staff Present:
Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager; and Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Please notify the Secretary before the meeting if you wish to speak on a non-hearing item.
None.

5. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Approve Minutes for March 21, 2023, Community Engagement Committee

Item postponed until next meeting.

5.2 Future Community Engagement Committee Topics of Discussion

Committee member Duran and Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager, discussed the 100-year celebration of the District that takes place in 2025. They discussed different ideas for events, narrowing down a date, venue, budget, theme, guest list, invitations, whether to hire an event planner and the possible need for an ad-hoc committee. Although the celebration is two years away, they feel it is essential to start planning now. They discussed hosting a more formal dinner event for community leaders and an open house allowing the public to see the plant and take tours. This item will be brought before the Board for discussion and direction.

The Committee also discussed contacting local schools as part of public outreach. Committee member Duran suggested attending a school board meeting and offering school tours or in-class presentations about the District and what it's like to work in wastewater. The Committee also discussed producing a promotional presentation type video that can be used to show the public what the District does and the projects that are going on. It is recommended that we seek the help of a public engagement consultant in creating the presentation. Updates to the presentation can be done mostly in-house. Lastly, the Committee discussed the announcement of the new General Manager. They discussed a press release, meet and greet, and posting on social media. Committee member Duran suggested waiting to find out if the new General Manager would be comfortable with a meet and greet and to see what they prefer. Ron stated to at least post a bio of the new General Manager on the District website.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS – None

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m. The next regular committee meeting will be on July 18, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board
Valley Sanitary District