

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
October 5, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Valley Sanitary District (VSD) Operations Committee was held at Valley Sanitary District, 45-500 Van Buren St, Indio, CA, on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ron Buchwald called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**1.1 Roll Call**

Committee Members Present:

Ron Buchwald, Chair

Debra Canero, Director

William Teague, Director

Staff Present:

Beverli Marshall, General Manager, Anna Bell, Facility Operations Manager, and Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*This is the time set aside for public comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Please notify the Secretary in advance of the meeting if you wish to speak on a non-hearing item.*

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None.

**3. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**3.1 Project Update: EVRA Recycled Water Injection Project**

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Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager, stated that staff has determined that surface spreading of recycled water on VSD treatment plant property will not work due to thick layers of clay that will prevent the water from reaching the lower aquifer. They have also determined that an ancient fault on or near VSD property along the storm channel should not affect the ability to inject recycled water to the lower aquifer. Staff has met with the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water, and the Regional Board regarding the next steps that will be required to eventually be permitted to inject recycled water into the lower aquifer. Some of the key next steps will be to perform a groundwater flow model to determine the amount of time it takes for injected water to travel over a preset period. This will be used to determine if groundwater wells that are downstream of VSD's plant will be affected by the injection of recycled water. Also required will be to complete the State Board's 1211 application process. This application will be used to determine the amount of VSD's secondary effluent water that can be diverted from the storm channel and be used to create recycled water. This application will be evaluated based on both the environmental factors within the channel as well as the needs of the downstream stakeholders of the storm channel including

Tribal representatives and the Salton Sea supporters. The 1211 application generally takes about a year to complete and is generally approved if all stakeholders are satisfied that the recycled water project will not affect their needs or environmental concerns. Lastly, a Technical Advisory Consultant will be needed to strategize and guide the recycled water project forward, to develop a confident message that this project will not affect stakeholders adversely, and to help develop a consistent message that this project will be valuable to all stakeholders including VSD & Indio Water Authority (IWA) customers. Staff of both IWA and VSD are planning to move forward with these key steps soon. The date of the next EVRA Board meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2021. Due to staffing changes at IWA, VSD staff may need to increase their workload for the project until IWA becomes fully staffed. This would include soliciting and hiring consulting firms directly with VSD Board approval and being reimbursed by EVRA/IWA at some point down the road. This idea will be discussed further during the Operations Committee meeting.

### 3.2 Discuss Hiring a Project Specific Engineer or Additional Consulting Engineering Firms to Help with CIP Projects

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Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager, explained that the District has several, significant CIP projects that are in the process of design and will be heading towards construction in the next 3 to 6 months. Delaying any of the projects will only prove to be more costly in the future. Currently, VSD has one civil engineer and one assistant engineer on staff to review, coordinate and guide consultants or design-build teams on these projects. VSD staff from other departments including Operations, Maintenance, Collections, and Development Services have stepped up to assisted with these projects but there is a need for further engineering review and guidance. Staff is recommending exploring a couple of options to provide engineering help. The second option would be to hire consulting firms that would provide a dedicated engineer to assist VSD staff with CIP projects. The cost of hiring a project engineer or consultant would be added to the cost of the CIP project and built into the project budget. The committee recommended that staff go out for RFP to see what is out there in terms of consulting firms and bring this item back to the Operations Committee with more information.

## 4. FUTURE MEETING ITEMS

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An update on the Collection System Rehabilitation Project including the lift station rehabilitation. Update on the new on-call schedule for the Collections Department. Presentation on the different types of sampling done at the District.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next regular committee meeting will be held on December 7, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board  
Valley Sanitary District