VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2022

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, February 1, 2022.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson William Teague called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Committee Members Present:
Chairperson William Teague
Committee Member Mike Duran

Staff Present:
Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager, Dave Commons, Facility Operations Manager, and Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board

Guests Present:
Valerie Houchin, Schneider Electric

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.

None.

3. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

3.1 Facility Process Control Modification to Consistently Remove Ammonia and Total Nitrogen

Dave Commons, Facility Operations Supervisor, stated that in April 2020, the State of California Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board as part of Board Order R7-2020-007 required the VSD to complete an Ammonia technical study within 18-months to evaluate the ability of VSD's treatment facility to reduce ammonia discharges into the Coachella Valley Whitewater Storm Water Channel. He explained that usually when the Regional Board requires such a technical study, pending or potential effluent discharge requirement modifications to the plant's NPDES permit are looming. Since the completion of the Ammonia Study, the Staff wanted to evaluate possible process modifications that could be implemented with minimal costs, that would enhance the ability of the current activated sludge facility to remove ammonia and total nitrogen from the effluent. One of the District's four (4) aeration basins has been modified into a process pilot project. Process modifications will be made to that

one basin to determine which process modifications will achieve the most nutrient removal for the minimum cost. This will allow process modifications to be made without impacting the entire plant. The committee discussed the step feed process and how it works.

3.2 Project Update: Recycled Water Project - Phase 1 Design Alternative

Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager, stated that during the 30% design phase, VSD staff worked with the design-build team on key design components. Once the components were selected by operations staff, the design-build team provided the engineering design and specifications to ensure they would fit within our plant. One specific component was the sludge thickening of the primary waste before entering the digester. There were three (3) primary types of waste thickeners presented to VSD staff: gravity belt thickeners (GBT), rotary drum thickeners (RDT), and dissolved air floatation thickeners (DAFT). The design-build team selected the DAFT system. Operations staff had little to no experience with DAFT units, but they researched other public agencies that had these units, found that they worked well, and selected the unit type that made the most sense for VSD. The 30% design phase was completed in June 2021 utilizing the DAFT system. In November of 2021, VSD hired Dave Commons, Facility Operations Manager. Dave's has vast experience in the sewer treatment industry, including sewer treatment plant design. In Dave's review of the design reports and drawings, he noticed that a DAFT system was selected for the sludge thickening. Dave has substantial experience with each of the three (3) primary devices. He was not in favor of the DAFT unit because it represented an older technology, lower operational efficiency, and maintenance difficulties. After careful consideration, management staff recommended that the team revisit this design component and consider the rotary drum thickener option. The design of the DAFT unit is complete and is available as an option. The design alternative pricing for the RDT is near complete and will be ready to proceed with approval. If the design alternative is accepted, the fiscal impact of this change is estimated at $387,497.

3.3 Review and Discussion of the Draft Fiscal year 2023 (FY23) Capital Improvement Projects and Ranking Lists

Staff has prepared a draft list of projects to be included in the District's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY23. The list consists of the Reclaimed Water Phase 1 treatment upgrade project, Influent Pump Station Rehabilitation Project, Collection System Sewer Main Rehabilitation and Replacement Program, and several other needed projects. Staff will discuss some of the smaller or older projects on the list. Staff also developed a ranking system to prioritize the top five (5), large CIP projects for staff to concentrate on the highest scoring projects. The top five (5) projects are Recycled Water Phase 1, Westward Ho Sewer Siphon, Influent Pump Station Rehabilitation Project, New Office & Lab Buildings, and Collection System Sewer Main Rehabilitation and Replacement Program.

4. FUTURE MEETING ITEMS

Staff will develop a presentation on the design-build process and how it works.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m. The next regular committee meeting will be held on April 5, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board
Valley Sanitary District