

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
June 7, 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, June 7, 2022.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ron Buchwald called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Committee Members Present:
Committee Member Mike Duran

Staff Present:
Beverli Marshall, General Manager; Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager;
James Mills, Operations Supervisor; 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.

None.

3. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

3.1 Process Modification for Ammonia Removal Pilot Project Phase 2

James Mills, Operations Supervisor, stated that in 2020, the State of California Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board required the District to complete within 18-months an Ammonia Technical Study. The study was to evaluate the ability of the treatment facility to reduce ammonia discharges into the Coachella Valley Whitewater Storm Water Channel. Phase 1 of the Ammonia Pilot Project demonstrated that the current plant could be modified to remove ammonia from the plant effluent. Staff was able to achieve plant effluent ammonia requirements frequently below 2.0 mg/L. Since the completion of Phase 1, the District wanted to evaluate additional process modifications that would provide consistent, reliable nitrification/denitrification with effluent ammonia levels below 2.0 mg/l or less. During this phase of the project, Aeration Basin No. 4 will be modified into a Single Sludge, Pre-Anoxic process configuration (Modified Ludzak-Ettinger configuration). This requires constructing a temporary internal nitrate recycle pipeline from the backend end of the aeration basin to the front of the anoxic selector in Basin No. 4. This is being done by repurposing facility equipment and using temporary plastic pipe. Phase 2 of the pilot study is committed to developing consistent, reliable nitrification/denitrification with effluent ammonia levels below 2.0 mg/L or less. Director Duran inquired what the future costs could be if this process proves successful. James stated that it would involve modifying each aeration basin with a pump and piping. He also noted that this has been a great team effort from everyone in the Operations Department.

3.2 Project Update: Influent Pump Station Rehabilitation Project

The District awarded the Design/Build project to Downing Construction and Dudek Engineering. The initial project consisted of installing a sewer main by-pass to thoroughly inspect the influent pump station to determine the necessary repairs. The design and construction estimate was completed with a Guaranteed Maximum Price set at \$2,921,971. The final award by the Board was approved on April 26, 2022. Downing / Dudek is in the process of acquiring the materials to install the sewer main by-pass around the pump station. Ron Buchwald, Engineering Services Manager, stated that the bonds and insurance had been submitted, and the shop drawings are under engineering review. The project is running about a month behind schedule. The sewer main by-pass is expected to be installed in June and continuously active for about six months. The project is estimated to be completed by the end of January 2023.

3.3 Lift Station Condition Assessment Report Review

In February 2022, Harris & Associates (Harris), along with two subconsultants, performed a full inspection of each of the District's four lift stations. Overall, the condition assessment did not find any issues that required immediate action to prevent imminent structural or critical equipment failure. The lift stations are generally in moderate to good working condition. The significant recommendations across the four lift stations involve new wet well linings, mechanical coatings, and upgrading outdated electrical equipment. The recommended improvements are based on deteriorating asset conditions, outdated equipment with increased failure and safety risk, and assets nearing their useful life. Even though the four lift stations are in moderate to good condition, there are several recommended repairs to be made to each lift station over the next 2 to 5 years. Calhoun lift station had the highest priority, followed by Carver and Barrymore lift stations in second place, and then Vandenburg lift station with the lowest priority. Harris is also looking at relocating the Carver lift station from the roadway to an adjacent parcel as part of a second report. A discussion took place on the relocation of the Carver lift station. Beverli Marshall, General Manager, stated that she would reach out to the Board of Supervisors to let them know that this is an area of interest and the benefit that the Carver lifter station would provide to the community. Staff will also reach out to a real estate professional to get more information on the parcels of interest.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next regular committee meeting will be held on August 2, 2022.

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