

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
August 2, 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, August 2, 2022.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ron Buchwald called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Chairperson William Teague

Committee Member Mike Duran (arrived at 1:21 p.m.)

Staff Present:

Beverli Marshall, Ron Buchwald, Dave Commons, Jeanette Juarez, Branden Rodriguez, Anna Bell, Ivan Monroy, and Tito Moreno

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 Approve Minutes for June 7, 2022, Regular Committee Meeting

Chairperson William Teague motioned to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022, Operations Committee Regular Meeting. Committee member Mike Duran seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3.2 Discuss Public-Private Partnership Options for Biosolids Management and Provide Feedback

Beverli Marshall, General Manager, and Dave Commons, Chief Operations Officer, gave a presentation on the options for biosolids management. There are generally four acceptable methods for disposal of this byproduct: land applications where biosolids are hauled to another site and prepared for use on allowable crops as soil conditioners (the District's current disposal method), incineration, which California no longer allows this except for a small number of agencies that have been grandfathered in for this method, landfilling which is going extinct in California due to zero waste goals, and surface disposal which is permanent stockpiling of biosolids if no identifiable use. Historically, the most widely used means for disposal of this byproduct is land application as soil conditioners or fertilizer for crops. Currently, the District hires a hauler to take the biosolids to Arizona, where it is applied on crops identified as being able to accept it for this purpose. This option is becoming more difficult because of zero waste

goals and more stringent regulatory issues in California and Arizona. For Budget year FY 2023, VSD budgeted \$200,000 for hauling dewatered biosolids to Arizona. Recent technological advances have created other markets for this product. Biochar is a carbon-based product that can be used as an additive; liquid fertilizer is an easily applied, low-cost fertilizer and can be used as a sustainable construction material for sustainable bricks and concrete. The next step is to select the end product and technology, identify the private partnership, and find funding for the project. Chairperson Teague recommended holding a special board meeting to discuss options and possibly having the consultants attend to discuss their programs.

3.3 Discuss the Updated Guidance Documents Sewer Use Ordinance (SUO), Enforcement Response Plan (ERP), and Local Limits, and Provide Feedback

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requires updates to the District's guidance documents to maintain an informal pretreatment program. The updates should occur at least every ten years to remain current with changes in permit requirements, regulatory changes, and industry best practices. Ivan Monroy, Environmental Compliance Technician II, presented a PowerPoint to the committee to explain the updates to the Sewer Use Ordinance, Enforcement Response Plan, and the Local Limits. The District has consulted with EOA, Inc. to assist with updating these documents. EOA, Inc. is the consultant the District used to assist in the 2020 NPDES permit renewal. The District has worked with EOA, Inc. to make the recommended non-substantial modification updates. The proposed updates are based on past pretreatment compliance inspections and audits by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements from the 2020 permit update. The draft document was sent to legal counsel for review and approval, incorporating their recommendations. Staff will bring this item to the full Board with a redlined comparison so the Board can see the updates.

3.4 Discuss the Purchase of a Combination Cleaning Truck for the District and Provide Feedback

VSD has two combination cleaning trucks, one primary cleaning truck and the other as a backup, used approximately once a week. The primary cleaning truck is a 2014 Vactor truck made by Haaker and is eight years old. The backup is a 2003 International truck and has experienced recurring maintenance issues from the start. Due to its age, it is becoming more difficult to find parts for this unit. The purpose of having a backup truck is to allow service to the primary truck. Earlier this Spring, when the 2014 truck needed service, the 2003 truck also failed and required service. Both trucks were out for about two months due to back-ordered or hard-to-find parts and the availability of service technicians. The only solution was to rent a combination cleaning truck at a high cost that was not budgeted. Combination cleaning trucks generally have a 10-year life cycle. Purchasing a new combination cleaning truck will allow the 2014 truck to become the backup, and the 2003 truck will be sold. The proceeds will partially offset the cost of the new truck. Staff has solicited information from various manufacturers of combination cleaning units, including combination units that are recyclers. Recycler units have been modified to use the water from sewer mains as the water source for jetting sewer mains, which saves money (domestic water charges) and staff time to fill water tanks on the units. The Recycler units are generally more expensive up front, but the savings from water charges and staff time will offset some of this expense. Recycler units will likely require more maintenance due to extra parts needed to allow usage of the sewer water. Recycler units also require staff to drive the trucks with the debris tank at least half full of water, whereas the traditional trucks are conducted with an empty debris tank. To date, staff has had two demonstrations of a recycler unit by two different manufacturers, Kaiser Premier and Vacall. Staff is working with these manufacturers' representatives to obtain quotes for the recycling trucks. Staff has also requested quotes from

traditional truck manufacturers like Haaker. Staff has been very satisfied with the Haaker Vactor unit currently in use. The plan is to present quotes for recycling and non-recycling trucks to allow a comparison of costs and operations. Staff also requests that the manufacturer or vendor use State or Federal procurement sites that satisfy the formal bidding process. This will help secure the lowest possible price for either type purchased. Once all the quotes have been acquired, staff will provide them to the Board with a recommendation and justification.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m. The next regular committee meeting will be held on October 4, 2022.

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