



Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 1:00 PM  
Valley Sanitary District Board Room  
45500 Van Buren St., Indio, CA 92201

---

**OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
AGENDA**

Valley Sanitary District is open to the public and board meetings will be conducted in person. In addition to attending in person, members of the public may view and participate in meeting via the following:

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81822993502>

Meeting ID: 818 2299 3502

To address the Board of Directors during the virtual live session via zoom, please email the Clerk of the Board at [hgould@valley-sanitary.org](mailto:hgould@valley-sanitary.org) or, alternatively, during the specific agenda item or general comment period (i.e. non-agenda items), please use the "raise your hand" function in zoom in order to be recognized by the Clerk of the Board in order to provide comments in real time.

The Clerk of the Board will facilitate to the extent possible any email requests to provide oral testimony that are sent during the live meeting. Members of the public may provide Oral testimony in person or during the virtual live session and are limited to three minutes each. To address the Board in person please complete speaker request card located at in the Board Room and give it to the Clerk of the Board.

If you are unable to provide comments during the meeting, written public comments on agenda or non-agenda items may be submitted by email to the Clerk of the Board at [hgould@valley-sanitary.org](mailto:hgould@valley-sanitary.org). Written comments must be received by the Clerk of the Board no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS
- 5.1 [Approve Minutes for the April 4, 2023, Operations Committee](#)

Recommendation: Approve

5.2 [Discuss Valley Sanitary District's Current and Future Plans for Biosolids](#)

Recommendation: Discuss

5.3 [Discuss Update on Capital Improvement Projects and Schedule](#)

Recommendation: Discuss

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*POSTED June 1, 2023  
Holly Gould  
Clerk of the Board  
Valley Sanitary District*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, access to the Board Room and Public Restrooms has been made. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Valley Sanitary District (760) 235-5400. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA TITLE II). All public records related to open session items contained on this Agenda are available upon request at the Administrative Office of Valley Sanitary District located at 45-500 Van Buren Street, Indio, CA 92201. Copies of public records are subject to fees and charges for reproduction.



**Valley Sanitary District**

**DATE:** June 6, 2023  
**TO:** Operations Committee  
**FROM:** Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Approve Minutes for the April 4, 2023, Operations Committee

---

**Suggested Action**

Approve

**Strategic Plan Compliance**

GOAL 6: Improve Planning, Administration and Governance

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact from this item.

**Environmental Review**

This item does not qualify as a project for the purposes of CEQA.

**Background**

The minutes from the April 4, 2023, Operations Committee meeting are presented for review and approval.

**Recommendation**

Approve the minutes from the April 4, 2023, Operations Committee meeting.

**Attachments**

[4 Apr 2023 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

April 4, 2023

A meeting of the Valley Sanitary District (VSD) Operations Committee was held at 45-500 Van Buren Street in Indio, California, on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Directors Present:

Committee Member Jacky Barnum

Committee Member William Teague

Staff Present:

Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager, and Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*This is the time set aside for public comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. 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 the February 7, 2023, Operations Committee

---

Committee member Teague motioned to approve the minutes of the Operations Committee held on February 7, 2023. Chairperson Barnum seconded the motion.

5.2 Discuss Update on Capital Improvement Projects and Schedule

---

Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager, gave an update on the Capital Improvement Projects. The sewer main bypass for the Influent Pump Station Rehabilitation Project is set to operate through the second week of April 2023. The project should be completed by the end of the month. The Indio Downtown District Sewer Improvement Project was awarded to GRBCON, Inc. Preliminary cleaning and CCTV of the sewer mains are underway. The rehabilitation of the sewer mains will begin the first week of April. The Recycled Water Project

– Phase 1 is under construction. The contractor is installing a 12” PDR pipe from the North Pond Cell to the Headworks. The backfilling, compaction, and shoring for the installation of the new digester is complete. The anticipated completion date for this project is May 2025. The ASP Plant Watermain Replacement Project – Phase 2 was awarded to the Van Dyke Corporation in March 2023. The bonds and insurance documents have been received, and staff is scheduling a preconstruction meeting that will include Dudek, who will assist and provide inspection during the project. Lastly, the Westward Ho Sewer Siphon Replacement Project is on hold. Staff is waiting for the final review from FEMA. The review was expected in February 2023. The project cannot move forward without it.

### 5.3 Operations Committee Tour of the Plant to Provide an Update on Two Construction Projects

---

Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager, conducted a tour of the Capital Improvement Projects occurring onsite at the treatment plant. The Operations Committee saw the progress of the Influent Pump Station Rehabilitation Project and the Recycled Water Project – Phase 1.

## 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m. The next regular committee meeting will be on June 6, 2023.

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



## Valley Sanitary District

**DATE:** June 6, 2023  
**TO:** Operations Committee  
**FROM:** Dave Commons  
**SUBJECT:** Discuss Valley Sanitary District's Current and Future Plans for Biosolids

---

### **Suggested Action**

Discuss

### **Strategic Plan Compliance**

GOAL 3: Excellent Facilities

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact from this report.

### **Environmental Review**

This is not a project as defined by CEQA. If the Lystek project moves forward beyond the feasibility study, CEQA will be required to be processed before construction can begin.

### **Background**

There are two Biosolids updates that Staff wishes to discuss with the committee. First, Staff has received the signed Professional Service Agreement for Biosolids Hauling and Disposal Services from Synagro West on May 26, 2023. The Interim General Manager was authorized by the Board of Directors on May 23, 2023, to sign the contact agreement for a sum over three-years not to exceed \$1.2 million which would go into effect on July 1, 2023. Secondly, Staff had its second meeting with Lystek for the preparation of the feasibility study for the advanced management of our treatment plant biosolids disposal as a certified liquid fertilizer. We have been working with Lystek to finalize the Feasibility Report and are expecting the report by early June.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Operations Committee review and discuss the report.



**Valley Sanitary District**

**DATE:** June 6, 2023  
**TO:** Operations Committee  
**FROM:** Ron Buchwald, District Engineer  
**SUBJECT:** Discuss Update on Capital Improvement Projects and Schedule

---

**Suggested Action**

Discuss

**Strategic Plan Compliance**

GOAL 3: Excellent Facilities

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact from this report.

**Environmental Review**

The capital improvement projects discussed in this report have been through the CEQA environmental review process.

**Background**

Staff would like to discuss construction updates on four CIP projects. The Influent Pump Station (IPS) project is nearly complete with the Influent Pump Station already in service. The by-pass has been removed and the Contractor has demobilized. The only remaining item on this project is the installation and activation of Pump #3 of the IPS. Pump #3 was a jockey pump originally designed for low flows. However, the jockey pump rarely worked effectively and was taken out of service over a decade ago. The current IPS project upgraded Pump #3 to a full service pump at the same size of the other 5 pumps. A new pump was purchased as part of the project. When the contractor tested the new pump connected to VSD's electrical equipment, it kept failing. After several tests, it was determined that the existing Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) was defective most likely due to being out of service for so long. The contractor was able to find a replacement VFD meeting the project specifications. The Interim General Manager requested from the Board President, approval to purchase and install the VFD as part of a change order to the project for an amount not to exceed \$22,391.65. This request was made with urgency in order to procure the VFD on a timely basis and not have to wait until an upcoming Board meeting.

The Recycled Water Project - Phase 1 is moving forward with increasing speed. Several phases of the project is in construction concurrently. The contractor will begin installing pipes and the initial foundation on the new Digester. The foundation for the new vortex grit chamber is nearing completion and concrete pads for the ferric chloride building and new pump station have been poured. This project continues to move forward with few challenges. Weekly progress meetings with the Schneider Electric team is helping keep everyone on the same page and project moving smoothly.

The Indio Downtown Sewer Improvement Project is about 50% complete. There has been a little slow down in the project with scheduling issues. The next phase of the project will entail trenching work to replace several old sewer mains that were not able to be rehabilitated with cured in place piping. Construction work on the replacement portion should begin in July.

Lastly, the A.S.P. Plant Watermain Replacement Project - Phase 2 is set to begin the week of June 12. This project was awarded to the Van Dyke Corporation. The contractor has been busy with vendor submittals required on the project. This project should take about 2 months to complete.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Operations Committee review and discuss the report.