



Tuesday, April 4, 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/81420391698>

Meeting ID: 814 2039 1698

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 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. 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 February 7, 2023, Operations Committee](#)

Recommendation: Approve

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

Recommendation: Discuss

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

Recommendation: Discuss

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

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: April 4, 2023
TO: Operations Committee
FROM: Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager
SUBJECT: Approve Minutes for the February 7, 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 February 7, 2023, Operations Committee meeting are presented for review and approval.

Recommendation

Approve the minutes from the February 7, 2023, Operations Committee meeting.

Attachments

[07 Feb 2023 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**
February 7, 2023

A meeting of the Valley Sanitary District (VSD) Operations Committee was held at 45-500 Van Buren Street in Indio, California, on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ron Buchwald, District Engineer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:
Committee Member Jacky Barnum
Committee Member William Teague

Staff Present:
Ron Buchwald, District Engineer, Dave Commons, Chief Operations Officer, 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 in advance of the meeting if you wish to speak on a non-hearing item.

None.

5. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Select Committee Chairperson

Committee Member William Teague nominated Director Jacky Barnum as the Operations Committee Chairperson for 2023

5.2 Approve Minutes for the December 6, 2022, Operations Committee

Committee member Teague motioned to approve the minutes of the Operations Committee held on December 6, 2022. Chairperson Barnum seconded the motion.

5.3 Recycled Water Project – Phase 1 Energy Conservation Measure (ECM) #3 – Waste Activated Sludge Thickening Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)

Recycled Water Project – Phase I consists of six scopes of work that include Waste Activated Sludge (WAS) Thickening. On February 8, 2022, the Board of Directors authorized to proceed with the design alternative for the WAS Thickening (ECM #3) and pursue Rotary Screw Thickening technology. Due to the change in design, the WAS Thickening scope of work was not included in Amendment #1 for \$71M. The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for ECM #3 is \$10.37M which includes the design, construction, and funding coordination. The GMP for ECM #3 was included in the FY 2022/23 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. Ron Buchwald, District Engineer explained that in order to pay for this project, Staff is requesting to seek financing options to present to the Board for approval, which would require a sewer rate increase above what was previously adopted in order to meet the debt coverage requirements. With no guarantee that a proposed rate increase will be approved and adopted, and the need to include this ECM as part of the overall Recycled Water Project - Phase I, the backup plan proposed by staff would be to delay other CIP projects (specifically the Collection System Rehabilitation and Replacement Project) unless and until a rate increase is adopted. Valerie Houchin, Schneider Electric, gave an update to the Committee on the progress of the design of the rotary screw thickeners and the project timeline.

5.4 Discuss Possible Process Control Modifications to Remove Ammonia and Total Nitrogen if Required by a California State Water Resources Control Board NPDES Permit Revision

Dave Commons, Chief Operation Officers, gave a presentation on the results of the Ammonia Technical Study that was required by the State of California Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board in April, 2020, as part of the plant's NPDES permit Board Order R7-2020-007. The purpose of this technical study was to evaluate the ability of VSD's wastewater treatment facility to reduce ammonia discharges into the Coachella Valley Whitewater Storm Water Channel. The results of the 18-month technical study demonstrated that there was a reduction in the ammonia concentration in the plant effluent discharge to the receiving waters. The ammonia trends data averages from the study indicated that the plant's influent flow entering the treatment facility averaged 56 mg/L of ammonia. After primary and secondary treatment, the effluent ammonia concentration averaged 3.9 mg/L. In November 2021, staff evaluated additional treatment modifications that could be made with a minimum of cost that would provide consistent, reliable, nitrification/ denitrification with effluent ammonia concentrations averaging levels below 2.0 mg/L or less. Phase 1 of the pilot study required one of the plant's four aeration basins to be modified into different process control treatment processes. Basin No. 4 was chosen as the test basin for the pilot study. This allowed different process modifications to be made without impacting the entire activated sludge process. The first process modification to be evaluated was to use the Step Feed process control configuration. This was the simplest modification to be made which only required diverting the influent flow to different anoxic and aerobic zones in the aeration basin. Phase 1 did not significantly lower the effluent ammonia concentration limits to 2.0 mg/L or below and most likely failed because baffles were not installed between the various anoxic and aerobic zones in the aeration basins. Phase 2 changed the process control process to the Single Sludge,

Pre-Anoxic process configuration (Modified Ludzak-Ettinger configuration). This required constructing a temporary internal high nitrate pipeline from the backend of the aeration basin to the front of the anoxic selector of Basin No. 4. This was done by repurposing facility surplus equipment and using temporary plastic pipe to do this job. During this phase, Basin No. 3 was also set up to serve as the test control for the pilot study. Phase 2 was successful in developing consistent, reliable, nitrification/ denitrification with effluent ammonia levels averaging below 2.0 mg/L. The future design of Phase 3 will evaluate the Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) configuration. The MBR was not physically evaluated because of the considerable cost of the MBR modules. Evaluation of other facilities using MBRs proves that it would be an excellent option.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m. The next regular committee meeting will be on April 4, 2023.

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



Valley Sanitary District

DATE: April 4, 2023
TO: Operations Committee
FROM: Ron Buchwald, PE
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

VSD has three projects in various stages of construction: the Influent Pump Station Rehabilitation, Indio Downtown District Sewer Improvement Project, and the Recycled Water Project – Phase 1. A fourth project, the A.S.P. Plant Watermain Replacement Project - Phase 2 is about to begin construction. A fifth project, the Westward Ho Sewer Siphon Replacement project is awaiting review by FEMA who is providing funding for this project.

The sewer main by-pass of the influent pump station is in operation and is set to operate through the second week of April 2023. Work within the pump station began on November 15, 2022. The contractor is currently installing the new piping and valves inside and outside the pump station. Work is nearing completion and should be completed before the end of April. There have been a few setbacks and minimal additional costs. Overall, this project has been a success.

The Indio Downtown District Sewer Improvement Project was awarded to GRBCON Incorporated. The

contractor is currently performing preliminary cleaning and CCTV of the sewer mains that will be rehabilitated as part of this project. The contractor has gotten approval from the City of Indio to perform non-invasive work during the festival month of April. They will start work rehabilitating sewer mains during the first week of April.

The Recycled Water Project - Phase 1 is currently under construction. The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) has been approved by the Board and the contractor has fully mobilized on site with office trailers, equipment, and construction materials. The contractor is currently installing a 12" PDR pipe which will connect from the North Pond cell to the headworks area. The contractor has also backfilled, compacted, and driven shoring in the area adjacent to the existing digester for installation of a new digester. Construction of the project is anticipated to be completed by May 2025. Staff will be requesting Board approval to perform and budget adjustment (moving funds from one fund to another) as well as a budget amendment (increasing the CIP budget) for this fiscal year at the upcoming Board meeting.

The A.S.P. Plant Watermain Replacement Project - Phase 2 was awarded to the Van Dyke Corporation in March of 2023. The contractor has supplied all of the necessary bonds and insurance documents and staff is currently scheduling the preconstruction meeting with the contractor as well as Dudek who will be providing assistance and inspection during construction.

The Westward Ho Sewer Siphon Replacement project is currently on hold. Staff is waiting on final review from FEMA, which will include their environmental review of this project. FEMA's review was expected in February 2023, according to CalOES. Staff has inquired with CalOES and they are unable to provide any additional information on when FEMA's review will be completed. This project cannot move forward without this final review and clearance, which may come with additional requirements to complete before moving forward to construction.

Recommendation

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



Valley Sanitary District

DATE: April 4, 2023
TO: Operations Committee
FROM: Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager
SUBJECT: Operations Committee Tour of the Plant to Provide an Update on Two Construction Projects

Suggested Action

Discuss

Strategic Plan Compliance

GOAL 3: Excellent Facilities

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact with this item.

Environmental Review

This is not a project requiring CEQA review.

Background

The Influent Pump Station Rehabilitation Project is nearing completion. The Recycled Water Project - Phase 1 has been in construction for about 3 months. Staff would like to provide the Committee a tour of both projects to provide an insightful view into the progress of both projects.

Recommendation

To review and discuss the progress of the Influent Pump Station Project and the Recycled Water Project - Phase 1.