



Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 1:00 PM
Valley Sanitary District Board Room
45500 Van Buren St., Indio, CA 92201

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
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/82975508591>

Meeting ID: 829 7550 8591

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 March 21, 2023, Community Engagement Committee](#)

Recommendation: Approve

5.2 [Future Community Engagement Topics of Discussion](#)

Recommendation: Discussion

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

POSTED May 11, 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: May 16, 2023
TO: Community Engagement Committee
FROM: Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager
SUBJECT: Approve Minutes for the March 21, 2023, Community Engagement 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 March 21, 2023, Community Engagement Committee meeting are presented for review and approval.

Recommendation

Approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023, Community Engagement Committee meeting.

Attachments

[21 Mar 2023 Meeting Minutes.edited.doc](#)

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 21, 2023

A meeting of the Valley Sanitary District (VSD) Community Engagement Committee was held at 45-500 Van Buren Street in Indio, California, on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Member Scott Sear called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

Chairperson Scott Sear

Committee Member Mike Duran

Staff Present:

Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager; Holly Gould, Clerk of the Board; Jeanette Juarez, Chief Administrative Officer; and Dave Commons, Chief Operations Officer

Guest Present:

Gloria Franz, Coachella Valley History Museum

Andres Coronal, Desert Recreation Foundation

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

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 January 17, 2023, Community Engagement Committee

Committee member Duran motioned to approve the minutes of the Community Engagement Committee held on January 17, 2023. Chairperson Sear seconded the motion.

5.2 Discuss Talking Points for Visit to Sacramento to Meet with State Legislatures

On March 22, 2023, President Canero, Secretary/Treasurer Sear, and Dave Commons, Chief Operations Officer, will be meeting with representatives from Townsend Public Affairs and State legislators in Sacramento, CA, to advocate for two of the Districts' upcoming projects,

the Recycled Water Project and the Lystek Biosolids Conversion Project. The Committee reviewed the itinerary and the brochures that will be handed out during the meetings.

5.3 Discuss Proposition 218 Notice and Additional Opportunities to Educate Ratepayers of Proposed Rate Changes

Staff requested guidance from the Committee regarding public outreach for the rate study, proposed rates, Proposition 218 notices, and upcoming public hearings. The Committee discussed doing the marketing and outreach in-house versus hiring a consultant. The Committee directed staff to create a scope of work for a special outreach project and obtain quotes from marketing consultants. This item will be presented to the board on March 28, 2023. Chairperson Sear recommended holding a special board meeting in the evening to make it more accessible to the public that works during the day.

5.4 Presentation by Coachella Valley History Museum

Gloria Franz of the Coachella Valley History Museum gave an update on the installation of the VSD exhibit. Gloria stated that additional signage needed for the exhibit would be completed this week. She also suggested that the District provide rack cards instead of a letter-size handout. The exhibit will be added to the docent tour and handbook, and she would like to do a practice run with Staff and the Board before the exhibit goes live.

5.5 Presentation by Desert Recreation Foundation

Andres Coronal of the Desert Recreation Foundation gave an update on the Bowling Fundraiser. He stated that they implemented the "Muni Cup" for the team that takes first place and was able to get more local government to participate, with all lanes being spoken for. So far, the fundraiser has raised over \$15,000. Andres also informed the Committee of another sponsorship opportunity coming in May. The Dueling Pianos fundraiser will be held at the Coachella Valley History Museum. The Committee will bring this item before the entire board in April.

6. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS**

Chairperson Sear stated that he attended the grand opening of Congressman Calvert's Palm Desert office. He noted the event was fun and interesting. He suggested having a gift, such as a hat, mug, or umbrella, that can be given for these types of events. Chairperson Sear also stated that he attended an event with La Quinta Rotary and would like to set up a plant tour for some rotary members for the beginning of April.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next regular committee meeting will be on May 16, 2023.

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



Valley Sanitary District

DATE: May 16, 2023
TO: Community Engagement Committee
FROM: Ron Buchwald, Interim General Manager
SUBJECT: Future Community Engagement Topics of Discussion

Suggested Action

Discussion

Strategic Plan Compliance

GOAL 4: Increase Community Understanding and Support

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact with this report.

Environmental Review

This is not a project as defined by CEQA. No further action is required.

Background

It has been requested by the Community Engagement Committee members to discuss the following future community engagement items and provide direction to staff:

1. Planning and preparation for the 100-year celebration of Valley Sanitary District (VSD).
2. Contact local schools about providing public outreach and educational materials about VSD.
3. Explore the needed efforts and determine the cost of producing an educational video on VSD and their projects.
4. Determine ways for VSD to announce the hiring of a new General Manager, including a press release, a public meet and greet, and writing a general manager resume to post on social media.

Recommendation

Discuss and provide direction to staff.