

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, AUGUST 12, 2024:**

*A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, August 12, 2024, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, California, in the Board Room of the District Office. President, Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*

**1) Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.**

At the request of President Mac Laren-Gomez, Director Dino led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor and memory of journalist Alisha Semchuck.

**2) Roll Call.**

**Attendance:**

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, President  
Scott Kellerman, Vice President  
Don Wilson, Treasurer  
Vincent Dino, Secretary  
Cynthia Sanchez, Assistant Secretary

**Others Present:**

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager  
Pam Lee, Assistant General Counsel  
Scott Rogers, Acting Asst. General Manager  
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Finance Manager  
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director  
Danielle Henry, Executive Assistant  
6 members of the public

**3) Adoption of Agenda.**

It was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to adopt the agenda, as written.

**4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.**

There were no public comments.

**5) Presentations:**

**5.1) Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication. (Tom Bunn, Lagerlof, LLP)**

President Mac Laren-Gomez stated that this item will be presented later this evening, and that Agenda Item No. 6 will now be considered to allow additional time for Mr. Tom Bunn to arrive.

**6) Action Items – Consent Calendar: (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item on the Consent Calendar as the Consent Calendar is Considered Collectively by the Board of Directors Prior to Action Being Taken.)**

**6.1) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held July 22, 2024.**

**6.2) Payment of Bills for August 12, 2024.**

**6.3) Ratification of CyberLock Equipment Purchase. (\$9,984.86 – Budgeted – Facilities Manager Wall)**

**6.4) Approval of Amendment No. 9 to General Manager Employment Agreement between Palmdale Water District and Dennis D. LaMoreaux dated July 30, 2015. (Budgeted – Budget Item No. 1-02-4000-000, Salaries – General Counsel Lee)**

President Mac Laren-Gomez announced the items included in the Consent Calendar after which General Counsel Lee requested that Agenda Item No. 6.4 be considered separately to allow for the required public report to be provided.

It was then moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Sanchez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve Agenda Items 6.1 through 6.3 in the Consent Calendar.

**6.4) Approval of Amendment No. 9 to General Manager Employment Agreement between Palmdale Water District and Dennis D. LaMoreaux dated July 30, 2015. (Budgeted – Budget Item No. 1-02-4000-000, Salaries – General Counsel Lee)**

General Counsel Lee provided an overview of Amendment No. 9 to the General Manager Employment Agreement, including the Board's satisfactory performance evaluation of General Manager LaMoreaux and the recommended cost of living and 5% merit increase, after which it was moved by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Kellerman, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve Amendment No. 9 to General Manager Employment Agreement Between Palmdale Water District and Dennis D. LaMoreaux dated July 30, 2015.

**7) Action Items - Action Calendar (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item as Each Item is Considered by the Board of Directors Prior to Action Being Taken.)**

**7.1) Discussion and Overview of 2024 Rate Study. (Finance Manager Hoffmeyer/RDN, Inc. Consultants)**

Finance Manager Hoffmeyer introduced Project Manager Anthony Elowsky, Economist Zachary Van Dinther, and Consultant Ichiko Kido, of RDN Consultants, after which Mr. Elowsky provided a detailed overview of the results of the 2024 Water Rate Study, including the review schedule, the current financial plan, the present and proposed rate structure, and the rate impacts followed by discussion of inflation, of future development and water supply, of grant opportunities, of the District's reserve and rate stabilization funds, of the minimum requirements for the WIFIA Loan, of rate increase comparisons, of District infrastructure investments, of drought surcharges, and of the importance of public outreach and education.

After further discussion of the proposed rate increases and the District's policy regarding established parameters for water rate adjustments, staff was directed to review and present potential alternatives for the Calendar Year (CY) 2026 rate increase after which the Board thanked RDN for the presentation.

President Mac Laren-Gomez then stated that Agenda Item No. 5 will now be presented due to the arrival of Mr. Tom Bunn.

**5) Presentations:**

**5.1) Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication. (Tom Bunn, Lagerlof, LLP)**

Mr. Tom Bunn, of Lagerlof, LLP, introduced himself as the attorney representing the District for the Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication (Adjudication) and then provided an overview of the Adjudication including the history of the litigation, the basin boundaries, the Judge, the Judgement and Physical Solution, the parties and classes of the Judgement, the water rights and native safe yield, and the Watermaster Board and Engineer followed by a brief discussion of the improved relationships among the parties, of voting requirements, and of other adjudicated basins and legislation.

The Board then thanked Mr. Bunn for attending the meeting and the information provided.

**7.2) Consideration and Possible Action on Setting Palmdale Water District's Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and Adoption of Resolution No. 24-8 Being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District**

**Establishing Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Finance Manager Hoffmeyer/Financial Advisor Egan)**

Finance Manager Hoffmeyer provided a detailed overview of the 2024-2025 assessment rates after which it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to set Palmdale Water District's assessments rates for fiscal year 2024-2025 at the rate of 0.178819 and adopt Resolution No. 24-8 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Establishing Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Resolution No. 24-8 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

**7.3) Consideration and Possible Action on Rescheduling the First Regular Board Meeting in November due to the Veteran's Day Holiday. (No Budget Impact – General Manager LaMoreaux)**

It was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Sanchez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to reschedule the first Regular Board Meeting in November to Tuesday, November 12 due to the Veteran's Day Holiday.

**7.4) Consideration and Possible Action on Authorizing Staff to Enter Into a Construction Contract with GRBCON, Inc. for the Avenue R and 27th Street Mainline Replacement. (\$390,826.00 – Budgeted – Project No. 22-604 – Engineering Manager Rogers)**

Engineering Manager/Acting Assistant General Manager Rogers provided an overview of this project and staff's recommendation to award the construction contract to GRBCON, Inc. after which it was moved by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Kellerman, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve authorization of staff to enter into a construction contract with GRBCON, Inc. for the Avenue R and 27th Street Mainline Replacement in the amount of \$390,826.00.

**7.5) Consideration and Possible Action on Amendment No. 2 to Professional Services Agreement with Hazen and Sawyer for the Design, Permitting, and Construction of the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project. (\$397,731.15 – Not-to-Exceed – Budgeted – Project No. 21-613 – Engineering Manager Rogers)**

Engineering Manager/Acting Assistant General Manager Rogers provided an overview of the additional scope of work in the proposed Amendment, including the removal of sand and debris from the existing railroad culvert at Sierra Highway, the preparation of a prescriptive easement for future access of the enclosed pipeline, and the preparation of an Incidental Take Permits (ITP) application and Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan due to the discovery of the Crotch's Bumble Bee presence and Short-Joint Beavertail Cactus during the biological survey, and after a brief discussion of the High Speed Rail alignment, it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Sanchez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve Amendment No. 2 to Professional Services Agreement with Hazen and Sawyer for the Design, Permitting, and Construction of the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project in the not-to-exceed amount of \$397,731.15.

**7.6) Consideration and Possible Action on Authorization of the Following Conferences, Seminars, and Training Sessions for Board and Staff Attendance Within Budget Amounts Previously Approved in the 2024 Budget:**

**a) OpenGov Transform 2024: Procurement Admin Certification to be held September 30 - October 2, 2024 in Arlington, TX.**

General Manager LaMoreaux provided a brief overview of this recommended training for staff after which it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve the following conferences, seminars, and training sessions for Board and staff attendance within budget amounts previously approved in the 2024 Budget: OpenGov Transform 2024: Procurement Admin Certification to be held September 30 - October 2, 2024 in Arlington, TX.

**8) Information Items:**

**8.1) Reports of Directors:**

**a) Standing Committees; Organization Appointments; Agency Liaisons:**

**1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) Meeting – July 23. (Director Dino, Board Liaison/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)**

Director Dino reported that on July 23, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting where they considered an easement to Golden Fields Solar IV for access and installation of power lines.

**2) Outreach Committee Meeting – July 24. (Director Dino, Chair/Director Sanchez/Director Wilson, Alt.)**

Director Dino reported that on July 24, he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting and that a written report will be distributed.

**3) Personnel Committee Meeting – August 6. (Director Kellerman, Chair/President Mac Laren-Gomez/Director Dino, Alt.)**

Director Kellerman reported that on August 6, he attended the Personnel Committee Meeting where they discussed reclassification of the Plant Operator III position to an Operations Supervisor and a new method for calculating the District's coverage of benefit premiums.

**b) General Meetings Reports of Directors.**

Director Kellerman reported that on July 29, he attended a facilities tour of United Water Conservation District; that on August 6, he attended the Personnel Committee Meeting; that on August 6, he also attended the National Night Out at Domenic Massari Park; that on August 8, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on August 8, he also attended the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association (AVSWCA) Meeting.

Director Wilson reported that on July 18, he attended a Board Briefing; that on July 22, he attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on July 24, he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; that on August 1, he attended the AV Edge Installation Dinner; that on August 8, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on August 8, he also attended the AVSWCA Meeting.

Director Sanchez reported that on July 24, she attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; that on July 29, she attended a facilities tour of United Water Conservation District; that on August 1, she attended the AV Edge Installation Dinner; and that on August 8, she attended a Board Briefing.



Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on July 22, she attended a Public Water Suppliers Meeting; that on July 24, she attended the Watermaster Meeting; that on July 29, she attended a facilities tour of United Water Conservation District; that on July 29, she also completed an Agenda Review; that on August 1, she attended the AV Edge Installation Gala; that on August 6, she attended the Personnel Committee Meeting; that on August 8, she attended a Board Briefing; and that on August 8, she also attended the AVSWCA Meeting.

Director Dino reported that on July 23, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on July 24, he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; that on July 30, he attended a CSDA Webinar regarding What Every Board Member Should Know; that on July 31, he completed the KnowBe4 Security Awareness Training; that on August 6, he attended the Personnel Committee Meeting; that on August 8, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on August 12, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

**8.2) Report of General Manager.**

General Manager LaMoreaux stated that he has nothing further to report.

**8.3) Report of General Counsel.**

General Counsel Lee provided a brief update on new Cal/OSHA regulations regarding indoor heat illness prevention and cooling methods and on the Americans Disability Act requirements for remote participation in Ralph M. Brown Act meetings followed by a brief discussion of remote meeting attendance requirements under AB 2449.

**9) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**10) Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

  
Secretary