

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 14, 2024:**

*A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, October 14, 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 Kellerman led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of our veterans.

**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, General Counsel  
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Finance Manager  
Angelica Garcia, Human Resources Director  
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director  
Danielle Henry, Executive Assistant  
3 members of the public

**3) Adoption of Agenda.**

It was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Dino, 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) Bi-Monthly Legislative Updates. (Public Affairs Director Shay/Representatives for Antelope Valley State Legislators)**

Public Affairs Director Shay introduced Mr. Thomas Moreno, Representative for Senator Wilk, after which Mr. Moreno provided brief legislative updates on SB 1146 regarding changes in mortgage laws, on SB 1233 regarding high-quality and high-

volume spay and neuter certification program for licensed veterinarians, and on SB 1414 regarding registration and criminal charges for sexual offenders and human traffickers and then stated that Senator Wilk will be retiring after his final term followed by a brief discussion of his celebration plans and a memory from the District's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event of Assemblyman Lackey adding Senator Wilk's photo to PWD's time capsule.

Public Affairs Director Shay then introduced and thanked Ms. Isla Garcia, Representative for Assemblymember Carrillo, for recognizing and presenting each member of staff with a certificate for Water Professionals Week after which Ms. Garcia thanked PWD staff for their services and provided a brief legislative update on AB 2082 regarding the relinquishment of an eight-mile portion of State Route 138 between Highway 14 and Pearblossom Highway from the Department of Transportation to the City of Palmdale to encourage response for community interests in construction planning and operations.

The Board then thanked Mr. Moreno and Ms. Garcia for the updates.

**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 Special Board Meeting held September 16, 2024.**

**6.2) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held September 23, 2024.**

**6.3) Payment of Bills for October 14, 2024.**

**6.4) Approval to Declare District Fleet Parts as Surplus Property. (Facilities Manager Wall)**

President Mac Laren-Gomez announced the items included in the Consent Calendar 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 those items included in the Consent Calendar.

**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) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Contract with Claris Strategy to Assist with the Update and Certification of the District's Risk and Resilience Assessment in Compliance with America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018. (\$77,500.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Human Resources Director Garcia)**

Human Resources Director Garcia provided an overview of the proposed contract with Claris Strategy, including updated cybersecurity requirements and staff training for future internal updates, 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 approve a contract with Claris Strategy to assist with the update and certification of the District's Risk and Resilience Assessment in compliance with America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 in the not-to-exceed amount of \$77,500.00.

**7.2) 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) **Ratification of Northern California Pipe Users Group: Practical Considerations for Pipeline Design and Construction to be held October 10, 2024 in Walnut Creek, CA.**

b) **WaterWisePro Maintenance & Construction Expo to be held November 5-6, 2024 in Norco, CA.**

President Mac Laren-Gomez announced the staff trainings included for ratification and approval of attendance after which it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Sanchez, 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: Ratification of Northern California Pipe Users Group: Practical Considerations for Pipeline Design and Construction to be held October 10, 2024 in Walnut Creek, CA and WaterWisePro Maintenance & Construction Expo to be held November 5-6, 2024 in Norco, CA.

**8) Information Items:**

**8.1) Reports of Directors:**

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

**1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) Meeting – September 24 and October 8. (Director Dino, Board Liaison/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)**

Director Dino reported that on September 24, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting where they unanimously approved a letter of support for PWD's Bureau of Reclamation Grant Application for Pure Water AV and then stated that the October 8 meeting was rescheduled for October 16.

**2) Outreach Committee Meeting – September 30. (Director Dino, Chair/Director Sanchez/Director Wilson, Alt.)**

Director Dino reported that on September 30, he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting and that a written report will be distributed.

**3) Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County (SDANLAC) Membership Luncheon – October 2. (Director Dino, CSDA Chapter President)**

Director Dino reported that on October 2, he attended the SDANLAC Membership Luncheon and that a written report will be distributed.

**4) Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting – October 5. (Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)**

Director Wilson stated that he did not attend this meeting and will be attending the next Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting.

**5) Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association (AVSWCA) Meeting – October 10. (President Mac Laren-Gomez/Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)**

President Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on October 10, she attended the AVSWCA Meeting where they discussed the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project, grant programs for culvert projects, and the new building names of the Resilience Center at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds and stated that staff from the Department of Water

Resources provided a presentation on fish protection in the Delta and toured the facilities of each of the member agencies earlier that same day.

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

Director Kellerman reported that on September 16, he attended the Palmdale Water District (PWD) Special Board Meeting regarding the 2024 Water Rate Study; that on September 17, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting; that on September 19, he attended a Board Briefing; that on September 23, he attended the PWD Regular Board Meeting; that on October 7, he attended the virtual PWD Community Rate Study Workshop; that on October 10, he attended a Board Briefing; that on October 10, he also attended the AVSWCA Meeting; that on October 14, he attended Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training; and that on October 14, he is also attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

Director Wilson reported that on September 23, he attended the PWD Regular Board Meeting; that on September 30, he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; that on October 2, he attended the SDANLAC Membership Luncheon; that on October 3, he attended the All-Hands Employee Luncheon; that on October 7, he attended the virtual PWD Community Rate Study Workshop; that on October 10, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on October 10, he also attended the AVSWCA Meeting.

Director Sanchez reported that on September 30, she attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; that on October 3, she attended the All-Hands Employee Luncheon; that on October 7, she attended the virtual PWD Community Rate Study Workshop; that on October 10, she attended a Board Briefing; and that on October 14, she attended Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on September 24, she attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on September 25, she attended the Watermaster Meeting; that on October 1, she attended an Agenda Review Briefing; that on October 2, she attended the SDANLAC Membership Luncheon; that on October 7, she attended the virtual PWD Community Rate Study Workshop; that on October 10, she attended a Board Briefing; and that on October 10, she also attended the AVSWCA Meeting.

Director Dino reported that on September 24, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on September 30, he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; that on October 2, he attended the SDANLAC Membership Luncheon; that on October 7, he attended the virtual PWD Community Rate Study Workshop; that on October 10, he

attended a Board Briefing; that on October 10, he also attended the Water-Wise Workshop; that on October 14, he attended Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training; and that October 14, he is also attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

**8.2) Report of General Manager.**

**a) Department Activity Updates.**

**1) Public Affairs Department. (Public Affairs Director Shay)**

Public Affairs Director Shay provided a detailed update of the Public Affairs Department's current and projected activities including press releases, print publications, customer outreach, social media highlights and participation at various events including the Water Ambassadors and Jr. Water Ambassadors Academy, Water-Wise Workshops, meetings with representatives from Congressman Garcia's office and Burbank Water and Power staff regarding Pure Water AV (PWAV), the Help for Heroes Softball Tournament, the PWAV groundbreaking presentation to the ACWA Communications Committee, PWAV message trainings for staff with Katz & Associates and then stated that Pure Water AV was featured in the L.A. Times; that Littlerock Dam's 100th Anniversary photos are now on display at the AV Rural Museum; that the District donated water bottles for various events; that the Customer Care lobby has a new monitor screen for outreach; that she was named to the ACWA Huell Howser Excellence in Communication Selection Committee; that the next SDANLAC Membership Luncheon will be held in February 2025; that the next Rate Study Workshop will be held on October 23 with Spanish translation and materials available for customers; that staff has been invited to provide a short presentation on Pure Water AV at the AV Edge Fall Forum on October 29; and that the District's Public Affairs Department is a finalist for two awards at the Public Relations Society of America L.A. Chapter Annual PRism Awards on October 24 followed by a brief discussion of youth programs and educational content.

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

**8.3) Report of General Counsel.**

General Counsel Lee provided a brief update on AB 2561 regarding public agency reporting requirements on employment vacancies, recruitment, and retention efforts effective January 1, 2025.

**9) Public Comments on Closed Session Agenda Matters.**

There were no public comments on closed session agenda matters.

**10) Closed Session Under:**

**10.1) Government Code §54956.8:**

**a) Conference With Real Property Negotiators – Property Negotiations:**

**Negotiating Parties: PWD General Manager and Calandri Farms, Inc.**

**Property: Water Rights**

**Under Negotiations: Price and Terms**

At 6:44 p.m., President Mac Laren-Gomez called for a closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.8 to conduct a Conference With Real Property Negotiators: Negotiating Parties: PWD General Manager and Calandri Farms, Inc.; Property: Water Rights; Under Negotiations: Price and Terms. She reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:10 p.m.

**11) Public Report of Any Action Taken in Closed Session.**


President Mac Laren-Gomez reported that a closed session was held pursuant to Government Code §54956.8 to conduct a Conference With Real Property Negotiators and that no reportable action was taken in closed session.

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

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**13) Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

  
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Secretary