

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, September 23, 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 Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of the firefighters battling the ongoing fires.

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
Scott Rogers, Acting Assistant General Manager
Pam Lee, General Counsel
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Finance Manager
Wendell Wall, Facilities Manager
Joe Marcinko, Operations Manager
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director
Angelica Garcia, Human Resources Director
Danielle Henry, Executive Assistant
4 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) None at This Time.

There were no presentations.

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 August 26, 2024.

6.2) Ratification of Payment of Bills for September 9, 2024.

6.2) Payment of Bills for September 23, 2024.

6.3) Approval of Job Description Update for GIS Coordinator Position. (No Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Garcia)

President Mac Laren-Gomez announced the items included in the Consent Calendar after which it was moved by Director Wilson, 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 Amendment No. 2 Revising Exhibit “E” of the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club, Inc. Lease Agreement. (No Budget Impact – Operations Manager Marcinko)

Operations Manager Marcinko introduced Mr. Joe Beech, Board President of the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club (Club), and stated that the Club has established a great relationship with District staff after which it was moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Dino, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve Amendment No. 2 Revising Exhibit “E” of the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club, Inc. Lease Agreement.

The Board then thanked Mr. Beech for the Club’s generous membership offer for District employees and for their partnership.

7.2) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Resolution No. 24-10 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the District’s Application for Funding from the Bureau of Reclamation

WaterSmart: Title XVI Congressionally Authorized Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 for the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project. (\$30,000,000.00 Potential Revenue – Acting Assistant General Manager Rogers)

Acting Assistant General Manager Rogers provided a brief overview of the application process and available Title XVI grant funding and stated that the Pure Water AV Feasibility Study Amendment was recently approved resulting in a higher priority for grant funding for this Project after which it was 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 Resolution No. 24-10 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the District's Application for Funding from the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart: Title XVI Congressionally Authorized Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 for the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project.

Resolution No. 24-10 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

7.3) Consideration and Possible Action on the Purchase of Two Sodium Hypochlorite Units from De Nora Water Technologies, LLC. (\$167,000.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Budgeted – Facilities Manager Wall)

Facilities Manager Wall provided an overview of staff's recommendation to purchase two sodium hypochlorite units for the replacement of the 25-year-old unit at Well 15 and for the new Well 36 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 purchase of two sodium hypochlorite units from De Nora Water Technologies, LLC in the not-to-exceed amount of \$167,000.00.

7.4) Adjourn to Palmdale Water District Annual Meeting of the Public Facilities Corporation. (President Mac Laren-Gomez)

At 6:10 p.m., President Mac Laren-Gomez adjourned the Regular Meeting to the Palmdale Water District Public Facilities Corporation Meeting. She reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:14 p.m.

7.5) 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) United Water Conservation District's 2024 Water Sustainability Summit to be held October 17, 2024 in Oxnard, CA.

After a brief discussion of past attendance at this annual event, it was moved by Director Sanchez, 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: United Water Conservation District's 2024 Water Sustainability Summit to be held October 17, 2024 in Oxnard, CA.

8) Information Items:

8.1) Reports of Directors:

a) Standing Committees; Organization Appointments; Agency Liaisons:

1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) – August 27. (Director Dino, Board Liaison/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)

Director Dino reported that on August 27, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting where they approved a resolution setting tax rates for the Kern, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties.

2) Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting – September 21. (Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)

Director Kellerman invited Mr. Joe Beech, Board President of the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club, to speak after which Mr. Beech stated that he is happy to attend this evening's meeting and welcomes District staff to the Club; that Palmdale Lake is the heaviest stocked lake in California and holds a record for sucker fish; and that several television shows have been filmed at the Lake followed by a brief discussion of the types of fish stocked in the Lake and of the programs offered for Veterans and the blind community.

Director Kellerman then reported that the Club currently has 1,772 members; that they are preparing for weed abatement with new equipment purchases; and that recent theft of tools has prompted a need to improve their Wi-Fi services for the installation of security cameras.

3) Finance Committee Meeting – September 17. (Director Wilson, Chair/Director Kellerman/Director Sanchez, Alt.)

Director Wilson reported that on September 17, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting and that a written report has been distributed.

4) Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County (SDANLAC) Board Meeting – September 18. (Director Dino, CSDA Chapter President)

Director Dino reported that on September 18, he attended the SDANLAC Board Meeting where they discussed their Fall membership luncheon sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to be held on October 2 at IBEW - Local 11 with guest representatives from the offices of Congressman Garcia, Senator Wilk, Assemblymember Carrillo, and Supervisor Barger speaking on the topic of Federal, State and County funding opportunities.

b) General Meetings Reports of Directors.

Director Kellerman reported that on August 27, he attended the City of Palmdale State of the City; that on August 28, he attended the Special AVSWCA Meeting where they discussed funding for culvert projects; that on September 16, he attended the PWD Special Board Meeting regarding the 2024 Water Rate Study; that on September 17, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting; and that on September 19, he attended a Board Briefing.

Director Wilson reported that on August 27, he attended the City of Palmdale State of the City; that on September 9-12, he attended the CSDA Fall Conference; that on September 16, he attended the PWD Special Board Meeting; that on September 17, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting; that on September 19, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on September 23, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

Director Sanchez reported that on August 27, she attended the City of Palmdale State of the City; that on September 9-12, she attended the CSDA Fall Conference; that on September 16, she attended the PWD Special Board Meeting; that on September 17, she attended the Finance Committee Meeting; and that on September 19, she attended a Board Briefing.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on August 27, she attended the City of Palmdale State of the City; that on August 28, she attended the Watermaster Meeting; that on August 28, she also attended the Special AVSWCA Meeting; that on September 10-12, she attended the CSDA Fall Conference; that on September 16, she attended an Agenda Review Briefing; that on September 16, she attended the PWD Special Board Meeting; that on September 19, she attended a Board Briefing; that on September 23, she attended a Public Water Suppliers Meeting where they discussed the Watermaster Administrator; and that on September 25, she will be attending the Watermaster Meeting.

Director Dino reported that on August 27, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on September 9-12, he attended the CSDA Fall Conference; that on September 16, he attended the PWD Special Board Meeting; that on September 18, he attended the SDANLAC Board Meeting; that on September 19, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on September 23, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

8.2) Report of General Manager.

a) Department Activity Updates:

1) Human Resources Department. (Human Resources Director Garcia)

Human Resources Director Garcia provided a detailed update of the Human Resources Department's current and projected activities including staff trainings, job fair attendance and opportunities, scheduled Lincoln Financial visits, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) session regarding stress management, staff participation in spirit dress-up days, grant funding received from JPIA for the District's Wellness Program, the Quarter 3 All-Hands Meeting and Luncheon, the success of the employee summer appreciation event, current job openings and recruitment, the new employee recognition program, potential partnership with the local American Job Center to assist with new hire training costs, and the employee holiday event to be held December 20 at the Hellenic Center and stated that staff will be updating the current recruitment process and job descriptions and that the action plans created through the 2024 Employee Engagement Survey brainstorming sessions have been completed and will be presented at a future Board Meeting.

b) September 2024 Written Report of Activities through August 2024.

General Manager LaMoreaux stated that a written report was provided which includes a brief amount of the information discussed at the recent State Water Contractors meeting regarding aging infrastructure, subsidence from groundwater pumping, the effects of climate change, reservoir levels, and a letter of appreciation sent to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the satisfactory approach taken on the criteria for the Fall X2 Memorandum followed by a brief discussion of subsidence, of the impact of aging infrastructure on the Delta Conveyance Project, of the Watermaster Administrator applicants and voting requirements of the Watermaster Board, and of recent support letters to and from the District.

8.3) Report of General Counsel.

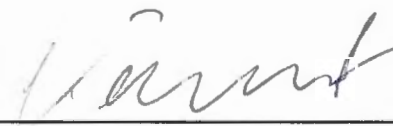
General Counsel Lee provided brief update on the recently signed AB 1827 regarding tiered rates for water usage and AB 2257 regarding Proposition 218 protest and response requirements effective January 2025 and then stated that a legal alert was issued by the California Attorney General regarding the Water Shutoff Protection Act and clarifies the requirements for residential water shutoffs for non-payment delinquencies.

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 6:55 p.m.



Secretary