

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, JANUARY 13, 2025:**

*A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, January 13, 2025, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, California, in the Board Room of the District Office, and at 633 North 5th Street, Milwaukee, WI, in the Monarch Lounge of the Hilton Downtown Milwaukee. President, Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.*

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

President Mac Laren-Gomez led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of the firefighters and lives impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires.

**2) Roll Call.**

**Attendance:**

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, President  
Scott Kellerman, Vice President  
Don Wilson, Treasurer  
Vincent Dino, Secretary  
Cynthia Sanchez, Assistant Secretary  
(Arrived at 6:22 p.m.)

**Others Present:**

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager  
Scott Rogers, Assistant General Manager  
Pam Lee, General Counsel  
Paul Early, Asst. General Counsel  
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Finance Manager  
Joe Marcinko, Operations Manager  
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director  
Amanda Thompson, Water Quality and  
Regulatory Affairs Supervisor  
Danielle Henry, Executive Assistant  
1 member 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 on the following roll call vote to adopt the agenda, as written:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Dino – aye

**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 December 9, 2024.**

**6.2) Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting held December 16, 2024.**

**6.3) Ratification of Payment of Bills for December 23, 2024.**

**6.4) Payment of Bills for January 13, 2025.**

**6.5) Ratification of Purchase of Ion Chromatograph for the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant Laboratory. (\$36,890.04 – Non-Budgeted – Water Quality and Regulatory Affairs Supervisor Thompson)**

**6.6) Approval of Amendment No. 10 to General Manager Employer 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 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 on the following roll call vote to approve those items included in the Consent Calendar:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye

Director Kellerman – aye

Director Wilson – aye

Director Dino – aye

**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 Reorganization of the Board of Directors. (General Counsel Lee)**

General Counsel Lee recommended that this item be considered after the arrival of Director Sanchez, and after consensus by the Board of Directors present at the meeting, President Mac Laren-Gomez stated that Agenda Item No. 7.2 will now be considered.

**7.2) Consideration and Possible Action on Lobbying Firm Retention Contract with Reeb Government Relations, LLC. (\$192,000.00 – Budgeted – General Manager LaMoreaux)**

General Manager LaMoreaux provided a brief overview of the lobbying services provided by Reeb Government Relations, and after a brief discussion of the frequency of the written legislative reports provided, 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 on the following roll call vote to approve the Lobbying Firm Retention Contract with Reeb Government Relations, LLC in the amount of \$192,000.00:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Dino – aye

**7.3) Consideration and Possible Action on Upgrade and Implementation of the District's Financial Software System. (\$118,000.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Finance Manager Hoffmeyer)**

Finance Manager Hoffmeyer provided a detailed overview of staff's recommendation to upgrade the District's financial software, including the extensive review of platform options, the annual licensing cost savings and benefits of moving forward with Microsoft Dynamic 365, and the strategic benefits of modernizing practices in preparation of future staff changes and District safeguarding, followed by a brief discussion of the end of support and useful life of the District's current financial software. Director Sanchez then arrived at 6:22 p.m.

After a brief discussion of the implementation timeline, 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 on the following roll call vote to approve the upgrade and implementation of the District's financial software system in the not-to-exceed amount of \$118,000.00:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Sanchez - aye  
Director Dino – aye

President Mac Laren-Gomez then stated that Agenda Item No. 7.1 will now be considered.

**7.1) Consideration and Possible Action on Reorganization of the Board of Directors. (General Counsel Lee)**

General Counsel Lee provided an overview of the procedures for reorganizing the officers of the Board of Directors after which it was moved by Director Dino to nominate Director Kellerman as President. It was then moved by Director Kellerman, and seconded by Director Sanchez, to nominate Director Mac Laren-Gomez as President.

The nomination was accepted by President Mac Laren-Gomez and respectfully declined by Director Kellerman after which the motion unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to nominate Director Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez as President of the Board of Directors:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Sanchez - aye  
Director Dino – aye

It was then moved by President Mac Laren-Gomez, seconded by Director Dino, and after acceptance by Director Kellerman, unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to nominate Director Scott Kellerman as Vice President of the Board of Directors:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Sanchez - aye  
Director Dino – aye

It was then moved by Director Sanchez, seconded by President Mac Laren-Gomez, and after acceptance by Director Wilson, unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to nominate Director Don Wilson as Treasurer of the Board of Directors:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Sanchez - aye  
Director Dino – aye

It was then moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Wilson, and after acceptance by Director Dino, unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to nominate Director Vincent Dino as Secretary of the Board of Directors:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Sanchez - aye  
Director Dino – aye

It was then moved by Director Wilson, seconded by President Mac-Laren-Gomez, and after acceptance by Director Sanchez, unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to nominate Director Cynthia Sanchez as Assistant Secretary of the Board of Directors:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Sanchez - aye  
Director Dino – aye

Officers for the Palmdale Water District Board of Directors are as follows:

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

**7.4) 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 2025 Budget:**

**a) See Attached List of Conferences, Seminars, and Training Sessions.**

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 on the following roll call vote to approve the conferences, seminars, and training sessions listed in Attachment 7.4 for Board and staff attendance within budget amounts previously approved in the 2025 Budget:

President Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Kellerman – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Sanchez - aye  
Director Dino – aye

Attachment 7.4 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

**8) Information Items:**

**8.1) Reports of Directors:**

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

**1) Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association (AVSWCA) Meeting – December 12. (President Mac Laren-Gomez/Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)**

President Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on December 12, she attended the AVSWCA Meeting where they discussed culvert options and grant opportunities.

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

Director Dino reported that on December 18, he attended the SDANLAC Board Meeting and that a written report will be distributed.

**3) Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting – December 21. (Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)**

President Kellerman reported that on December 21, he attended the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting and stated that their opening day is scheduled for January 25; that 15,000 pounds of fish will be added to Lake Palmdale; that there was recent theft of a boat motor; that repairs were made to the inlet fence; and that 24 ducks were hunted during the hunting season.

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

Director Dino reported that on December 23, he attended an AVEK Board Meeting and that a written report will be distributed.

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

Director Kellerman reported that on December 12, he attended a Board Briefing; that on December 12, he also attended the AVSWCA Meeting; that on December 18, he attended the AV Edge Holiday Breakfast; that on December 21, he attended the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting; and that on January 9, he attended a Board Briefing.

President Wilson reported that on December 9, he attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on December 12, he attended a Board Briefing; that on December 12, he also attended the AVSWCA Meeting; that on December 16, he attended the Palmdale Water District Special Board Meeting; that on December 18, he attended the AV Edge Holiday Breakfast; that on December 20, he attended the PWD Holiday Event; and that on January 9, he attended a Board Briefing.



Director Sanchez reported that on December 9, she attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on December 12, she attended a Board Briefing; that on December 16, she attended the Palmdale Water District Special Board Meeting; that on December 18, she attended the AV Edge Holiday Breakfast; that on December 20, she attended the PWD Holiday Event; and that on January 9, she attended a Board Briefing.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on December 12, she attended Board Briefing; that on December 12, she also attended the AVSWCA Meeting; that on December 16, she attended the Palmdale Water District Special Board Meeting; that on December 18, she attended the AV Edge Holiday Breakfast; that on December 20, she attended the PWD Holiday Event; and that on January 10, she attended a Board Briefing.

Director Dino reported that on December 9, he attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on December 12, he attended a Board Briefing; that on December 16, he attended the Palmdale Water District Special Board Meeting; that on December 18, he attended the SDANLAC Board Meeting; that on December 19, he attended a CSDA Webinar; that on December 20, he attended the PWD Holiday Event; that on December 23, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on January 10, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on January 13, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

## **8.2) Report of General Manager.**

General Manager LaMoreaux thanked the Board for their approval of his employment agreement amendment and then reported that the Department of Water Resources increased the State Water Project allocation from 5% to 15% and that he has highlighted copies of recommended Board conferences that were approved this evening followed by a brief discussion of the Los Angeles Wildfires and the letter issued by Governor Newsom to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power regarding notice of an independent report to examine the lost water supply and pressure.

He then stated that the next Let's Talk H2O will include discussion on water supply and how fire hydrants are designed to operate followed by a brief discussion of theft of brass stems from backflow devices and how that may impact a water system under pressure for firefighting purposes.



**8.3) Report of General Counsel.**

General Counsel Lee announced that this will be her last Board meeting serving as the General Counsel for the District due to a reassignment of commitments and stated that she appreciates the opportunity and time she has had working with the Board and staff and then introduced Mr. Paul Early as the District's new legal counsel.

General Counsel Early then provided a self-introduction, including his professional background, and stated that he looks forward to working with the District.

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

There were no further requests for future agenda items.

**10) Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

  
Secretary