

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, DECEMBER 9, 2024:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, December 9, 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 our troops.

2) Administering of Oath of Office to Appointed and Elected Directors. (General Counsel Lee)

General Counsel Lee congratulated the Directors on their term of office and then administered the Oath of Office to Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Division 4, Scott Kellerman, Division 1, and Cynthia Sanchez, Division 3.

3) 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, Assistant General Manager
Pam Lee, General Counsel
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Finance Manager
Wendell Wall, Facilities Manager
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director
Tara Rosati, Customer Care Supervisor
Danielle Henry, Executive Assistant
10 members of the public

4) 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.

5) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments.

6) Presentations:

6.1) None at This Time.

There were no presentations.

7) 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.)

7.1) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held November 25, 2024.

7.2) Payment of Bills for December 9, 2024.

7.3) Approval of Absence of Director Kellerman from November 25, 2024 Regular Board Meeting due to Scheduled Vacation. (General Counsel Lee)

7.4) Approval to Refer Claim Received from Miguel Martinez Jr., Represented by Downtown LA Law Group, to Joint Powers Insurance Authority. (No Budget Impact – Finance Manager Hoffmeyer)

President Mac Laren-Gomez announced the items included in the Consent Calendar 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 Agenda Item Nos. 7.1, 7.2, and 7.4 included in the Consent Calendar.

It was then moved by moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Sanchez, and carried on a 4-0-1 vote, with Director Kellerman abstaining, to approve Agenda Item No. 7.3 in the Consent Calendar.

8) 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.)

8.1) Consideration and Possible Action on Purchase of Additional Equipment for the 2024 Meter Exchange Program. (\$360,000.00 – Non-Budgeted – Finance Manager Hoffmeyer/Customer Care Supervisor Rosati)

Finance Manager Hoffmeyer provided an overview on the progress of the 2024 Meter Exchange Program and staff's re-evaluation of the planned routes due to high

equipment failure rates resulting in a shortage of meters, and after a brief discussion of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) capabilities, 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 the purchase of additional equipment for the 2024 Meter Exchange Program in the amount of \$360,000.00.

8.2) Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Proposal from Walton Motors and Controls, Inc. for the Replacement of the Motor at Well No. 8A. (\$83,285.00 – Non-Budgeted – Facilities Manager Wall)

Facilities Manager Wall provided a brief overview of the motor repair history and recent failure at Well No. 8A and staff's recommendation to replace the motor which is past its life expectancy, and after a brief discussion of the high repair cost and of the proposals received for a new motor, 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 proposal from Walton Motors and Control, Inc. for the replacement of the motor at Well No. 8A in the amount of \$83,285.00.

8.3) Consideration and Possible Action to Accept Proposal and Direct Staff to Formalize Amendment No. 1 to the Consulting Services Agreement with TerraVerde Energy, LLC for Solar Energy Projects to Include Management of the Advance Clean Fleet Compliance Program. (\$49,000.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Facilities Manager Wall)

Facilities Manager Wall provided an overview of California's clean fleet regulations and staff's recommendation to approve the proposal from TerraVerde Energy, LLC (TerraVerde) for management of the District's Advance Clean Fleet Compliance Program as an amendment to the existing Consulting Services Agreement with TerraVerde for the District's solar energy projects, and after a brief discussion of the proposed services, of local grant funding opportunities, and of the associated costs, 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 accept the proposal and direct staff to formalize Amendment No. 1 to the Consulting Services Agreement with TerraVerde Energy, LLC for Solar Energy Projects to include Management of the Advance Clean Fleet Compliance Program in the not-to-exceed amount of \$49,000.00.

8.4) Consideration and Possible Action to Accept Proposal and Direct Staff to Formalize Amendment No. 1 to the Consulting Services Agreement with

TerraVerde Energy, LLC for Management of the Tesla Battery Systems to Include Additional Services in the Scope of Work. (\$31,637.00 – Not-to-Exceed –Non-Budgeted – Facilities Manager Wall)

Facilities Manager Wall provided an overview of the proposal from TerraVerde Energy, LLC (TerraVerde) for additional services related to the existing Consulting Services Agreement for management of the Tesla Battery Systems, including a two year historical financial audit, performance monitoring, analysis and reporting, and opportunities for revenue generation and incentives, and after a brief discussion of the Tesla Grid Service Agreements, of TerraVerde's professional experience, and of the lifespan and dependability of the Tesla Battery Systems, 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 accept the proposal and direct staff to formalize Amendment No. 1 to the Consulting Services Agreement with TerraVerde Energy, LLC for management of the Tesla Battery Systems to include additional services in the Scope of Work in the not-to-exceed amount of \$31,637.00.

8.5) 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) **None at This Time.**

There were no conferences, seminars, or training sessions to consider.

9) Information Items:

9.1) Reports of Directors:

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

1) Outreach Committee Meeting – November 26. (Director Dino, Chair/Director Sanchez/Director Wilson, Alt.)

Director Dino reported that on November 26 he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting and that a written report will be distributed.

2) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) Meeting – November 26. (Director Dino, Board Liaison/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)

Director Dino reported that on November 26, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting where they approved the purchase of a new booster pump for the Mojave Pump Station in the amount of \$35,000.00.

3) Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting – December 7. (Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)

Director Wilson reported that on December 7, he attended the Palmdale Fin and Feather Club Meeting but that it was cancelled due to a holiday event.

b) General Meetings Reports of Directors.

Director Kellerman reported that on November 19, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting; that on November 21, he attended a Board Briefing; that on December 2-5, he attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Fall Conference; and that on December 5, he also attended a Board Briefing.

Director Wilson reported that on November 25, he attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on November 26, he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; that on December 2-5, he attended the ACWA Fall Conference; and that on December 5, he also attended a Board Briefing.

Director Sanchez reported that on November 21, she attended a Board Briefing; that on November 26, she attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; and that on December 5, she attended a Board Briefing.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on November 25, she attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on November 27, she attended an Agenda Review Briefing; that on December 2-5, she attended the ACWA Fall Conference and that there were many changes compared to previous conferences; that on December 5, she also attended a Board Briefing; and that on December 9, she attended a Public Water Suppliers Meeting.

Director Dino reported that on November 18, he attended a CSDA Webinar regarding Financing with Flexibility; that on November 19, he attended a CSDA Webinar regarding Water Infrastructure Funding; that on November 21, he attended a Board Briefing; that on November 25, he attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on November 26, he attended the Outreach Committee Meeting; that on November 26, he also attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on December 2-4,

he attended the ACWA Fall Conference; and that on December 5, he also attended a Board Briefing.

9.2) Report of General Manager.

a) Department Activity Updates.

1) Customer Care Department. (Customer Care Supervisor Rosati)

Customer Care Supervisor Rosati thanked the Board for their approval of the additional equipment purchase for the 2024 Meter Exchange and then provided a detailed update of the Customer Care Department's current and projected activities including staff acknowledgements received from customers, statistics related to customer phone calls, payments, lobby traffic, processed applications, shut-offs due to non-payment, new customers, meter re-reads, vault reads, and work orders, completion of the 2023 Meter Exchange Project and start of the 2024 Meter Exchange, the Employee Engagement Survey action plan related to the meter exchanges, staffing and staff over-time, and the addition of Apple Pay as a payment option.

She then stated that the Customer Care Department won the annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest and thanked the Board for their participation with the judging.

President Mac Laren-Gomez then highlighted the positive relationships the District has established with customers through effective outreach and thanked staff for their efforts.

9.3) Report of General Counsel.

General Counsel Lee provided a brief update on AB 1976 regarding the requirement for employers to supply Narcan in first-aid kits and Cal Osha to provide regulations effective 2027 including Good Samaritan provisions and on new litigation concerning the state's issuance of water permits for the State Water Project in-lieu of the appropriate review by the Federal Government.

10) Public Comments on Closed Session Agenda Matters.

There were no public comments for closed session agenda matters.

11) Closed Session Under:

11.1) Government Code §54957(b)(1):

a) Public Employee Performance Evaluation: General Manager.

At 7:03 p.m., President Mac Laren-Gomez called for a closed session pursuant to Government Code §54957(b)(1) to conduct a Public Employee Performance Evaluation: General Manager. She reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

12) Public Report of Any Action Taken in Closed Session.

General Counsel Lee reported that a closed session was held pursuant to Government Code §54957(b)(1) to conduct a Public Employee Performance Evaluation: General Manager and that no reportable action was taken in closed session.

13) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

There were no requests for future agenda items.

14) Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Secretary