

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, JANUARY 27, 2025:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, January 27, 2025, 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.

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, Assistant General Manager
Paul Early, General Counsel
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Finance Manager
Shadi Bader, Engineering Manager
Joe Marcinko, Operations Manager
Angelica Garcia, Human Resources Director
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director
Tara Rosati, Customer Care Supervisor
Jillian Benci-Woodward, Senior Engineer
Danielle Henry, Executive Assistant
0 members of the public

3) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Kellerman, 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 January 13, 2025.

6.2) Payment of Bills for January 27, 2025.

6.3) Receive and File Semi-Annual Employee Reimbursement Report for the Period Covering July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. (No Budget Impact – Finance Manager Hoffmeyer)

6.4) Approval to Update Driver's License Requirements for Certain Job Descriptions per SB 1100. (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 Sanchez, 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 Hauling and Disposal Costs of Residual Solids Generated at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant. (\$110,000.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Operations Manager Marcinko)

Operations Manager Marcinko provided a brief overview of the residual solids generated through the water treatment process and the proposed costs of the hauling and disposal of the solids by Waste Management, and after a brief discussion of the accumulation period, of the future disposal schedule, and of the hauling, 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 hauling and disposal costs of residual solids generated at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant in the not-to-exceed amount of \$110,000.00.

7.2) Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Amended Water Supply Assessment for the Quail Valley Development. (Engineering Manager Bader)

Engineering Manager Bader provided an overview of the proposed Quail Valley Development including the location, the project background, and the amended water supply assessment bases on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, 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 the Amended Water Supply Assessment for the Quail Valley Development.

7.3) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Interim Increase to the Rate Assistance Program. (No Budget Impact – Customer Care Supervisor Rosati/Finance Manager Hoffmeyer)

Customer Care Supervisor Rosati stated that a recent payment of an outstanding cell tower lease balance has provided an opportunity to increase the number of Rate Assistance Program (RAP) applicants from 565 back to 700 at the new monthly credit amount of \$25.00, and after a brief discussion of the RAP waitlist and of future lease opportunities, 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 approve an interim increase to the Rate Assistance Program.

Director Sanchez then thanked staff for their continued efforts of helping customers through this Program.

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 2024 Budget:

- a) **AVO Training Institute NFPA 70B Standard for Electrical Equipment Maintenance in Pasadena, CA.**
- b) **AVO Training Institute NFPA 70E – 2024 Electrical Safety in Pasadena, CA.**
- c) **AWWA California-Nevada Water Conference of the West to be held April 7-10, 2025 in Anaheim.**

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 the following conferences, seminars, and training sessions for Board and staff attendance within budget amounts previously approved in the 2025 Budget: AVO Training Institute NFPA 70B Standard for Electrical Equipment Maintenance in

Pasadena, CA; AVO Training Institute NFPA 70E – 2024 Electrical Safety in Pasadena, CA; and AWWA California-Nevada Water Conference of the West to be held April 7-10, 2025 in Anaheim.

8) Information Items:

8.1) Reports of Directors:

a) Standing Committees; Organization Appointments; Agency Liaisons:

1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) Meeting – January 14. (Director Dino, Board Liaison/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)

Director Dino reported that on January 14, he attended the AVEK Meeting where they approved a purchase order with Sierra Construction and Excavation, Inc. for an emergency leak repair made to their Leona Valley Feeder in the amount of \$26,352.84 followed by a brief discussion of AVEK's current Board officers.

2) Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting – January 18. (Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)

Director Wilson reported that on January 18, he attended the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting where they reported that the total number of memberships is 972; that 183 ducks were hunted during hunting season; that the level of Lake Palmdale is rising; that 6,000 pounds of trout has been stocked in the Lake; and that a new roof was installed on their buildings followed by a brief discussion of their opening day.

3) Finance Committee Meeting – January 21. (Director Wilson, Chair/Director Kellerman/Director Sanchez, Alt.)

Director Wilson reported that on January 21, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting and that a written report will be distributed.

b) General Meetings Reports of Directors.

Director Kellerman reported that on January 21, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting; that on January 23, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on January 27, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

Director Wilson reported that on January 21, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting; that on January 18, he attended the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting; that on January 22, he attended the All-Hands Employee Meeting and Luncheon; that on January 23, he attended a Board Briefing; that on January 27, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on January 29, he will be attending the AV Edge Luncheon; and that on January 30, he will be attending the Outreach Committee Meeting.

Director Sanchez reported that on January 21, she attended the Finance Committee Meeting and that on January 23, she attended a Board Briefing.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on January 16, she attended an Agenda Review Briefing; that on January 21, she attended the Public Water Suppliers Meeting; that on January 22, she attended the Watermaster Meeting; and that on January 23, she attended a Board Briefing.

Director Dino reported that on January 10, he attended a Board Briefing; that on January 13, he attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on January 14, he attended an AVEK Board Meeting; that on January 20, he attended a CSDA On-Demand Webinar; that on January 21, he attended a CSDA On-Demand Webinar; that on January 22, he attended the All-Hands Employee Meeting and Luncheon; that on January 23, he attended a Board Briefing; that on January 24, he attended a CSDA On-Demand Webinar; and that on January 27, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

8.2) Report of General Manager.

a) Department Activity Updates:

1) Engineering Department. (Assistant General Manager Rogers/Engineering Manager Bader)

Assistant General Manager Rogers introduced the District's new Engineering Manager, Shadi Bader, after which Engineering Manager Bader provided a detailed update of the Engineering Department's current and projected activities including the Pure Water AV Demonstration Facility and the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project and stated that the Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) for the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project is now advertised on the District's website.

Assistant General Manager Rogers then stated that \$14M in grant funding was awarded to the District from the Bureau of Reclamation for the Pure Water AV Project; that staff will be reapplying for FEMA BRIC grant funding; and that staff anticipates details regarding Prop. 4 state funding and then provided project updates for the Avenue Q Recycled Water Line Project, the 3M Booster Station, and Well No. 36.

He then expressed his appreciation for Engineering Manager Bader joining the PWD team and stated that Junior Engineer Maldonado passed his Engineer-in-Training (EIT) exam paving the way to earn his professional engineering license followed by a brief discussion of the construction schedule for the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project.

Engineering Manager Bader then introduced the District's new Senior Engineer, Jillian Benci-Woodward after which the Board welcomed her to PWD.

b) January 2025 Written Report of Activities through December 2024.

General Manager LaMoreaux stated that a written report was included in the agenda packet and highlighted the increased water sales for 2024 providing flexibility to increase the Rate Stabilization Fund and District reserves; the Northern Sierra precipitation and current State Water Project allocation of 15%; and the continued cumulative water savings compared to 2020.

He then stated that staff will begin the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to update the District's Strategic Plan; that the District was able to provide mutual aid to an agency affected by the Eaton wildfire and will continue to help as needed; and that the delayed December All-Hands Meeting and Luncheon was held last week and that the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place recipients of the Pat McElfresh Pace Program (P.A.C.E.) Awards were Management Analyst Patricia Guerrero, Management Analyst Jennifer "JV" Villa, and Public Affairs Specialist Michelle Trejo, respectively followed by a brief discussion of the employees affected by the Hughes fire.

President Mac Laren-Gomez then inquired of new federal regulations concerning the Advance Clean Fleet Program and requested that the Board be informed of any state regulation changes that may affect the District followed by a brief discussion of the State Water Contractors' press release concerning President Trump's Executive Order to maximize water deliveries to Southern California.

8.3) Report of General Counsel.

General Counsel Early inquired on the type of reporting that the Board would like to continue receiving from General Counsel after which it was determined that any laws or regulations affecting the District be provided followed by a brief discussion of California PFAS regulations.

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 6:44 p.m.



Secretary