

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, FEBRUARY 8, 2021:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, February 8, 2021, via teleconference. President, Gloria Dizmang, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1) Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.

At the request of President Dizmang, Director Mac Laren-Gomez led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

2) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Gloria Dizmang, President
Vincent Dino, Vice President
Don Wilson, Treasurer
Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Secretary
Amberrose Merino, Assistant Secretary

Others Present:

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager
Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager
Eric Dunn, General Counsel
Mike Williams, Finance Manager
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director
Chris Bligh, Facilities Manager
Jennifer Emery, Human Resources Director
Dawn Deans, Executive Assistant
0 members of the public

3) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Director Mac Laren-Gomez, 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 Dizmang – aye
Director Dino – aye
Director Wilson – aye
Director Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Director Merino – aye

4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments for non-agenda items.

5) Presentations:

5.1) Avenue S Aqueduct Bridge Leak Repair. (Facilities Manager Bligh)

Facilities Manager Bligh provided a detailed overview of the District's recent leak repair in the bridge over the aqueduct at Avenue S including coordination with various agencies due to its location, the thickness and levels of concrete cut to reach the leak, the excellent condition of the 1968 pipeline, and the invaluable assistance provided by the recently approved and purchased vacuum excavator and traffic control truck.

This project and the District's distribution system were then briefly discussed after which the Board thanked staff for the presentation.

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 25, 2021.

6.2) Payment of Bills for February 8, 2021.

6.3) Receive and File Semi-Annual Employee Reimbursement Report for the Period Covering July 1, 2020 Through December 31, 2020. (No Budget Impact – Finance Manager Williams)

President Dizmang announced the items included in the Consent Calendar after which it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Merino, 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 Dizmang – aye
Director Dino – aye
Director Wilson – aye
Director Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Director Merino – 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) Presentation and Discussion of 2020 Accomplishments. (Assistant General Manager Ly)

Assistant General Manager Ly provided a detailed overview of the District's accomplishments for 2020 including the budget for 2020, capital improvement projects completed, the completion of the Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge Project, projects deferred to future years to maintain reserves, tasks and projects completed for each of the District's departments, grant funding awarded for specific projects, the effects of COVID-19 on the District's operations and finances, and the focus for 2021 being pipelines, booster upgrades, and the construction of a new well.

The Board then thanked staff for the presentation and commended staff on the achievements for 2020.

7.2) Consideration and Possible Action on Agreement for Professional Services Between the Palmdale Water District and Dr. William Mathis d/b/a Mathis Consulting Group Regarding Organizational Development and Board Activities. (\$31,500.00 – Budgeted – Budget Item No. 1-02-5070-007, Consultants – General Manager LaMoreaux)

General Manager LaMoreaux provided an overview of the services proposed to be provided to the Board by Mathis Consulting Group in 2021, and after a brief discussion of these services and of the General Manager evaluation process, it was moved by Director Mac Laren-Gomez, 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 Agreement for Professional Services between the Palmdale Water District and Dr. William Mathis d/b/a Mathis Consulting Group regarding Organizational Development and Board Activities in the not-to-exceed amount of \$31,500.00:

President Dizmang – aye
Director Dino – aye
Director Wilson – aye
Director Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Director Merino – aye

7.3) Receive and File Memorandum Regarding Board Compensation. (General Counsel Dunn)

General Counsel Dunn stated that the Board cannot be compensated per diem, or per a set amount, but only per day of service pursuant to the Irrigation Code; that compensation can be increased by 5% per year; and then reviewed the history of the Board's current compensation followed by discussion of potential compensation increases, the Board's budget, the value of attending conferences, considering this matter at a future Board meeting, and adding agenda items to future agendas under Agenda Item No. 12.

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 2021 Budget:

a) Water Education Foundation "Urban Water Institute's Spring Virtual Water Conference" to be Held February 17 and 18, 2021.

b) Water Education Foundation "GRA Virtual Conference: The Future of Water" to be held February 23 and 24, 2021.

After a brief discussion of these conferences, seminars, and training sessions, it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Merino, 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 2021 Budget: Water Education Foundation "Urban Water Institute's Spring Virtual Water Conference" to be Held February 17 and 18, 2021 and Water Education Foundation "GRA Virtual Conference: The Future of Water" to be held February 23 and 24, 2021:

President Dizmang – aye
Director Dino – aye
Director Wilson – aye
Director Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Director Merino – aye

8) Information Items:

8.1) Reports of Directors:

a) Standing Committees; Organization Appointments; Agency Liaisons:

1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency-AVEK. (Chair Dino/Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Alternate)

Director Dino, AVEK Liaison, reported that on January 26, he attended an AVEK Board meeting where they considered their financial reports, a proposed letter to the California High Speed Rail Authority regarding impacts to the Acton Water Treatment Plant facility, and the purchase of mobile generators and a truck.

2) Plant 42 Environmental Restoration Advisory Board. (Director Wilson/Director Dino, Alternate)

Director Wilson, Plant 42 Environmental Restoration Advisory Board (ERAB) member, reported that on January 27, he attended an ERAB Board meeting where they discussed the need to test vapor extraction from the TCE spill, the origins of the TCE spill and plume, the well used for testing, and the next meeting scheduled for March 24.

b) General Report.

Director Dino reported that on January 26, he attended an AVEK Board meeting; that on January 27, he attended the Plant 42 Environmental Restoration Advisory Board meeting; that on February 3, he attended a Board briefing; that on February 4 and 5, he attended a CFEE Conference and copies of the Conference information are in the Directors' in-boxes; and that on February 8, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

Director Merino reported that on January 14, she attended a webinar regarding the Brown Act; that on January 20, she attended a webinar regarding Public Ethics; that also on January 20, she listened to the Personnel Committee meeting; that on January 21, she attended a Board briefing; that on January 26, she attended a webinar regarding Sexual Harassment; that on January 27, she listened to the Rosamond Community Services District Board meeting; and that on February 4, she attended a Board briefing.

Director Wilson reported that on January 7, he attended a Board briefing; that on January 11, he attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on January 20, he attended CSDA AB1234 Ethics virtual training; that also on January 20, he listened to the Personnel Committee meeting; that on January 21, he attended a Board briefing; that on January 25, he attended the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; and that on January 27, he attended the Plant 42 Environmental Restoration Advisory Board meeting.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on January 27, she attended the Antelope Valley Watermaster meeting; that on January 28, she listened to the Antelope Valley Partners meeting with the City of Palmdale and other agencies; and that on February 4, she attended a Board briefing.

President Dizmang reported that on January 27, she attended an Agenda Review and Approval briefing; that on February 4, she attended a Board briefing; and that on February 8, she is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

8.2) Report of General Manager.

General Manager LaMoreaux stated that surveying for the emergency removal of sediment from Littlerock Reservoir is scheduled to begin tomorrow followed by the removal of sediment material.

8.3) Report of General Counsel.

General Counsel Dunn stated that he has no report.

9) Public Comments on Closed Session Agenda Matters.

There were no public comments on closed session agenda matters.

10) Closed Session Under:

10.1) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation: A Closed Session Will be Held, Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (d)(1), to Confer with Special Litigation Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation to Which the District is a Party. The Title of Such Litigation is as Follows: *Antelope Valley Ground Water Cases*.

At 7:35 p.m., President Dizmang called for a closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (d)(1), to confer with Special Litigation Counsel regarding existing litigation to which the District is a party being the *Antelope Valley Ground Water Cases*. She reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

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

President Dizmang reported that a closed session was held pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (d)(1), to confer with Special Litigation Counsel regarding

existing litigation to which the District is a party, being the *Antelope Valley Ground Water Cases*, and that no 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 8:15 p.m.


Secretary