

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, MARCH 24, 2025:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, March 24, 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 6:01 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.

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
Wendell Wall, Facilities Manager
Shadi Bader, Engineering Manager
Angelica Garcia, Human Resources Director
Claudia Bolanos, Resource and Analytics Director
Jillian Benci-Woodward, Senior Engineer
Danielle Henry, Executive Assistant
3 members of the public

3) Adoption of Agenda.

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 adopt the agenda, as written.

4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments for non-agenda items.

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 March 10, 2025.

6.2) Payment of Bills for March 24, 2025.

6.3) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Kern County Water Agency and Palmdale Water District to Evaluate Programs for Improved Water Management of the State Water Project. (No Budget Impact – Resource and Analytics Director Bolanos)

6.4) Approval to Ratify Sponsorship of the AV ALTA Soccer Team for the 2025 Season. (\$2,500.00 – Budgeted – Public Affairs Director Shay)

6.5) Approval of Contract with Power Flow Products, Inc. for the Replacement of Three Rotating Assemblies at the 3M Low-Head Booster Station. (\$55,358.00 – Non-Budgeted – Project No. 25-603 – Facilities Manager Wall)

President Mac Laren-Gomez announced the items included in the Consent Calendar after which 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 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 Public Member to the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA) Board. (No Budget Impact – General Manager LaMoreaux)

General Manager LaMoreaux provided an overview of the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA) Board Members, the recruitment process to fill the vacancy of former Public Member, Zakeya Anson, and PRWA's recommendation to appoint Mr. Joe Pallon as the new Public Member after which 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 to approve PRWA's recommendation to appoint Mr. Joe Pallon as the Public Member to the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority Board.

General Manager LaMoreux then stated that PRWA's nomination will also require approval by the Palmdale City Council.

7.2) Public Hearing to Consider Modifying Palmdale Water District's Policy Regarding Capital Impact Fees for New Water Service Connections. (Assistant General Manager Rogers)

Assistant General Manager Rogers provided a detailed presentation on the proposed updates to the Capital Impact Fees (CIF) for New Water Service Connections including the burden removal from existing rate payers, the infrastructure and water supply fee components of the CIF, the public notice process, and the implementation plan with the effective date of April 1, 2025.

There were no public comments or protests during the Public Hearing.

7.3) Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Resolution No. 25-2 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Modifying the Policy Regarding Capital Impact Fees for New Water Service Connections and Adopting the Updated Water Supply Fees. (No Budget Impact – Assistant General Manager Rogers)

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 to adopt Resolution No. 25-2 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Modifying the Policy Regarding Capital Impact Fees for New Water Service Connections and Adopting the Updated Water Supply Fees.

Resolution No. 25-2 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

7.4) Consideration and Possible Action on Authorizing Staff to Execute the Third-Year Amendment (Amendment No. 2) to Professional Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Program Management Services for Pure Water AV. (\$3,514,952.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Budgeted – Project No. 22-65x – Engineering Manager Bader)

Engineering Manager Bader provided a presentation of the proposed Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., including the Pure Water Antelope Valley (PWAV) Project location, the background and need of PWAV, and the additional scope of services, and after a brief

discussion of the recycled water treatment process, of the average industry pricing for this work, and clarification of the total Amendment cost, 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 authorize staff to execute the Third-Year Amendment (Amendment No. 2) to Professional Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Program Management Services for Pure Water AV in the not-to-exceed amount of \$3,514,952.00.

7.5) Consideration and Possible Action on Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Twining, Inc. to Provide Geotechnical and Special Inspection Services for the Pure Water AV Project. (\$53,388.92 – Not-To-Exceed – Budgeted – Project No. 22-653 – Engineering Manager Bader)

Engineering Manager Bader provided an overview of the proposed scope of work and cost savings to work directly with Twining, Inc. for geotechnical and special inspection services after which 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 to authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Twining, Inc. to provide Geotechnical and Special Inspection Services for the Pure Water AV Project in the not-to-exceed amount of \$53,388.92.

7.6) Consideration and Possible Action on Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Kyle Groundwater, Inc. to Provide Professional Hydrogeological Services for the Pure Water AV Project. (\$193,666.00 – Not-To-Exceed – Budgeted – Project No. 22-656 – Engineering Manager Bader)

Engineering Manager Bader provided an overview of the proposed scope of work and cost savings to work directly with Kyle Groundwater, Inc. for hydrogeological services, and after clarification of the total cost for this design work, 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 authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Kyle Groundwater, Inc. to provide Professional Hydrogeological Services for the Pure Water AV Project in the not-to-exceed amount of \$193,666.00.

7.7) Consideration and Possible Action on Authorizing Staff to Enter Into an Agreement with Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank to Reserve and Purchase

Environmental Credits to Support the Construction of the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project. (\$3,747,000.00 – Budgeted – Project No. 21-613 – Engineering Manager Bader)

Engineering Manager Bader provided a detailed presentation on the proposed purchase of environmental credits for the construction of the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project, including the project location and needs, the breakdown of negotiated credits, and the Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank after which 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 to authorize staff to enter into an Agreement with Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank to Reserve and Purchase Environmental Credits to Support the Construction of the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project in the amount of \$3,747,000.00.

7.8) 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) **None at This Time.**

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

8) Information Items:

8.1) Reports of Directors:

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

1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) Meeting – March 11. (Director Dino, Board Liaison/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt)

Director Dino stated that on March 11, he attended the AVEK Meeting where they approved purchase orders payable to three vendors for their Valve Replacement Project at the Mojave Tank Farm in the not-to-exceed amount of \$365,533.80.

2) Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting – February 15. (Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)

Director Kellerman reported that on February 15, he attended the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club fishing derby which took the place of their regular meeting and that it was very well attended.

**5) Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA) Meeting – March 17.
(Director Kellerman/Director Wilson/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)**

Director Kellerman reported that on March 17, he attended the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA) Meeting where they presented an appreciation plaque to former PRWA Public Member, Zakeya Anson; voted in Joe Pallon as the new Public Member; filed the treasurers and investment reports; elected to keep Austin Bishop and the PRWA Chair; and received an update on progress and cost sharing of the Avenue Q Recycled Water Pipeline Project.

b) General Meetings Reports of Directors.

Director Kellerman reported that on March 13, he attended PWD's Let's Talk H2O Event; that on March 15, he attended the Fin & Feather Club fishing derby; that on March 17, he attended the PRWA Meeting; that on March 19, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on March 20, he attended the AV Edge Business Summit.

Director Wilson reported that on March 17, he completed his Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests filing; that on March 17, he also attended the PRWA Meeting; that on March 20, he attended the AV Edge Business Summit; and that on March 20, he also attended a Board Briefing.

Director Sanchez reported that on March 13, she attended PWD's Let's Talk H2O Event; that on March 20, she attended the AV Edge Business Summit; and that on March 20, she also attended a Board Briefing.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on March 11, she attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on March 13, she attended an Agenda Review Briefing; that on March 13, she also attended PWD's Let's Talk H2O Event; that on March 17, she attended the PRWA Meeting; that on March 18, she attended the Special AVEK Board Meeting where they voted to continue participation in the Delta Conveyance Project; that on March 19, she attended a Board Briefing; that on March 20, she attended the AV Edge Business Summit; and that on March 24, she attended a Public Water Suppliers Meeting.

Director Dino reported that on March 10, he attended the PWD Regular Board Meeting; that on March 11, he attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on March 13, he attended PWD's Let's Talk H2O Event; that on March 18, he attended the Special AVEK Board Meeting; that on March 20, he attended the AV Edge Business Summit; that on March 20, he also attended a Board Briefing; that on March 21, he completed a CSDA on-demand webinar regarding Sexual Harassment Training; and that on March 24, he is attending the PWD 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 presentation of the Human Resources Department's current and projected activities including employee activities and programs, recruitment, staffing, completed and scheduled trainings, quarterly All-Hands Meetings, CalPERS retirement meetings, and the District's Employee Appreciation Event on May 3, 2025 at Knott's Berry Farm.

She then stated that staff is finalizing updates to the Risk and Resilience Assessment as part of the Emergency Response Plan update and preparing the submittal of a grant application for the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Employee Engagement Survey was then briefly discussed after which Human Resources Garcia stated that staff communication continues and that a mini survey is scheduled for this June.

b) March 2025 Written Report of Activities through February 2025.

General Manager LaMoreaux announced that the engineer from the State Water Resources Control Board assisting the District with the Alpine Spring Mobile Home Park consolidation is in attendance this evening after which Ms. Saeeda Rafique provided a self-introduction and a brief overview of her professional experience.

He then stated that a written report focused on water resources was provided in the agenda packet and highlighted the Northern Sierra precipitation and snowpack, and the Southern California drought status followed by a brief discussion of drought impacts.

He then stated that there have been no mainline leaks and just two service line leaks to date this year.

8.3) Report of General Counsel.

General Counsel Early provided a brief update on SB 394 regarding fines and remedies for water theft including the proposal to eliminate the annual fee requirement and implementing a cause of action to recover damage costs.

Net-metering for solar power was then briefing discussed.

9) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

President Mac Laren-Gomez requested that a discussion item be added to the next meeting agenda regarding the Board of Directors Standing Committees.

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 6:59 p.m.



Secretary