

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2024  
1:30 p.m.

President McDonald called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. by in-person, teleconference, and Zoom meeting. All those in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance led by President McDonald.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melody McDonald, President  
Robert Stewart, Vice President  
Richard Corneille, Director  
David E. Raley, Director  
John Longville, Director (Arrival: 1:50 pm)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Betsy Miller, General Manager  
David Cosgrove, District Counsel  
Angie Quiroga, Senior Administrative Analyst  
Milan Mitrovich, Land Resources Manager  
Katelyn Scholte, Principal Engineer  
Laura Torres, Assistant Engineer  
John Lambie, Consulting Chief Engineer and Geohydrologist  
Athena Laroche, Administrative Specialist  
Zach Blum, Intern

GUESTS PRESENT:

June Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
Paul Kielhold, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
David Smith, East Valley Water District  
Michael Moore, East Valley Water District  
Johnny Cho, Realtor  
Ted Parks, Hello Sushi  
Joseph Aguirre, Tetra Tech

## 1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President McDonald announced that any persons present, who so desired, may make an oral presentation to the Board of Directors. Mr. Cho spoke on behalf of Ted Parks of Hello Sushi who leases Suite G-H at Redlands Plaza. He discussed Mr. Park's request to exercise a five-year extension to the existing lease with an additional five-year option for a total of ten years. President McDonald thanked Mr. Cho for his comments and noted that this item will be discussed in closed session and therefore the Board is unable to take action on this item in open session today. Mr. Cosgrove said there was no Board action taken in September 2023, as previously indicated by Mr. Parks. He said that the existing lease has expired, and the renewal will be discussed in closed session. Mr. Cosgrove said that the District will respond to Mr. Park's request by close of business tomorrow. June Hayes, Director of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD), announced the sad passing of their former Director, Gil Navarro. Paul Kielhold, Director of SBVMWD, announced upcoming events including the Foundation Summit being held on April 25-26 to discuss the history and role of the wholesale District with a tour held on the second day. This will be followed by a tour of the State Water Project facilities on May 29-31.

## 2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the posted agenda.

## 3. GUEST RECOGNITIONS/SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Board members and staff made self-introductions.

## 4. PUBLIC MEETING RELATED TO ADOPTION OF THE GROUNDWATER CHARGE

Ms. Miller reviewed the groundwater rate-setting process. The Finance & Administration Committee and staff recommend a 5% increase to the groundwater charge, which is a total of \$0.85 cents. She noted that the proposed increase of 5% reflects the impact of inflation on the costs needed to operate and maintain District facilities. She indicated that a detailed budgetary review of the Groundwater Enterprise was presented to the Board on February 14, and that those documents are included in today's package. The Groundwater Charge notices were mailed to all District producers, and the notice of public hearing was published in the Redlands Daily Facts and the San Bernardino Sun on March 1, March 8, and March 15. Mr. Cosgrove provided a verbal overview of the draft Groundwater Resolution included on package page 19. The resolution will be brought back to the Board for final approval on April 24. He indicated that the proposed increase to the Groundwater Charge is 5%, to a total unitary amount of \$17.80 per acre foot. In addition, the Sustainability Component is recommended to cease due to the cessation of the Groundwater Council. He provided a brief history of the Sustainability Component. Mr. Cosgrove noted that the draft Engineering Investigation report was presented to the Board on February 14, and the final was approved on March 13. The Groundwater Enterprise budget has been presented to the Finance & Administration Committee. He noted that the Engineering Investigation Report presentation is available for presentation today if requested. No Board member or member of the public requested the presentation. Mr. Cosgrove discussed compliance with the noticing requirements, including newspaper and mailed notices. No action will be taken today, with the Board action scheduled for April 24. Director Corneille stated that

the District is planning to use some reserves for the FY25 budget. He noted his support for appropriate use of reserves such as this, and discussed that reserves were accounted for in development of the recommended Groundwater Charge. Ms. Miller said that a great deal of maintenance is needed after the recent record recharge years. A plan for maintenance is in development and will be presented to the Operations Committee. Director Raley requested additional information on the Groundwater Council (GC). Mr. Cosgrove provided a brief overview of the GC. Mr. Cosgrove noted that no public comments, written or verbal, have been received on the groundwater charge to date.

President McDonald opened the public meeting. Mr. Moore spoke on the GC, noting the need for ongoing discussions on how GC could equitably continue its mission. The GC has funds set aside to purchase water throughout 2024 and possibly into 2025. Mr. Moore said that East Valley Water District is committed to ensuring the District has the resources and funds to continue its mission. He commended the District for carrying out its mission and spoke in support of the District's proposed action. President McDonald asked if any other public wished to comment on the Groundwater Charge or Engineering Investigation Report. President McDonald closed the Public Meeting.

**It was moved by Director Longville and seconded by Director Corneille to continue this matter to the April 24 Groundwater Public Hearing. The motion carried 5-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative.**

**President McDonald: Yes  
Vice President Stewart: Yes  
Director Corneille: Yes  
Director Longville: Yes  
Director Raley: Yes**

#### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

**It was moved by Director Corneille and seconded by Director Longville to approve the Consent Calendar: Item A: Board Minutes, March 13, 2024; and Item B: Expenditure Report, March 2024. The motion carried 5-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative.**

**President McDonald: Yes  
Vice President Stewart: Yes  
Director Corneille: Yes  
Director Longville: Yes  
Director Raley: Yes**

present the trails MOU to their Council on May 7. She noted that the state director for BLM has retired, and that we continue to work with BLM staff on the land exchange. On March 6, District staff photos were taken. District successes were noted and reviewed on package page 66.

She noted that a letter of support for AB2257 was submitted by the District and is included on package page 69. A press release for Groundwater Awareness Week is included on package page 73. Ms. Miller noted the District is hosting an event in coordination with the San Bernardino County Museum on April 20 for A Day of Climate Action in Redlands. The event includes a presentation on native bees and native gardens by a local National Geographics Explorer who specializes in insect photography. Director Corneille provided information on events that will be held on April 20 by the Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action, including a Repair Café. Ms. Miller said that LAFCO provided an update on their Special District's Committee election, noting that Kimberly Cox will be appointed following no nominations for other candidates in her geographic area. She said that Tommy Purvis has shared how the new F-250 has increased efficiency by allowing staff to transport the excavator via trailer without having to use the dump truck, and directed attention to a photo of the truck on package page 66. The Monthly Recharge Report is included on package page 75. This item was received and filed.

#### D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND STAFF TASKS

Director Corneille asked if there was an update to our outreach program and if the Outreach Committee had reviewed the budget. Ms. Miller said that the Draft Communications and Engagement Plan has been completed and is awaiting staff review. She will work with the Board Secretary to schedule an Outreach Committee meeting.

#### 8. MONTHLY BOARD MEMBER MEETING REPORTS AND/OR BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Longville attended the District's Board meeting on March 13, SBVMWD Board Meeting on March 19 and April 2. He indicated that he did not attend the Water Conservation Showcase that he had intended to go to.

Director Raley attended the Redlands Rise N Shine on April 5 and signed expenditures on April 9.

Director Corneille attended a climate teach-in at the University of Redlands on March 21 and Redlands Rise N Shine on April 5.

Vice President Stewart attended the Big Bear Watermaster Committee on March 19, the Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce Mayors Breakfast on April 3, and the SBVMWD Policy & Administration Workshop on April 4. He noted that the meetings on the Sunrise Ranch should be attended by the Board and/or staff.

President McDonald will attend the ACWA State Legislative Committee tomorrow. She attended the SBVMWD Resources & Engineering Workshop on April 9, SBVMWD Policy & Administration Workshop on April 4 and Met with President Morales of East Valley Water District on April 3. She attended the

SBVMWD Board meeting on April 2, the Highland Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on March 26, and the ACWA State Legislative Committee on March 22. She attended the SBVMWD Board Meeting on March 19. President McDonald encouraged Board members to submit expense reports in a timely manner.

There was no action required related to the travel request included on package page 76.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Finance & Administration Committee will be held on April 16, and the Operations Committee will be held on April 17.

10. CLOSED SESSION

**It was moved by Director Corneille and second by Director Raley to adjourn to Closed Session. The motion carried 5-0, with all Directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**President McDonald: Yes  
Vice President Stewart: Yes  
Director Corneille: Yes  
Director Longville: Yes  
Director Raley: Yes**

General Counsel announced that the meeting would adjourn to a closed session to discuss all posted agenda items.

At 4:22 p.m. the meeting reconvened into open session. Mr. Cosgrove noted that direction was given to its negotiators, but otherwise there was no reportable action during the closed session.

11. ADJOURN MEETING

**It was moved by Director Longville and seconded by Director Corneille to adjourn. The motion carried 5-0, with all Directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**President McDonald: Yes  
Vice President Stewart: Yes  
Director Corneille: Yes  
Director Longville: Yes  
Director Raley: Yes**

At 4:24 p.m. the meeting adjourned to the Board meeting/Groundwater Public Hearing scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on April 24, 2024, in-person, teleconference, and Zoom meeting.



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Betsy Miller  
General Manager