

**VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 11, 2010**

Pursuant to due and official notice, a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District was held at 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, California on August 11, 2010.

President T. Jamison called the meeting to order at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

There were present Directors J. Curtis, M. Hanson, T. Jamison, E. Lee, and E. Ramseyer. Also present were General Manager Matthew Bryant, Carla Burke – substitute recording secretary for Janet Schaefer, and Counsel Lindsay Nielson. Public present was Mr. George Galgas of 523 E. Katherine Avenue.

Director E. Lee moved for approval of the consent agenda items, seconded by Director E. Ramseyer and carried.

Director M. Hanson motioned to commit contingency fund figures for the current fiscal year ending 2011, seconded by Director J. Curtis and carried.

Director T. Jamison moved to open the public hearing for a rate increase at 5:37 o'clock p.m. and read aloud Resolution 2010 -252 for approval of a rate increase.

**RESOLUTION 2010 – 252
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VENTURA RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
APPROVING A WATER RATE INCREASE**

WHEREAS, The VRCWD Board of Directors have identified \$3.9 million in improvements and upgrades for the next 10 years; and,

WHEREAS, water rates are adjusted to provide the funding for operations, maintenance, and system improvements; and

WHEREAS, for the period of July 2009 to June 2010 the annual Cost of Living has increased 1.0% according to Bureau of Labor Statistics as reported July 16, 2010 for the area of Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange counties, Urban Wager Earners and Clerical Workers; and,

WHEREAS, property tax revenues have declined 12.0% below fiscal year 08-09 and 11.6% below 07-08 and operating expenses exceeded water sales income by 5.7%; and,

WHEREAS; The Ventura River County Water District has approximately 33 miles of water mainline. Over twenty miles of the water mains were built 40 & 50 years ago. The cost of these water mains when they were installed was approximately \$25 per foot totaling approximately \$2.8 million. Today those same water mains would cost an average of \$80 per foot to replace totaling \$8.8 million; and

WHEREAS; The VRCWD Board of Directors held a public hearing on August 11, 2010 forty-five (45) days after properly noticing each water customer within the boundaries of the district as prescribed in Proposition 218 to present justification for a proposed 4% increase in water rates and hear public testimony; and,

WHEREAS, VRCWD did not receive a majority of the property owners opposing the rate increase as prescribed by Proposition 218 in order to reject the increase; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Ventura River County Water District that effective with the September 30, 2010 billing period, water meter readings from August 15, 2010 to September 15, 2010, we will increase all water rates 4%.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of August 2010.

AYES: Curtis, Hanson, Jamison, Lee, Ramseyer

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

Tom Jamison, President

John R. Curtis, Vice-President

M. Bryant discussed the draft Request for Proposals (RFP), for the Valley Meadow Project Engineering. M. Bryant spoke with Ron Sheets, Operations Superintendent of the Ojai Valley Sanitary District, who is very receptive to working together with VRCWD to format a joint RFP for Engineering on this project. Once Mr. Sheets determines the extent of the work, he will collaborate with M. Bryant to develop a joint RFP.

Director J. Curtis moved for approval of Water Resource Engineering Associates (WREA) proposed Fixed Cost estimate of \$19,530 and not to exceed \$23,000 for the SCADA upgrade engineering project. Counsel Lindsay Nielson recommended to include in the contract with WREA the verbiage "not to exceed" (the fixed costs), seconded by E. Ramseyer and carried.

Director E. Lee motioned to decline VRCWD's participation in the Ventura River Watershed Council's request to fund a proposed new position of Watershed Coordinator, seconded by Director E. Ramseyer and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

M. Bryant reported on wells, production, and usage. The aquifer level at Well #2 on August 1st, 2010 was 34.9 feet below surface. The level is down 4.6 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 4.4 feet above the 21 – year average and 12.2 feet above the August 1, 2009 level.

Counsel L. Nielson sent a letter to Aztec Roofing, demanding an immediate resolution to the leaky roof caused by faulty materials. Staff met with the manufacturers of the roofing materials and Aztec Roofing. Agreement was reached to replace the District office roof at Aztec Roofing's expense. The roof replacement has been tentatively scheduled for August 30, 2010.

Under Old Business the Board has scheduled a Workshop, to review the final draft report from Management Partners, for August 17th, at 1:00 o'clock p.m.

Under New Business M. Bryant discussed the News Release from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the probe into excessive local Government salaries as a result of the Bell California salary scandal.

E. Ramseyer moved to close the public hearing for a rate increase at 6:26 o'clock p.m. and approve Resolution 2010-252, seconded by J. Curtis and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further action to come before this meeting on motion duly seconded the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 o'clock p.m.

Attested:

Tom Jamison, President

John R. Curtis, Vice President