

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2021**

Directors present in person and via Zoom video were: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. Also present were: Attorney Lindsey Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, Office Manager Emily Arnbrister Public Present: Asa Soltan, Carl F Enson, Art Gonzalez, Fran Fitting, Jaime Limon.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Bruce Kuebler called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. MINUTES SEPTEMBER 15, 2021
  - B. FINANCIALS AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2021
  - C. EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENTS FY 2020-21

Ed Lee moved for approval of the consent agenda, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

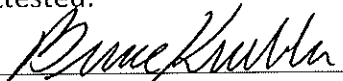
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA) –** None.
4. **RESOLUTION 2021-335 BROWN ACT MEETINGS DURING EMERGENCIES:** Pursuant to A.B. 361, Board Meetings can be held via teleconference when there is a declared State of Emergency by the Governor, and health/safety concern for the public. General discussion was held around the ability to continue remote representation after the State of Emergency is over. **Public Comment:** Carl Enson expressed interest in continuing Zoom for the publics ability to attend meetings to be continued. **Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 2021-335 to enable use of AB 361 and allow the Board to hold in person meetings at its discretion. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded Nathan Rosser and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
5. **READVERTISE CONTRACT- WELL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:** No bids were received during prior Well Improvements Project bid period. Well Drillers indicated increased workload caused an inability to bid. Issuing a new Well Bid Contract for an extended period and changing the schedule to extend completion until May of 2022 will likely encourage bids to be submitted. **Public Comments:** None. **Recommended Actions:** Board to authorize General Manager to readvertise the Well Improvements Project with an extended schedule. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
6. **AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DESIGN OF 2023 WATER PROJECTS:** State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan program staff have approved the project list for \$10M Zero interest loan. SRF approval is contingent upon a review of the capacity limitations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Parker Tank, and pump components to be replaced, as well as ensuring Solar useful life is more than 20 years. Scope of work includes design of a sound wall between VRWD and our neighbor. The Board held general discussion regarding building the sound wall in the most cost-effective way. Draft proposal as presented was only for the design phase, the General Manager recommended adding the construction phase to the Request for Proposals. Consultant proposals will be considered based on qualifications, proposed schedule, and cost. General Board discussion regarding loan projects, and ability for VRWD to absorb partial cost if not fully covered by SRF loan. **Public Comment:** Asa Soltan expressed concern for the generator noise due to the loudness. The family gets scared when the generator is turned on. Bruce Kuebler asked Bert to coordinate with Asa Soltan so generator can be tested so as not to be a problem, basically when her son is in school. **Recommended Action:** Authorize the General Manager to modify the RFP as described and advertise for cost proposals. Ed

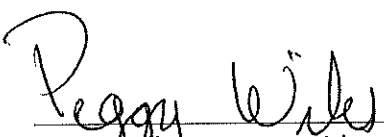
Lee moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Jack Curtis and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)

7. **DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF TICO & 1000 BURNHAM ROAD ANNEXATION:** Annexing new properties into the district is an optional, discretionary action. Ventura County has been doing well monitoring on 1000 Burnham Rd since 1947. New owner, Art Gonzalez is hesitant to continue to allow monitoring. Bruce expressed concern over the denied access to the well at 1000 Burnham Rd, and financial costs associated if VRWD/UVRGA does not have access to well, citing a monitoring well cost of \$100,000 if which VRWD would have to pay \$20,000. Bruce Kuebler would like to see guaranteed access to monitor the well at 1000 Burnham for 10 years in coordination with Annexation to VRWD. **Public Comment:** Jaime Limon stated concerns, on behalf of Mr. Art Gonzalez how his property has been impacted by Ventura County Agencies: The previous owner indicated several changes or "takings" on the property that included a Sewer Easement to OVSD without tie ins, re-designation as Open Space and Wildlife Corridor overlay by the County without compensation, the Flood Zone updated by FEMA rendering half the property unbuildable. The well is critical for our use and we do not want it restricted in any way. Mr. Gonzalez expressed that he is willing to cooperate with the General Manager to create a long-term agreement for well monitoring as a condition for being annexed into district. **Recommended Action:** Direct General Manger to work with Mr. Gonzalez of 1000 Burnham Rd to create long term well monitoring agreement and bring it to the Board for its November 17 meeting. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended actions, seconded Peggy Wiles and carried 5-0 (AYES: Jack Curtis Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
8. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY- BRUCE KUEBLER:** Bruce Kuebler reported on recent UVRGA meeting. UVRGA received comments from draft groundwater sustainability plan, most comments had concerns regarding groundwater dependent ecosystems and the minimum thresholds. UVRGA Executive Director will group comments into categories and a revised draft will be discussed by Board on Nov 15. No action was taken on this item.
9. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS:** The static aquifer level at Well #2 on October 1, 2021, was at elevation 497.4, dropping 4.9 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 13.8 feet below the 30-year average for October 1. Well #1 is pumping 919 GPM, down 4 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were not online in September. Well #7 is pumping 593 GPM, down 44 GPM from last month. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas. Sales dollars billed on September 30, 2021, amounted to \$285,301, under budget by \$22,201 for September. Water sold in September 2021 amounted to 38,822 HCF, a decrease of 38% below the 63,102 HCF sold in September 2013. On September 1, 2021, Lake Casitas level was at 33.4% of full capacity at elevation of 487.07 feet. The lake has decreased 0.9% or 1.6 feet and decreased 2,074 AF since last month. No action was taken on this item.
10. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS:** Land Resiliency project is actively working with some of our first customers who submitted for the project. Board would like updates on the project.
11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Bruce Kuebler moved the meeting into executive session at 4:24 pm to discuss pending litigation and brought the board out of executive session at 4:37 pm. No action was taken on this item

Meeting adjourned at 4:38pm.

Attested:

  
Bruce Kuebler, President

  
Peggy Wiles, Vice President