

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

Directors present via Zoom video were: Jack Curtis and Nathan Rosser. Directors present in person: Ed Lee and Peggy Wiles. Directors not in attendance: Bruce Kuebler. Also present were: Attorney Lindsey Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, Assistant General Manager, Alma Quezada, Office Manager Emily Arnbrister, Office Assistant Nichole Ochoa. Public Present: None

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-** President Peggy Wiles called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA) –** None
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. **MINUTES JULY 20, 2022**
 - B. **PAYMENTS & CHECKS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2022; FINANCIALS FOR MAY, JUNE, JULY 2022**
 - C. **CONFIRMATION OF RESOLUTION 2021-335 REMOTE MEETINGS**

Ed Lee moved for approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded Nathan Rosser and carried 4-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None. Absent: Bruce Kuebler).

4. **GOALS UPDATE FOR 2022/23:** An update on the 2022/23 goals. The goals are used to guide the preparation of the budget for next fiscal year and scheduling staff activities. The General Manager, Bert Rapp presented the goals with an emphasis on the timeline for the Tico Annexation, it is delayed due the State requiring the CEQA Report prior to approval of funding. The 2023 Water Projects Plans & Specifications has one project delayed due to Casitas Municipal Water District amending the location for the emergency intertie from Carrillo Road to La Paz Drive. Staff will work on preparation of water rates & schedules for drought stages 4 & 5. The North Alto Tank mixing valve will be repaired this year due to corrosion. There was general Board discussion regarding the relation between water rates and the drought stages, and the need for a prop 218 hearing. The Board also discussed the impact of the Tico Annexation delay on other projects. **Public Comment:** None.
5. **LAFCO SPECIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION:** LAFCO is currently accepting nominations for the Special District member seat and the alternate Special District seat. Jack Curtis is currently the alternate, and has decided to step down from the alternate seat. The term is 4 years. The Board has the ability to nominate a candidate. The Board chose to not nominate a candidate now, the Board would support Bruce Kuebler's nomination if he was interested. **Public Comment:** None.
6. **UPDATE CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE- RESOLUTION 2022-345:** An amendment to the Conflict of Interest code is needed to incorporate the new Assistant General Manager. Each local agency is required to review its code every two years. The Assistant General Manager position has been added to the organizational structure since we last reviewed and updated the Conflict of Interest Code.
Public Comment: None. **Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 2022-345 updating the Conflict of Interest Code to include the Assistant General Manager. Jack Curtis moved for

approval of the recommended action, seconded Ed Lee and carried 4-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None. Absent: Bruce Kuebler).

7. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA) - BRUCE KUEBLER:** Bruce spoke with Bert Rapp regarding the meeting, Bruce noted that Pete Kaiser pulled an item from the UVRGA agenda regarding the City of Ojai joining UVRGA. Pete Kaiser pulled the item because the City of Ojai did not return inquiries from Mr. Kaiser to move forward with the idea. In the October meeting, Brian Bondy will go over the GSP with the new UVRGA Board members.
8. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON WATER & DISTRICT STATUS:** The static aquifer level at Well #2 on September 1, 2022, was at elevation 509.2, dropping 5.5 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 6.1 feet below the 30-year average for September 1st. Well #1 is pumping 929 GPM, down 27 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were not online in August. Well #7 is pumping 713 GPM, down 30 GPM from last month. No supplemental water was purchased from Casitas. Sales dollars billed on September 31, 2022, amounted to \$271,641, under budget by \$27,076 for August. Water sold in August 2022 amounted to 37,114 HCF, a decrease of 41% below the 62,509 HCF sold in August 2013. On September 1, 2022, Lake Casitas level was at 31.4% of full capacity at an elevation of 483.24 feet. The lake has decreased 0.8% since last month. Children's water conservation banners were installed on September 1st. The District hired Nichole Ochoa as the Office Assistant and Alma Quezada as the Assistant General Manager and their employment commenced on August 29, 2022. The SCADA radios were tested and are showing excellent radio signals. Casitas is working with VRWD to develop a mutual aid agreement regarding harvesting of surplus groundwater. Casitas is reviewing the feasibility of the concept. Once Casitas has developed details, a concept agreement will be presented to the Board. There was general Board discussion regarding the Matilija Dam.
9. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS:** None.
10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Peggy Wiles moved the meeting into executive session at 3:51 P.M. to discuss pending litigation. Peggy Wiles brought the Board out of executive session at 4:05 P.M. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

Attested:


Bert J. Rapp, Secretary