

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

Directors present via Zoom video were: Jack Curtis, and Nathan Rosser. Directors present in person: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, and Peggy Wiles. Also present were: Attorney Lindsay Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, Assistant General Manager Alma Quezada, Office Manager Emily Arnbrister. Public Present: Luis Ixatl (11065 Creek Road) joined at 3:11pm and left at 3:21pm.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** - President Ed Lee called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Flag salute led by Bert Rapp.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. **MINUTES JANUARY 18, 2023**
 - B. **PAYMENTS & CHECKS FOR JANUARY 2023; FINANCIALS FOR DECEMBER 2022**
 - C. **CONFIRMATION OF RESOLUTION 2021-335 REMOTE MEETINGS**

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

4. **2023 BROWN ACT UPDATES- REMOTE MEETINGS:** The Assistant General Manager presented updates to the Brown Act. **Public Comment:** None. No action was taken on this item.
5. **MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW, 10 YR CIP & WATER RATE ANALYSIS:** The District is 23% overall under budget. Contract labor, meter replacement, and maintenance, and utilities are over budget. There were some revisions to the Capital Improvement Program due to the SRF Loan process, inflation and construction costs. The 10-year financial model indicates that a rate increase is needed. Staff will have a more comprehensive rate analysis in March. There was general board discussion about the water rates and Director Kuebler requested the volume of water sales be changed from 850 acre-feet to 800 acre-feet. President Lee appointed Bruce Kuebler and Nathan Rosser to an ad-hoc committee to review potential rate increases and the Capital Improvement Program. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** 1) Review and comment on the mid-year budget update. 2) Approve Budget Transfer #4 in the amount of \$57,000 to account for the cost of meters, contract labor, and increase in expected utility costs. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
6. **LEGAL COUNSEL SELECTION:** Bruce Kuebler presented the ad hoc committee's recommendation for District legal counsel: Stuart Nielson. Stuart Nielson is a well-respected lawyer with positive reviews from staff and board members at Meiners Oaks Water District. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** 1) Select Stuart Nielson as the preferred candidate. 2) Approve the draft agreement for legal services as a starting point in negotiations. 3) Direct the ad hoc committee to negotiate an agreement with Stuart Nielson and bring it back to the Board for approval. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler, and carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
7. **11065 CREEK ROAD- WAIVER REQUEST:** The property owner of 11065 Creek Rd is wishing to construct a secondary dwelling unit on their property. Current Rules & Regulations would require a new service line and meter to be installed. The property owner is asking for a waiver, due to the large financial burden of installing a new ¼ mile long pipe to the meter location. The customer's plans for the property include installation of a 5,000-gallon water tank for fire flow suppression to the secondary unit. The current meter can adequately serve both the existing and proposed dwelling. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** 1) Approve the property owner's request to waive the requirement for a separate water meter, due to special circumstances. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the

recommended action, seconded by 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 (UVRGA) - BRUCE KUEBLER:** There were no meetings to report.
9. **WATER & DISTRICT UPDATE:** The static aquifer level at Well #2 on February 1, 2023, was at elevation 538.8, increasing 36.3 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 14.9 feet above the 35-year average for February 1st. Well #1 is pumping 982 GPM, up 112 GPM from last month. Well #7 is pumping 794 GPM, up 162 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were offline in January. Supplemental Casitas water was not purchased. Sales dollars billed on January 31, 2023, amounted to \$100,090, under budget by \$50,476 for December. Water sold in January 2023 amounted to 18,928 HCF, a decrease of 14% below the 22,075 HCF sold in January 2013. On February 1, 2023, Lake Casitas level was at 44.0% of full capacity at an elevation of 504.5 feet. The lake has increased 12.9% since last month. Emily Arnbrister graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in Business from CSUCI. Mark Albertsen celebrated 12 years of service with the District. The McDonald's leak has been repaired. The water rate analysis will be presented March 15th.
10. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS:** Staff reported on their first lunch and learn experience.
11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Ed Lee moved the meeting into executive session at 3:27 pm to discuss pending litigation and personnel matters; General Manager's review. Ed Lee brought the Board out of executive session at 4:05 pm. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Attested:


Bert J. Rapp, Secretary