

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 19, 2023**

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** - President Ed Lee called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Flag salute led by Nathan Rosser. Director Jack Curtis requested invocation of AB2449 for emergency circumstances. Peggy Wiles moved to allow Director Curtis to attend via zoom, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and the motion carried 4-0. (AYES: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
2. **ROLL CALL:** Directors Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles were present. Also present were Attorney Stuart Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, Assistant General Manager Alma Quezada, Office Manager Emily Arnbrister. Public Present: Frances Fitting and Kathy Dawson of Tico Mutual Water Company.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. **MINUTES MARCH 15, 2023**
 - B. **PAYMENTS & CHECKS FOR MARCH 2023; FINANCIALS FOR FEBRUARY 2023**

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.)

5. **RESOLUTION 2023-352 RESCINDING ORDINANCE 2022-01 WATER WASTE & CONSERVATION DURING WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY:** Casitas Municipal Water District has reduced the drought stage from Stage 3 to Stage 1. Bruce Kuebler recommended adding several WHEREAS's. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** 1) Adopt resolution 2023-352 with the additional WHEREAS's rescinding ordinance 2022-01 Water Waste & Conservation During Water Shortage Emergency and removing the mandatory 30% conservation requirement on outdoor irrigation. 2) Keep the Abusive Water Waste Penalty at \$5. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and the motion carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
6. **APPROVE TASK ORDER #20 FOR NEPA ANALYSIS- 2023 WATER PROJECTS:** The State Revolving Fund requires a NEPA analysis for the 2023 Water Projects. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** 1) Approve Task Order #20 in the amount of \$15,192 for the NEPA Analysis for the 2023 Water Projects design contract with Phoenix Civil Engineering. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and the motion carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
7. **DISCUSSION OF UPDATED BOARD BYLAWS:** General Counsel, Stuart Nielson presented a proposed update of the bylaws to the Board. There was general discussion regarding board member feedback on the Bylaws. The board requested that persistent absenteeism be defined as two (2) or more consecutive meetings or more than three (3) within a calendar year, along with other miscellaneous edits, and that this item return at the next meeting.
8. **FY 23/24 FIRST DRAFT BUDGET:** The first draft of the 23/24 budget was presented. There was general board discussion regarding expense items. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Review and comment.
9. **CASITAS DROUGHT ALLOCATION:** The General Manager presented the updated Casitas Drought Allocation request for Casitas Springs, Monte Via, and Rio Via, as well as emergency use in the well service area. The proposed allocation is set at a 10% reduction from the full allocation. Stage 1 drought conditions adopted by Casitas Municipal Water District request a 20% voluntary reduction from the 1991 allocation. **Public Comment:** None.

- 10. RESOLUTION 2023-350:** The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently approved a New Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program that will facilitate the Tico consolidation project by streamlining the application process. **Public Comment:** Fran Fitting of Tico Mutual inquired regarding the anticipated cost and the timeline of the funding. **Recommended Action:** Adopt resolution 2023-350 including "ands" authorizing the General Manager or their designee to apply for funding, execute a grant agreement, and submit and required documents, invoices, and reports under the Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding, to obtain grant funding for consolidation with Tico Mutual Water Company. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Nathan Rosser and the motion carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
- 11. RESOLUTION 2032-351:** SWRCB is accepting applications for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Funding can be applied to the 2023 Water Projects. Up to \$10M is eligible interest free, and excess funds are eligible at a low interest rate. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Adopt resolution 2023-351 authorizing the General Manager or their designee to apply for loan funding, execute a loan agreement, and submit any required documents, invoices, and reports under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, to obtain a loan in the amount of \$10 Million for the 2023 Water Projects and possible supplemental funding for additional projects. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Jack Curtis and the motion carried 5-0. (AYES: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, Nathan Rosser, and Peggy Wiles. NOES: None.)
- 12. BROWN ACT UPDATE- AB 2449:** General Counsel, Stuart Nielson clarified select portions of AB 2449.
- 13. BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA) - BRUCE KUEBLER:** There was no UVRGA meeting to report.
- 14. WATER & DISTRICT UPDATE:** The static aquifer level at Well #2 on April 1, 2023, was at elevation 554.1, increasing 7.7 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 21.0 feet above the 35-year average for April 1st. Well #1 is pumping 1,070 GPM, down 5 GPM from last month. Well #7 is pumping 912 GPM, up 34 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were offline in March. Supplemental Casitas water was not purchased. Sales dollars billed on March 31, 2023, amounted to \$128,174, under budget by \$48,093 for March. Water sold in March 2023 amounted to 15,619 HCF, a decrease of 48% below the 29,812 HCF sold in March 2013. On April 1, 2023, Lake Casitas level was at 67.4% of full capacity at an elevation of 534.8 feet. The lake has increased 18.0% since last month.
- 15. OLD & NEW BUSINESS:** None.
- 16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – No executive session was held.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Attested:


Bert J. Rapp, Secretary