

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING MAY 10, 2023**

Directors present were: Bruce Kuebler, Ed Lee, and Peggy Wiles. Directors Curtis and Rosser were absent. Also present were Attorney Stuart Nielson, General Manager/Board Secretary Bert Rapp, Assistant General Manager Alma Quezada, Office Manager Emily Arnbrister, and Office Assistant Nichole Ochoa. Public Present: Carl Enson, Mary Wood and one other member of the public.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** - President Ed Lee called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Flag salute led by Bruce Kuebler.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – Carl Enson requested an update on Solar Installation, an update was given by General Manager Bert Rapp.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. **MINUTES APRIL 19, 2023**

Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the minutes for April 19, 2023, seconded by Peggy Wiles and the motion carried 3-0.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE:** Assistant General Manager, Alma Quezada provided an overview of the components of the proposed water rates to cover increasing water supply costs, operating and maintenance expenses, capital infrastructure maintenance and improvements, and regulatory requirements.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 2:06 PM.

The following person provided public testimony: Mary Wood. Bert Rapp, the Board Secretary counted 14 protests notices received and stated that a total of 1,089 protest notices would be needed to halt the proposed rates.

PRESIDENT ED LEE CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 2:39PM.

**Recommended Action:** 1) Adopt amended resolution 2023-353 to approve the amended Appendix I of the Rules and Regulations, including the water rate increases. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and the motion carried 3-0.

5. **UPDATE TO PERSONNEL POLICY:** The District's current Personnel Policy limits employee contributions to CalPERS and does not align with the anticipated required fiscal employee member rates. Changes to employee contribution limits will allow for fluctuation based on CalPERS limits. Clarifying changes to 3490.8 allows for use of PTO anytime of the year due to financial hardship. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** 1) Approve changes to section 3505.3 of the Personnel Policy 2) Approve clarifying language changes to section 3490.8 of the Personnel Policy. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Peggy Wiles and the motion carried 3-0.
6. **ADOPTION OF UPDATED BOARD BYLAWS:** General Counsel, Stuart Nielson presented an updated version of the bylaws to the Board based on board feedback. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** 1) Approve resolution 2023-354. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Peggy Wiles and the motion carried 3-0.
7. **FY 23/24 SECOND DRAFT BUDGET & BUDGET TRANSFER #5:** The second draft of the 23/24 budget was presented. Budget transfer #5 is necessary to stay within budget for accounts #60004, State Payroll Taxes and #60020, Meter Replacement & Maintenance. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** 1) Review and comment on the second draft budget 2) Approve Budget Transfer #5 in the amount of \$15,060. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and the motion carried 3-0.
8. **CONSERVATION BANNERS:** Conservation banners ideas were presented to the board to be displayed during both the summertime and rainy periods. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended**

**Action:** 1) Review and comment on the banners 2) Approval of all proposed banners except #1 and #3 to be printed. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and the motion carried 3-0.

**9. BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA) - BRUCE KUEBLER:** The UVRGA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan was approved. There was no UVRGA meeting to report.

**10. WATER & DISTRICT UPDATE:** The static aquifer level at Well #2 on May 1, 2023, was at elevation 550.5, decreasing 3.4 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 16.3 feet above the 35-year average for May 1<sup>st</sup>. Well #1 is pumping 1,107 GPM, up 37 GPM from last month. Well #7 is pumping 983 GPM, up 38 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were offline in April. Supplemental Casitas water was not purchased. Sales dollars billed on April 30, 2023, amounted to \$97,819, under budget by \$76,809 for April. Water sold in April 2023 amounted to 13,279 HCF, a decrease of 67% below the 40,335 HCF sold in April 2013. On May 1, 2023, Lake Casitas level was at 72.6% of full capacity at an elevation of 540.28 feet. The lake has increased 7.6% since last month.

**11. OLD & NEW BUSINESS:** President Ed Lee directed that no regular meeting be held May 17, 2023.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – No executive session was held.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm.**

Attested:



Bert J. Rapp, Secretary