

**VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

The director's present were: Jack Curtis, Bruce Kuebler, Laurie Lary, Ed Lee and Peggy Wiles. Also present were the District's legal counsel Stuart Nielson, Assistant General Manager Alma Quezada, and Office Manager Emily Arnbrister. Public Present: Marbe Manzano, John Dickinson, Marcelino Pena, Christine Salsbury and Raymond Welch of Casitas Mutual Water Company. Public present via zoom: Tom Reed of Casitas Mutual Water Company.

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. **OATH OF OFFICE- NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICIAL:** Dr. Laurel Lary took the Oath of Office to fill Nathan Rosser's position. The Oath was administered by Bert Rapp in his capacity as Secretary.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)** – None.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. **MINUTES AUGUST 16, 2023**
 - B. **PAYMENTS & CHECKS FOR AUGUST 2023**
 - C. **FINANCIALS FOR MAY & JUNE**

Jack Curtis moved for approval of the consent agenda seconded by Bruce Kuebler and the motion carried 5-0.

5. **APPROVE CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT WITH CASITAS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY:** A consolidation agreement is required to begin the merging process between Casitas Mutual Water Company and Ventura River Water District to pursue any available grant monies needed for water infrastructure improvements. There was general board discussion regarding this item. **Public Comment:** John Dickenson, Chairperson of Casitas Mutual Water District voiced support of merging with the District, and explained how merging authority is assigned to the Board by the By-Laws and a recent shareholder vote. The Casitas Mutual Board undertook the election to solidify shareholder approval for consolidation. **Recommended Action:** Approve the Consolidation Agreement as amended between the District and Casitas Mutual. Peggy Wiles moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Jack Curtis and the motion carried 5-0.
6. **RESOLUTION 2023-359: REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION FOR STATE REVOLVING FUND MONIES, 2023 WATER PROJECTS:** A reimbursement resolution is required by the State Water Resources Control Board - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund as part of the loan application to construct the 2023 Water Projects. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Approve resolution 2023-359. Bruce Kuebler moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Peggy Wiles and the motion carried 5-0.
7. **CALWARN ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT, MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT & RESOLUTION:** CalWARN is a state-wide resource and participation is recommended by the Ventura County Grand Jury to ensure adequate water for wildfire suppression. **Public Comment:** None. **Recommended Action:** Authorize the General Manager to execute the necessary paperwork for VRWD to become a signatory to the CalWARN mutual assistance agreement. Jack Curtis moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Bruce Kuebler and the motion carried 5-0.
8. **BOARD REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED & UPDATE ON THE UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY (UVRGA)** – No updates to report.
9. **WATER & DISTRICT UPDATE:** The static aquifer level at Well #2 on September 1, 2023, was at elevation 544.2 feet and decreased 2.5 feet since the first of last month. The aquifer is currently 28.9 feet above the 35-year average for September 1st. Well #1 is pumping 1,076 GPM, down 31 GPM from last month. Well #7 is pumping 831 GPM, down 31 GPM from last month. Well #2, #3, #4 & #6 were

offline in August. Supplemental Casitas water was not purchased. Sales dollars billed on August 31, 2023, amounted to \$300,892, under budget by \$23,352 for August. Water sold in August 2023 amounted to 37,439 HCF, a decrease of 40.1% below the 62,509 HCF sold in August 2013. On September 1, 2023, Lake Casitas level was at 72.6% of capacity at an elevation of 540.33 feet. The lake has decreased 0.6% since last month.

10. FILLING GENERAL MANAGER POSITION: The General Manager is set to retire December 31, 2023. The Assistant General Manager was hired to help with workload and train to potentially become GM. The board has the option to begin recruitment for a General Manager or hire the Assistant General Manager. Bruce Kuebler moved to hire Alma Quezada as General Manager, seconded by Peggy Wiles, and the motion carried 5-0.

11. OLD & NEW BUSINESS: None.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

Attested:



Bert J. Rapp, Secretary