



**LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas CA 91302

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

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9:00 AM

January 21, 2025

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Brian Richie.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at **9:00 a.m.** by Board President Coradeschi in the Glen D. Peterson Board Room at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District headquarters at 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, California 91302. Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Gary Burns, Andy Coradeschi, Randy Levine, and Len Polan.  
Absent: Director Jay Lewitt  
Staff Present: David Pedersen, General Manager  
Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager  
Don Patterson, Assistant General Manager  
Darrell Johnson, Director of Water Operations  
Eric Schlageter, Director of Engineering and Facilities  
Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board  
Steven O'Neill, District Counsel

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Polan moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Director Burns.

Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Levine, Polan  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Lewitt

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

Eric Schlageter, Director of Engineering and Facilities, introduced new employee Devin Taylor, Assistant Engineer. The Board welcomed Mr. Taylor to the District.

Mr. Schlageter also introduced new employee Jessica Forté, Principal Engineer. The Board welcomed Ms. Forté to the District.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A List of Demands: January 21, 2025: Receive and file**

**B Minutes Regular Meeting of January 7, 2025: Approve**

**C Directors' Per Diem: December 2024: Ratify**

**D Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position: November 2024**

**Receive and file the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the period ending November 30, 2024.**

**E Water Main Break at 5745 Parkmor Road: Continuation of Emergency**

**Approve the continuation of an emergency declaration due to a 12-inch water main break at 5745 Parkmor Road in the City of Calabasas.**

**F Palisades and Kenneth Fires Response and Recovery Effort: Continuation of Emergency**

**Approve the continuation of an emergency declaration due to the Palisades and Kenneth Fires.**

Director Levine moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Polan.

Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Levine, Polan  
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Lewitt

**5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS**

**A MWD Representative Report**

This item was deferred to the February 4, 2025 Board Meeting.

**B Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

Jeremy Wolf, Legislative Program Manager, reported that he attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative Committee Meeting on January 17th, and the Committee unanimously voted to co-sponsor the District's proposed water theft legislation bill. He noted that the Committee was very supportive regarding increased penalties for water theft from fire hydrants and the importance of public health and safety. He stated that Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin's office provided draft language for the proposed bill; however, Assemblymember Irwin had not yet committed to author the bill. He also reported that he was officially appointed to the ACWA State Legislative Committee, taking the place of former Director Charles Caspary. He noted that the California Municipal Utilities Association had co-sponsored SB 72 (Caballero), The California Water Plan, Long-term Supply Targets, which would revise certain provisions regarding The California Water Plan. He also reported that Governor Newsom unveiled the \$322 billion proposed state budget on January 10th, which included moving \$153 million from state funding for water recycling programs. He stated that he would work with Syrus Devers, the District's lobbyist, to apply for funding from this program. He also reported that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) withdrew its request for a waiver and authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulations, which would have mandated public agencies to purchase zero emission vehicles. He stated that CARB's decision for withdrawal came in advance of the change in Administration. He noted that there was a regulatory freeze for all regulatory actions after the swearing in of the new Administration, and an Executive Order was issued that directed the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior to immediately restart the work by the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and other agencies to route additional water from the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta to other parts of California.

**6. TREASURER**

Director Levine reviewed the expenditures and noted that a payment was made to Utilis for \$70,000 for satellite-based leak detection project.

Craig Jones, Resource Conservation Manager, provided a brief update regarding the satellite-based leak detection and analysis of the District's potable water system by Utilis, doing business as ASTERRA. He noted that ASTERRA identified approximately 131 "points of interest" where there were potential leaks in the potable water system throughout the District's service area. He also noted that the District applied for a grant

through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) that would fund up to \$50,000 for this project.

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, stated that the contract with ASTERRA was subscription-based, and the District could decide in six months whether to renew the subscription.

## 7. ENGINEERING AND FACILITIES

### A Las Virgenes Reservoir (Westlake) Dam Settlement Report

**Receive and file the 2024 Las Virgenes Reservoir (Westlake) Dam Settlement Report.**

Alex Leu, Water Systems Manager, presented the report.

Director Polan moved to approve Item 7A. Motion seconded by Director Levine.

Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Levine, Polan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Lewitt

### B Jed Smith Tank No. 1 and Calabasas Tank Rehabilitation Project: Construction Award

**Award construction contracts to Advanced Industrial Services, Inc., in the amount of \$1,639,000, for the Jed Smith Tank No. 1 Rehabilitation Project, and to Spiess Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$235,881.70, for the Calabasas Tank Rehabilitation Project; and reject all remaining bids upon receipt of the duly executed contract documents.**

Alex Leu, Water Systems Manager, presented the report.

Director Burns moved to approve Item 7B. Motion seconded by Director Levine.

Mr. Leu responded to a question regarding the rehabilitation work needed for both tanks and the amount of time the tanks would be offline.

Eric Schlageter, Director of Engineering and Facilities, addressed the construction schedule and redundancy in the 1235-foot pressure zone to supply water.

Motion carried 4-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Levine, Polan

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Lewitt

**8. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**A Continuation of Potable Water Standby Charge: Public Hering, Introduction, and First Reading**

Conduct a public hearing, introduce and waive the full reading, and call for proposed Ordinance No. 289 to be given first reading by title only for continuation of the potable water standby charge.

**ORDINANCE NO. 289**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AS IT RELATES TO STANDBY CHARGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025.**

Board President Coradeschi provided introductory remarks.

Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, confirmed that the District published a notice of public hearing in *The Las Virgenes – Calabasas Enterprise* on December 16, 2024, and January 2, 2025.

Brian Richie, Finance Manager, provided the report.

Board President Coradeschi opened the public hearing at **9:46 a.m.**

There were no public comments.

Ms. Guzman confirmed that the District did not receive any written or verbal comments.

Board President Coradeschi closed the public hearing at **9:48 a.m.**

Director Polan moved to approve Item 8A. Motion seconded by Director Levine.

Motion carried 4-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Burns, Coradeschi, Levine, Polan  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Lewitt

District Counsel Steven O'Neil read proposed Ordinance No. 289 by title only.

**9. NON-ACTION ITEMS**

## **A General Manager Reports**

### **(1) General Business**

General Manager David Pedersen reported that the area was in Red Flag Warning and Particularly Dangerous Situation conditions due to high winds. He noted that the District's standard operating procedures under these conditions included heightened alert for fire, staging emergency generators in case of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), and holding tank levels at higher-than-normal levels. He also reported that the Board declared a local state of emergency at the January 14, 2025 Special Board Meeting. He noted that staff was in contact with the Division of Drinking Water, and the District was taking water quality samples in the area affected by fire. He stated that the results from the samples were expected later in the week. He reminded the Board that the Southern California Water Coalition would hold its quarterly meeting and luncheon on January 24th at the Intuit Dome in Inglewood, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Winter Conference would be held January 29th through 31st in Palm Springs, and the MWD State Water Project Inspection Trip would be held February 5th and 6th.

### **(2) Follow-Up Items**

General Manager David Pedersen stated that he spoke with the author of the Letter to the Editor that was published in *The Acorn*, and that he would schedule a meeting with him to address his concerns.

## **B Directors' Comments and Reports on Outside Meetings**

Director Polan reported that he attended the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWAVC) WaterWise Program on January 16th, where a presentation was provided regarding the 2025 Winter and La Niña outlook. He noted that no rain was forecasted in the near future.

Board President Coradeschi stated that he was pleased to see how quickly the water sample testing was organized with the Division of Drinking Water, and he recognized staff on their efforts. He also stated that he was pleased that the District had planned on redundancy in the water system to address water supply needs.

Director Levine reported that he also attended the AWAVC WaterWise Program on January 16th.

Director Burns reported that he also attended the AWAVC WaterWise Program on January 16th. He inquired regarding water supply conditions from the Northern Sierras. General Manager David Pedersen responded that staff would provide an update at the next meeting. He noted that although Southern California was not receiving much rainfall, Northern California was receiving much snow, which was where the majority of water supplies originate.

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **10.1 CLOSED SESSION**

- A Conference with District Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)):**

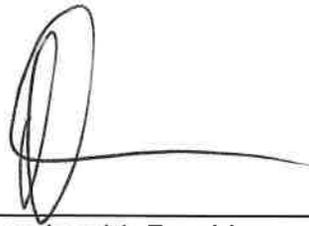
**San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, et al.**

The Board recessed to Closed Session at **9:59 a.m.** and reconvened to Open Session at **10:40 a.m.**

Steven O'Neill, District Counsel, reported that the Board met in Closed Session, and no formal action was taken.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **10:41 a.m.**



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Andy Coradeschi, President  
Board of Directors  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

ATTEST:



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Gary Burns, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

(SEAL)