

VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 15, 2021
1001 Partridge Drive, Ventura, California

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THE COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH OFFICER'S LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS A RESULT OF THE THREAT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS, THIS VRSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE.

Chairperson Friedman called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

1. Roll Call: The Clerk of the Board called the roll. The following Board Members were present:

James Acosta, Special Districts
Mark Austin, City of Fillmore
Jenny Crosswhite, City of Santa Paula
Jim Friedman, City of San Buenaventura
Laura Hernandez, City of Port Hueneme
Ed Jones, City of Thousand Oaks
Kevin Kildee, City of Camarillo
Bert Perello, City of Oxnard
William Weirick, City of Ojai

Staff Present: Chris Theisen, General Manager; Robert Kwong, Legal Counsel; Tina Rivera, Director of Finance; Richard Jones, Interim Director of Operations; Melissa Macias, Human Resources Manager; Michael Castro, Interim Operations Manager; Sandy Warren, Management Analyst; and Juliet Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge was led by Director Kevin Kildee.

3. Agenda Review:

By consensus, the Board agreed to move Agenda Items 7 and 8 next on the Agenda.

It was moved by Director Acosta, seconded by Director Weirick, to approve the Agenda with changes. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Jones,; Perello, and Weirick)

4. Public Comment:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA (Item 5 only)

5. Approve, and Authorize the Board Chair to Sign, Proposed Contract No. 21-004 with the City of Santa Paula for Wastewater Facility Operation, Management & Maintenance

Richard Jones, Interim Director of Operations, gave the report.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Weirick, to approve, authorize the Board Chair to sign, proposed VRSD Contract No. 21-004 with the City of Santa Paula for Wastewater Facility Operation, Management, & Maintenance for a total compensation amount of \$960,000 through June 30, 2022; and authorize staff to make necessary adjustments to the Board-adopted FY2020-21 Budget revenues and expenses. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Jones, Perello, and Weirick)

CLOSED SESSION (Item 6 only)

At 8:50 a.m. Legal Counsel Kwong announced that it was the intention of the Ventura Regional Sanitation District Board of Directors to meet in closed session to consider the following items:

6. CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)-(d)(4). Two cases.

Director Perello's request for a roll call vote regarding his exclusion from this closed session failed for lack of a second. Moreover, Legal Counsel Kwong reiterated his prior response from the last VRSD Board Meeting that this is not an exclusion from the Closed Session but a failure of a particular Board member to properly recuse himself given the conflicts present. The Board convened into Closed Session at 8:54 a.m in a separate Zoom meeting with Board Members Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Jones; and Weirick present.

OPEN SESSION

At 10:04 a.m., Counsel Kwong reported that the Closed Session ended at 10:00 a.m. and there was no action taken by the Board on either Closed Session Agenda Item

ORAL REPORTS (Items 7 and 8) *Per Agenda Review, Oral Reports were heard immediately following Agenda Item No. 3. Agenda Review.*

7. Board Member Comments and Future Agenda Items

None.

8. General Manager Comments

None.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Acosta, to receive and file Oral Report Agenda Items Nos. 7 and 8. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Jones, Perello, and Weirick)

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, Chairperson Friedman adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held May 6, 2021, 8:30 a.m. via video conference.

Prepared by:

Approved:

Juliet Rodriguez
Clerk of the Board

Jim Friedman, Chairperson
Ventura Regional Sanitation District