

VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 6, 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 10:37 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; and Juliet Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: None

3. Agenda Review:

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

4. Public Comment:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA (Items 5 and 6)

5. Receive and File Staff Report on District Financial Status in the Event of the City of Oxnard's Decision to Send All Their Solid Waste to Simi Valley

Tina Rivera, Director of Finance, gave the staff's PowerPoint presentation.

Chair Friedman opened the public comment period and none was requested by any of the members of the public present.

It was moved by Director Weirick, seconded by Director Kildee, to receive and file staff's report on district financial status in the event of the City of Oxnard's decision to send all their solid waste to Simi Valley. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Jones, Perello, and Weirick)

6. Proposed Early Exit Incentive Program - 2021

Chris Theisen, General Manager, gave the staff's PowerPoint presentation.

No public comment was requested or received on this matter.

Melanie Chaney, Labor Attorney, Liebert, Cassidy, Whitmore, was available to answer any of the Board's questions.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Jones, to approve and authorize the General Manager to implement, the Early Exit Incentive Program – 2021. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Jones, Perello, and Weirick)

It was moved by Director Jones, seconded by Director Kildee, to authorize staff to meet and confer with Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 721, regarding the Early Exit Incentive Program. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Jones, Perello, and Weirick)

It was moved by Director Acosta, seconded by Director Jones, to approve, and authorize, the General Manager to implement layoffs, as necessary, in accordance with the District's layoff process. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 7-2 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Jones; and AGAINST: Perello and Weirick)

ORAL REPORTS (Items 7 and 8)

7. Board Member Comments and Future Agenda Items

Board Members thanked staff for the work put into the Early Exit Incentive Program.

Director Perello commented that the District should try to capture institutional knowledge from those employees who would be separated from District Service through the Early Exit Incentive Program or layoffs.

8. General Manager Comments

Mr. Theisen responded to Director Perello's question by stating that the District endeavors to capture institutional knowledge.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, Chairperson Friedman adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held May 20, 2021, 8:30 a.m. via video conference.

Prepared by:

Approved:

Juliet Rodriguez
Clerk of the Board

Jim Friedman, Chairperson
Ventura Regional Sanitation District