

**VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT**  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 1, 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 8:32 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 77  
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, Director of Operations; Melissa Macias, Human Resources Manager; Regina Williams, Senior Accountant; and Juliet Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge was led by Director Perello.
3. Agenda Review:

No changes.

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

4. Public Comment:

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA** Matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine, non-controversial, and are normally approved by one motion without discussion. If discussion is requested by a member of the Board on any Consent Agenda item, or if a member of the public wishes to comment on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate action.

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA** (Items 5 through 7)

5. Approval and Adoption of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget

Tina Rivera, Director of Finance, gave the staff report. Chris Theisen, General Manager, and Richard Jones, Director of Operations, responded to the Board's questions.

Public comment was received from David Grau, Ventura Taxpayers Association.

*It was moved by Director Acosta, seconded by Vice Chair Hernandez, to A) Approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget; and B) Approve VRSD Resolution No. 21-05 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-1 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, and Perello. AGAINST: Weirick).*

6. Proposed Increases to Landfill Disposal Fees for Direct Haul Loads and Transfer Loads in Contracts with Athens Services and E.J. Harrisons and Sons, Inc./Gold Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, Inc.

Chris Theisen, General Manager, gave the staff report.

Public comment was received from David Grau, Ventura Taxpayers Association.

*It was moved by Director Acosta, seconded by Director Kildee, to A) Approve a fee increase of \$2.00 from \$34.00 per ton to \$36.00 per ton for the disposal of Direct Haul Loads under Contract No. 11-007 with Athens Services; and B) Approve a fee increase of \$2.00 from \$34.00 per ton to \$36.00 per ton for the disposal of Direct Haul Loads, and an increase of \$0.56 per ton, from \$32.81 to \$33.37 for Transfer Loads under Contract No. 10-041 with Gold Coast Recycling Center and Transfer Station and E.J. Harrison and Sons, Inc.. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, Perello, and Weirick).*

7. Approve, and Authorize Board Chair to Sign, VRSD Contract No. 21-005 with FTI Services, Inc. for Information Technology Services

Tina Rivera, Director of Finance, gave the staff report.

*It was moved by Director Jones, seconded by Director Kildee, to approve, and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign, VRSD Contract No. 21-005 with FTI Services, Inc. for Information Technology (IT) services. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 7-2 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, and Kildee. AGAINT: Perello, and Weirick).*

**INFORMATION ITEMS** (Items 8 through 13)

8. Revenue and Expense Report: None
9. Disbursement Report: None
10. Investment Report: None
11. Future Meetings, Seminars and Conferences
- ♦ July 6, 2021, 8:30 a.m. – Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting - *cancelled*
  - ♦ July 13, 2021, 8:30 a.m. – Potential Special Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting
  - ♦ July 15, 2021, 8:30 a.m. – Regular Board Meeting
  - ♦ August 2021: VRSD Board is Dark

*It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Acosta, to receive and file all Information Items. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, Perello, and Weirick).*

**ORAL REPORTS** (Items 12 through 17)

12. Regulatory Compliance Report  
None.
13. Committee Reports  
None.
14. Board Member Comments and Future Agenda Items

Chair Friedman, based on a request from Vice Chair Hernandez, suggested that an Executive Committee meeting could be called to discuss Vice Chair Hernandez' suggestion for a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) analysis and a strategic plan for VRSD.

Chair Friedman suggested that the development of a protocol on how and when the Board receives written communication could be discussed at an Executive Committee meeting and will work with the General Manager to schedule.

Director Weirick would like to have the Board consider authorizing the VRSD Chair to write a letter to the Special District Committee requesting a second term of service for Director Acosta, who is the current Special District representative on the VRSD Board. Chairperson Friedman stated that this could be discussed further at an Executive Committee meeting.

Director Perello commented on how it may not be feasible to install solar panels on a closed landfill.

Director Weirick commented on new regulations regarding use of landfill gas by gas companies.

Chair Friedman would like to discuss the resumption of in-person meetings at an upcoming Board Meeting.

Director Kildee announced that the City of Camarillo was bringing back fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m. at the corner of Daly Drive and Las Posas.

Director Weirick announced that the City of Ojai would be holding its 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10 a.m.

#### General Manager Comments

General Manager Chris Theisen reminded the Board that, as of today, July 1, 2021, the District no longer occupies Suite 100, but, rather, only Suite 150 at the Partridge Drive office. He also shared that the District said goodbye to seven Central Administration staff members on June 30, 2021, their last at the District.

Mr. Theisen and Ms. Rivera provided an update on a recent successful insurance claim. Ms. Rivera stated the District received a check in an amount over \$1.3 million for the Tierra Rejada Consortium as reimbursement for fire damage at the Tierra Rejada landfill. Each consortium member received a check for over \$300,000, with VRSD receiving over \$400,000 that included reimbursement for administrative cost. Credit for this recovery was given to former VRSD management analyst, Sandy Warren.

In response to the Board query on resuming “in person” Board meetings, General Counsel Robert Kwong shared an update on the Governor’s pandemic-induced Executive Orders regarding holding in-person meetings. He also informed the Board on AB 339, which speaks to amending the Brown Act to allow local agencies to hold public meetings in-person, as well as via video-conferencing, with the option given

to all attending such meeting which venue or platform they would like to use to participate.

*It was moved by Director Jones, seconded by Director Perello, to receive and file all Oral Reports. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 9-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, Perello, and Weirick).*

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, Chairperson Friedman adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m., to a Regular Meeting to be held July 15, 2021, 8:30 a.m. via video conference.

Prepared by:

Approved:

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Juliet Rodriguez  
Clerk of the Board

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Jim Friedman, Chairperson  
Ventura Regional Sanitation District