

VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 16, 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

Absent: Director 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 Kildee.

3. Agenda Review:

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Acosta, to approve the Agenda as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, and Perello).

4. Public Comment:

Juliet Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board, reported that there were was no public comment received and none of the members of the public requested to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA (Item 5 only) 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.

5. Approval of Minutes: September 2, 2021 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Vice Chairperson Hernandez, approve all items on the Consent Agenda. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, and Perello).

REGULAR AGENDA (Items 6 through 8)

6. Report & Review of Potential Return to In-Person Public Meetings of the Board of Directors

Robert Kwong, Legal Counsel, gave the presentation along with Chris Theisen, General Manager.

After much discussion, the Board agreed to continue to conduct Board meetings by video conference pending the outcome of State Assembly Bill 361.

It was moved by Director Kildee seconded by Director Perello, to receive and file the District Staff and Legal Counsel update on State and Local Guidance on in person public meetings of the VRSD Board of Directors. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, and Perello).

7. Staff Report and Committee Review of the County's Decision to End the Wastewater Services Contract with VRSD for County Service Area 29

Jim Acosta, Chair of the VRSD Personnel & Finance Committee gave the Committee's report.

Mr. Theisen responded to the Board's questions.

It was moved by Director Acosta, seconded by Vice Chairperson Hernandez, to receive and file the Personnel & Finance Committee Report. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, and Perello).

8. Staff Report and Committee Review of Personnel and Finance Issues Related to Decreased Water/Wastewater Operations

Jim Acosta, Chair of the VRSD Personnel & Finance Committee gave the Committee's review.

Mr. Theisen responded to the Board's questions.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Vice Chairperson Hernandez, to receive and file the report. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, and Perello).

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 9 through 12)

9. Revenue and Expense Report: July 2021

10. Disbursement Report: August 2021

11. Investment Report: August 2021

12. Future Meetings, Seminars and Conferences

- ♦ Oct. 5, 2021 - VRSD P&F Committee Meeting
- ♦ Oct. 7, 2021 - VRSD Board Meeting
- ♦ Oct. 21, 2021 - VRSD Board Meeting

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Perello, to receive and file all Information Items. ROLL CALL VOTE Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, and Perello).

ORAL REPORTS (Items 13 through 16)

13. Regulatory Compliance Report
None.

14. Committee Reports

- ♦ Director Friedman gave the Executive Committee Report for the meeting of July 22, 2021.

15. Board Member Comments and Future Agenda Items

None.

16. General Manager Comments

General Manager Chris Theisen informed the Board regarding staff efforts toward decreased Water/Wastewater Operations, the continued progress on the Phase 4B landfill liner project, and the continued implementation of the new financial system.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Acosta, to receive and file all Oral Reports. ROLL CALL VOTE Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Acosta, Austin, Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, and Perello).

At 10: 06 a.m., Director Austin announced that he would need to leave the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION (Item 17 only)

At, 10:10 a.m., Robert Kwong, Legal Counsel announced that it was the intention of the Ventura Regional Sanitation District Board of Directors to meet in closed session to consider the following item:

17. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Gov Code, § 54957)

Public Employee Performance Evaluation – General Counsel

The Board took a ten minutes break and went into Closed Session at 10:20 a.m. with Directors Austin and Weirick absent.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, and no action taken during Closed Session, the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m., to a Regular Meeting to be held October 7, 2021, 8:30 a.m. via video conference.

Prepared by:

Approved:

Juliet Rodriguez
Clerk of the Board

Jim Friedman, Chairperson
Ventura Regional Sanitation District