

VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2022
1001 Partridge Drive, Ventura, California

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE §54593, AS AMENDED BY STATUTES 2021, CHAPTER 165, 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:

Jenny Crosswhite, City of Santa Paula
Lynn Edmonds, City of Fillmore
Jim Friedman, City of San Buenaventura
Laura Hernandez, City of Port Hueneme
Ed Jones, City of Thousand Oaks
Kevin Kildee, City of Camarillo
Leon Shapiro, Special Districts
William Weirick, City of Ojai

Absent: Bert Perello, City of Oxnard

Staff Present: Chris Theisen, General Manager; Robert Kwong, Legal Counsel; Tina Rivera, Director of Finance; Richard Jones, Director of Operations; Regina Williams, Senior Accountant; and Juliet Rodriguez, Clerk of the Board.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge was led by Director Shapiro.
3. Consideration and Adoption of VRSD Resolution No. 22-01 Authorizing Continued Use of Teleconference Meetings in Accordance with Government Code Section 54953, Subdivision (e) (AB 361)

It was moved by Director Weirick, seconded by Director Jones, to adopt VRSD Resolution No. 22-01 Authorizing Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the Ventura Regional Sanitation District for the Period of January 20, 2022 through February 19, 2022. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Crosswhite, Edmonds, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, Shapiro, and Weirick)

4. Agenda Review:

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

5. Public Comment:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA (Item 6 only)

6. Approval of Minutes: December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Weirick, to approve the Minutes of December 16, 2021 with the correction of Special District representative made from Director Acosta to Director Shapiro in all areas referenced. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 6-0-2 (FOR: Crosswhite, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, Shapiro, and Weirick. ABSTAIN: Edmonds and Weirick).

REGULAR AGENDA (Items 7 and 8)

7. Nomination & Election of Calendar Year 2022 Board Officers per VRSD ByLaws Art. VI, Sec. 3

Chair Friedman opened the floor to nominations for Chairperson of the Board for Calendar Year 2022.

Director Jones Nominated Vice Chairperson Hernandez to be VRSD Board Chairperson for 2022, seconded by Director Shapiro.

With no additional nominations, it was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Vice Chairperson Hernandez, to close the nominations for Chairperson of the Board for Calendar Year 2022 and call for the vote on the election of VRSD Board Chairperson for 2022. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion and Vote carried 8-0 (FOR: Crosswhite, Edmonds, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, Shapiro, and Weirick).

Given the outcome this vote, Chairperson Friedman turned the virtual gavel over to newly elected Chairperson Hernandez, who continued the meeting.

Chairperson Hernandez opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Board for Calendar Year 2022.

Director Kildee nominated Director Crosswhite, seconded by Director Friedman.

Director Edmonds nominated Director Jones, seconded by Director Shapiro.

With no additional nominations, it was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Friedman, to close the nominations for Chairperson of the Board for Calendar Year 2022. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Crosswhite, Edmonds, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, Shapiro, and Weirick).

Chairperson Hernandez called for an Open Ballot election with the following Roll Call votes cast for Vice Chairperson:

Director Crosswhite: Crosswhite	Director Edmonds: Abstained
Director Jones: Jones	Director Kildee: Crosswhite
Director Shapiro: Crosswhite	Director Weirick: Crosswhite
Director Friedman: Crosswhite	Chairperson Hernandez: Crosswhite

Director Crosswhite was elected as Vice Chairperson on a vote of 6 to 1.

Director Weirick noted that this may be the first time that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are both women. Director Kildee concurred.

Board Members thanked outgoing Chairperson Friedman for his exemplary leadership over the past year.

Director Jones left the virtual meeting at 8:56 a.m. and returned at 9:19 a.m.

Chairperson Hernandez reminded her fellow Board members of their responsibilities under the VRSD Bylaws by reading specific excerpts from VRSD Bylaws Article IV on Ethics Guidelines for Board of Directors.

8. Staff Report on Ongoing Efforts to Secure a Future for VRSD Water/Wastewater Services

Chris Theisen, General Manager, reported that the Santa Paula City Council, at their January 19, 2022 meeting, voted (3-2) to continue their contractual relationship with VRSD for operations and maintenance services for their wastewater collection and treatment systems for the next five years. This action means that VRSD Water/Wastewater services will continue in the foreseeable future, since all five of the recently-queried public agency clients have now indicated a desire to continue their contractual relationship with VRSD.

Mr. Theisen noted the monumental effort undertaken by this initiative and thanked all staff, especially Richard Jones, Director of Operations; Regina Williams, Senior Accountant; and Tina Rivera, Director of Finance for their dedication. Mr. Theisen also thanked and credited the Board for their support in having directed Staff to take on this initiative to secure a future for VRSD's Water/Wastewater services.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Weirick, to receive and file the Staff Report on Ongoing Efforts to Secure a Future for VRSD Water/Wastewater Services. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Crosswhite, Edmonds, Friedman, Hernandez, Jones, Kildee, Shapiro, and Weirick).

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 9 through 12)

9. Revenue and Expense Report: None
10. Disbursement Report: December 2021
11. Investment Report: December 2021
12. Future Meetings, Seminars and Conferences
 - ♦ Jan. 20-21, 27-28 2022 – League of CA Cities New Mayors & Council Members Academy, Virtual Event
 - ♦ Feb. 1, 2022 - VRSD P&F Committee Meeting
 - ♦ Feb. 3, 2022 – VRSD Board Meeting
 - ♦ Feb. 17, 2022 – VRSD Board Meeting

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

ORAL REPORTS (Items 13 through 16)

13. Regulatory Compliance Report

None.

14. Committee Reports

None.

15. Board Member Comments and Future Agenda Items

Director Kildee commended Richard Jones, Director of Operations for his outstanding work to retain water/wastewater services.

16. General Manager Comments

General Manager Chris Theisen noted that future meetings would include an update to financial projections and processing of new contracts in the Water/Wastewater and Solid Waste Divisions.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m., to a Regular Meeting to be held February 3, 2022, 8:30 a.m. via video conference.

Prepared by:

Approved:

Juliet Rodriguez
Clerk of the Board

Laura Hernandez, Chairperson
Ventura Regional Sanitation District

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