

VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 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 Hernandez called the meeting to order at 8:30 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
Kevin Kildee, City of Camarillo
Bert Perello, City of Oxnard
Leon Shapiro, Special Districts
William Weirick, City of Ojai

Absent: Ed Jones, City of Thousand Oaks

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. **Agenda Review:**

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

4. **Public Comment:**

None.

CONSENT AGENDA (Items 5 and 6)

5. **Approval of Minutes:** February 3, 2022 Regular Meeting

6. Consideration and Adoption of Proposed VRSD Resolution No. 22-02 Authorizing Continued Use of Teleconference Meetings in Accordance with Government Code Section 54953, Subdivision (e) (AB 361)

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Weirick, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Crosswhite, Edmonds, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Perello, Shapiro, and Weirick). Director Crosswhite abstained from the Minutes of February 3, 2022.

REGULAR AGENDA (Item 7 only)

7. Approve, and Authorize Board Chair to Sign, Proposed VRSD Contract No. 22-002 with SCS Engineers for Air Monitoring Services at the Toland Road Landfill in an Amount not to Exceed \$200,000

Chris Theisen, General Manager, gave the report.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Shapiro, to A) Approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign, proposed VRSD Contract No. 22-002 with SCS Engineers for air monitoring services in an amount not to exceed \$200,000; and B) Authorize a budget appropriation of \$200,000 from the Toland Fund. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 8-0 (FOR: Crosswhite, Edmonds, Friedman, Hernandez, Kildee, Perello, Shapiro, and Weirick).

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 8 through 11)

8. Quarterly Financial Report: 2nd Quarter (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31)
9. Disbursement Report: January 2022
10. Investment Report: January 2022
11. Future Meetings, Seminars and Conferences
- ♦ Mar. 1, 2022, 8:30 a.m. - VRSD P&F Committee Meeting
 - ♦ Mar. 3, 2022, 8:30 a.m. – VRSD Board Meeting
 - ♦ Mar. 17, 2022, 8:30 a.m. – VRSD Board Meeting

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

ORAL REPORTS (Items 12 through 15)

12. Regulatory Compliance Report
None.
13. Committee Reports

None.

14. Board Member Comments and Future Agenda Items

Director Kildee would like to see a future meeting address when the Board could resume live meetings.

General Manager Chris Theisen noted that AB361, the Governor's Emergency Declaration, and the Board's findings regarding meeting safety in their resolution were all required to enable the current teleconference meetings. Legal Counsel Robert Kwong also noted that teleconferenced attendance is allowed in the regular, pre-pandemic Brown Act as long as the regular procedures for teleconferencing were followed.

Director Perello inquired about the expenses for leachate disposal at the Toland Road Landfill and inquired if staff was looking into alternatives.

Chairperson Hernandez expressed interest in continuing the strategic planning process at a future meeting and planned to discuss this further with the General Manager

15. General Manager Comments

Mr. Theisen responded to Director Perello stating that staff is still developing alternatives for reducing costs of leachate disposal at the Toland Road Landfill. Staff is still continuing to work on Water/Wastewater contracts that will begin in July. Conversations are also taking place with some customers that are exploring returning to VRSD as clients.

Staff is working on the gas to energy situation involving extraction of gas at the Tolland Road Landfill, and will bring it before the Facilities Committee, before going to the full Board at a future meeting.

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

CLOSED SESSION (Items 16 and 17)

At 8:58 a.m., the Clerk of the Board announced that the Board would be convening to a Closed Session in a separate Zoom meeting and stated that it is the intention of the Ventura Regional Sanitation District Board of Directors to meet in closed session to consider the following items:

16. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code, § 54957.6)

DISTRICT DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES:

Tina Rivera, VRSD Director of Finance; Mayra Rodriguez, Human Resources Technician; and Melonie Chaney, Special Labor Counsel, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS:

Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 721
International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), Local 501
Non-represented Positions

17. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Property: Bailard Landfill, 4105 W. Gonzalez Road, Ventura County, CA (APNs 138-0-190-290 and -480)

Agency Negotiators: Chris Theisen, VRSD General Manager; Richard Jones, VRSD Director of Operations; and Tina Rivera, VRSD Director of Finance

Negotiating Parties: Wellhead Electric Company, Inc., 650 Bercut Drive, Suite C, Sacramento, CA 95811; and Southern California Edison Company, 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Rosemead, CA

Under Negotiation: Potential terms and conditions regarding use of subject property.

The Board concluded its closed session matters and reconvened in open session at 9:32 a.m. where Legal Counsel Kwong reported that the closed session had concluded with no reportable action taken on either closed session matter.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m., to a Regular Meeting to be held March 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