

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
December 21, 2023

OPENING CEREMONIES

Call to Order - President Young called the Regular Board Meeting of the West Valley Water District to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call of Board Members

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Directors			
Channing Hawkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrived at 6:08 pm
Angela Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Via Zoom
Kelvin Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daniel Jenkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Gregory Young	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
General Counsel			
Jeff Ferre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Staff			
John Thiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
William Fox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Haydee Sainz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Joanne Chan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Jadeski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jon Stephenson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Albert Clinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Elvia Dominguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Robert Ramirez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Socorro Pantaleon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approval of Any Board Member Requests for Remote Participation - General Counsel Ferre announced that Director Garcia requested to attend virtually due to just cause per AB2449. There was no objection.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Jenkins.

Opening Prayer - The Opening prayer was led by Pastor Tracy Crawford.

ADOPT AGENDA

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General Counsel Ferre announced a request to add an emergency item to the agenda, which arose after the posting of the agenda and requires action prior to the next Board of Directors meeting.

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION - Pursuant to Paragraph One (1) of Subdivision (d) of the Government Code Section 54956.9 Case Name: Nadia Loukeh. vs West Valley Water District, Case No. CIVSB2116242

Motion to adopt amended agenda adding emergency closed session item.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Daniel Jenkins, Vice President
SECONDER:	Kelvin Moore, Director
AYES:	Channing Hawkins, Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

CLOSED SESSION

Public Participation on closed session matters

President Young inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received to speak, therefore President Young closed the public comment period.

The Board entered into closed session at 6:10 p.m.

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION - Pursuant to Paragraph One (1) of Subdivision (d) of the Government Code Section 54956.9 Case Name: Nadia Loukeh. vs West Valley Water District, Case No. CIVSB2116242
- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Government Code Section 54957
Title: General Manager
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION
Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9
Name of case: Farooqi v. West Valley Water District et al.; Case Number CIV SB 2323207

Report out of Closed Session

General Counsel Ferre reported that Closed Session items were discussed including the emergency item added and no reportable action was taken.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

WVWD

Minutes: 12/21/23

President Young inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. Public comments were given by June Hayes. No further requests were received to speak therefore President Young closed the public comment period.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve Consent Calendar item #1 noting a clerical correction to page 1 of the minutes.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Daniel Jenkins, Vice President
SECONDER:	Angela Garcia, Director
AYES:	Channing Hawkins, Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

1. Meeting minutes for November 16, 2023 Board Meetings

BUSINESS MATTERS

2. Consideration of finalist interviews for State and Federal Lobbyists

General Manager Thiel gave the report and requested the Board give direction on format and dates for the interviews.

After extensive deliberation on possible date options and interview format options, the Board agreed and directed staff to schedule the Federal Lobbyist interviews on February 11, 2024 and the State Lobbyist interviews on February 25, 2024.. The Format agreed upon was 30 minutes for each interview concluding with a 30 minute Board deliberation and selection. There was no opposition and no vote was taken.

3. Review and Ratification of the Employment Agreement for Employment of Assistant General Manager

General Manager Thiel gave the report and recommended the Board ratify the Employment Agreement with Linda Jadeski for Assistant General Manager.

There was no discussion or opposition.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kelvin Moore, Director
SECONDER:	Channing Hawkins, Director
AYES:	Channing Hawkins, Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

4. Approval of Cost of Living Adjustments for Designated At-Will Employees: General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, and Board Secretary.

WVWD

Minutes: 12/21/23

Human Resources and Risk Management Manager Sainz gave the report and recommendation to approve the Cost of Living Increases for at-will employees.

Director Hawkins requested the item be tabled to the next meeting in order to have sufficient time to discuss the item with the Board. General Counsel Ferre clarified that the Board could have a closed session to discuss labor negotiations and have the General Manager act as negotiator for Chief Financial Officer, and Board Secretary, and the Board President act as labor negotiator for the General Manager. President Young clarified that the item could be agendized as a closed session item for the next meeting and indicated that the Executive Committee reviewed the item and recommended it to be placed on the agenda due to the County also following the same practice of applying the union approved Cost of Living Increase to non-represented employees. Director Hawkins stated that he is generally in agreement but would like to have a discussion. The Board then unanimously agreed to table the item to the following meeting on January 4, 2024 as a labor negotiation closed session item and proceed with adoption during open session. There was no objection.

REPORTS - LIMITED TO 5 MINUTES MAXIMUM (Presentations or handouts must be provided to Board Members in advance of the Board Meeting).

1. Meeting Attendance Reports

Director Jenkins reported on his meeting with Supervisor Joe Baca.

Director Moore reported on his attendance at Open House events for Supervisor Armendariz and Former Assembly Majority leader Eloise Reyes, and attendance at the Fontana Unified School District's Fontana Santas event.

Director Hawkins reported on his attendance at the Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academies toy giveaway event.

Director Garcia also reported on her attendance at Fontana Unified School District's Fontana Santas event, and the City of Fontana's Christmas parade.

2. Board Committee Reports

Vice president Jenkins reported on the Safety Committee meeting.

Director Moore reported on the Human Resources Committee meeting.

Director Hawkins reported on the Public Affairs Committee meeting.

President Young reported on Finance Committee; and Engineering, Operations, and Planning Committee meetings.

3. Board Members

The Board wished everyone and staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

WVWD

Minutes: 12/21/23

President Young requested to adjourn the meeting in honor of a friend, Pastor Dennis Paul Gattin, who had passed away.

4. General Manager

General Manager Thiel gave a recruitment update and a Strategic Plan update.

Public Outreach and Government Affairs Manager Pantaleon presented a year end highlight video for 2023 that will be pushed through multiple social media platforms.

Board Secretary Dominguez gave a planning update for the upcoming ACWA DC conference.

5. Legal Counsel

General Counsel Ferre gave an update on AB334 which goes into effect in 2024, related to contracting with Engineering & Design firms.

ADJOURN

President Young adjourned the meeting in honor of Pastor Dennis Paul Gattin at 7:32 p.m.

ATTEST:



Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

Minutes were approved on March 7, 2024 by the Board of Directors of the West Valley Water District.