

**LAS VIRGENES – TRIUNFO  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING**

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5:00 PM

July 1, 2019

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mark Norris.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at **5:00 p.m.** by Vice Chair Lewitt in the Board Room at Las Virgenes Municipal Water District headquarters at 4232 Las Virgenes Road in Calabasas, California. Josie Guzman, Clerk of the Board, conducted the roll call.

Present: Directors Caspary, Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Pan, Polan, Renger, Shapiro,  
Tjulander, Wall  
Absent: Chair Orkney

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Caspary moved to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Director Renger. Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Caspary, Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Pan, Polan, Renger, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Orkney

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 3, 2019**

Director Renger moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion seconded by Director Polan. Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Caspary, Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Pan, Polan, Renger, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Orkney

**5. ILLUSTRATIVE AND/OR VERBAL PRESENTATION AGENDA ITEMS**

**A Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo: Update**

Acting Administering Agent/Acting General Manager Joe McDermott reported that filming was underway for the Pure Water Demonstration Project orientation video. He also reported that staff submitted a grant application for the WaterSMART Title XVI WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, which could provide up to \$3 to \$4 million in funding to offset the cost of preliminary design and environmental studies for the project. He stated that a request for proposals for the preliminary design and environmental studies would be issued by the end of the year. He also reported that the pre-purchased equipment for the Pure Water Demonstration Project would be delivered by early August.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**A Pure Water Demonstration Project: Construction Award**

**Award a construction contract to Pacific Hydrotech Corporation, in the amount of \$2,087,300, and reject the remaining bid for the Pure Water Demonstration Project.**

Acting Administering Agent/Acting General Manager Joe McDermott presented the report. He noted an amendment to the recommendation to include an additional appropriation in the amount of \$263,363.

Director Renger moved to approve Item 6A as amended to include an additional appropriation in the amount of \$263,363. Motion seconded by Director Tjulander.

A discussion ensued regarding the Engineer's Estimate, whether unanticipated tariffs might affect material pricing, and whether the contractor might request additional funds due to potential tariffs. John Zhao, Principal Engineer, stated that the low bidder provided a firm bid for the project. He also stated that staff would confirm that the potential for tariffs were taken into consideration in the bid.

Acting Administering Agent/Acting General Manager Joe McDermott reviewed the estimated \$3.2 million project cost, which would be offset by \$2.1 million in grant funding. He noted that the estimated cost to Las Virgenes Municipal Water District would be approximately \$1.8 million and the estimated cost to Triunfo Water and Sanitation District would be approximately \$776,000 when including contingencies and other incidental costs such as general and administrative (G&A) costs that

were not included in the \$3.2 million estimate. He stated that staff would provide an all-inclusive and updated estimate at the next meeting in August.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Caspary, Lewitt, Lo-Hill, Pan, Polan, Renger, Shapiro, Tjulander, Wall  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Orkney

## **B Pure Water Demonstration Garden: Feedback on Conceptual Plans**

### **Provide feedback on the conceptual plans for the Pure Water Demonstration Garden.**

Tom Rau and Marilee Kuhlmann, representing Urban Water Group, provided a PowerPoint presentation showing examples of medium, low and very low water-use plantings; storm water harvesting; rain gardens; permeable pavements; and drip irrigation and smart controllers to inspire homeowners to reduce outdoor water use.

Acting Administering Agent/Acting General Manager Joe McDermott noted that staff was planning to compile a bid package that would allow the Board to decide, after receiving bid prices, the extent of improvements to be made. He stated that a decision would not need to be made until the October meeting when the award would tentatively be made to a contractor. He also stated that it would be difficult to accurately estimate the cost of the work given current market conditions.

The Board provided the following feedback:

- Consider plantings on the slope facing Las Virgenes Road while taking erosion into consideration.
- Include ocotillo plants and a range of flowers that bloom throughout the year.
- Consider issuing two separate bids: one for hardscape and another for plantings and irrigation.
- Consider issuing a bid package with the essential components and secondary components.
- Provide information on annual cost for long-term maintenance of the facility.
- Provide maintenance instructions for proper pruning, weeding, trash pickup, and irrigation.
- Consider having staff involved with irrigation.
- Consider a docent program to provide tours of the Demonstration Garden.
- Consider using community volunteers for garden maintenance.
- Consider using the same type of rain barrel as used by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for its rain barrel give-away program.

- Provide QR codes on plant signage rather than brochures and flyers so that visitors can readily download information onto their phones.
- Consider using recycled material for the garden signs

7. **BOARD COMMENTS**

None.

8. **ADMINISTERING AGENT/GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Acting Administering Agent/Acting General Manager Joe McDermott stated that the District offices would be closed on July 4th in observance of Independence Day, and would reopen on July 5th. He noted that the Quarterly Wastewater Tour would be held on August 17th, with Directors Pan and Renger serving as the hosts.

9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

10. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A State and Federal Legislative Update**

Acting Administering Agent/Acting General Manager Joe McDermott reported that Governor Gavin Newsom approved the 2019-20 California State Budget, which did not include a water tax. He noted that the budget included a safe drinking water solution that would be funded by \$100 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and \$30 million from the General Fund. He also noted that SB 200 (Monning) would provide instructions for appropriating the funds. He also reported that Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced the Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act. He noted that this bill would extend funding under the WIIN Act, including \$100 million for water recycling projects. He noted that the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo would be eligible for these funds. He responded to a question regarding AB 1220 (Garcia) relating to representation under the Metropolitan Water District Act by stating that this proposed legislation likely applies to Central Basin Municipal Water District, and it should not impact the Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority.

11. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at **6:17 p.m.**

  
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Janna Orkney, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Jay Lewitt, Vice Chair