

ORDINANCE NO. 12-01-19

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE THREE VALLEYS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF ITS PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District finds as follows:

A. The Three Valleys Municipal Water District (“the District”) is a municipal water district organized and operating pursuant to California Water Code Section 71000 et seq.

B. The District is governed by an elected Board of Directors (“the Board”) whose meetings are subject to the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950 et seq. (“the Brown Act”).

C. On March 7, 2001, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 3-01-8 in order to clarify and supplement the Brown Act and to ensure that the Board’s deliberations and the District’s operations are open to the public to the full extent permitted by law.

D. On May 7, 2001, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 5-01-9 which amended Ordinance No. 3-01-8 to impose further requirements upon itself which allow greater access to the meetings of the Board than prescribed in the Brown Act.

E. On February 22, 2002, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 02-02-11 which further amended Ordinance No. 3-01-8 with respect to the date, time, and place of the Board’s regular meetings.

F. On June 25, 2003, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 6-03-12 which further amended Ordinance No. 3-01-8 with respect to closed session agenda descriptions and the date,

time, and place of the Board's regular meetings.

G. On May 19, 2004, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 05-04-13 which further amended Ordinance No. 3-01-8 with respect to the date, time, and place of the Board's regular meetings, and consolidated all of the amendments to Ordinance No. 3-01-8 into a single comprehensive document.

H. The purpose of this ordinance is to further modify the Board's regular meeting schedule and to improve public access to the District's activities so as to maintain assurance that the Board's deliberations are performed in a manner that reflect a dedication to the highest standards of integrity and accountability so as to continue to earn the trust and confidence of the parties served by the District.

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District does hereby adopt and ordain as follows:

Section 1. **COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.**

All meetings of the Board and all committees thereof shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Brown Act.

Section 2. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

2.1. **Regular Meetings.** Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954(a), all regular meetings of the Board shall be held at 8:00 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the District offices located at 1021 East Miramar Avenue, Claremont, California, unless otherwise provided in the agenda that is prepared and posted therefore in accordance with Section 2.3 hereof.

2.2. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board may be called from time to time and will be conducted in accordance with Government Code Section 54956. The Board shall not add any non-agendized item to the agenda of a special meeting. Further, no agenda for a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for the Board to consider the possible addition of any non-agendized item to the agenda.

2.3. **Agendas.**

2.3.1. **Descriptions.** The agenda for all Board meetings and all committee meetings that are open to the public shall contain a brief, general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed during the meeting and shall avoid the use of undefined abbreviations or acronyms not in common usage and terms whose meaning is not known to the general public. The agendas may refer to explanatory documents, including but not limited to correspondence or reports, within the written material prepared and/or forwarded by District staff to the Board concerning the subject matter of any agenda item. The description of an agenda item is adequate if it is sufficiently clear and specific to alert a person whose interests are affected by the item that he or she may have reason to attend the meeting or seek more information about the item.

2.3.2. **Additions.** The Board shall not discuss or take action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda for the meeting unless otherwise authorized by the Brown Act. All findings and/or determinations required by Government Code Section 54954.2(b) shall be expressly made by the Board and duly reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

2.3.3. **Public Comment.** The agenda for all meetings of the Board shall include an item for Public Comment so as to provide an express opportunity for members of the public to

directly address the Board in accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 54954.3(a) prior to the Board's consideration of the merits of any item placed on the agenda. In the event that a motion is made to reorder the agenda, or add an item to the agenda, or otherwise take any Board action prior to the Public Comment portion of the agenda, the President of the Board shall ask any members of the public in attendance at the meeting whether they wish to comment on the motion that is pending before the Board. During the Board's consideration of items discussed after the Public Comment portion of the agenda, the President of the Board should exercise best efforts to recognize any member of the public who wishes to speak on that issue prior to any action thereon that is taken by the Board.

2.3.4. Posting. The agendas of all Board meetings and all committee meetings which are open to the public shall be posted in the following locations: (1) an exterior bulletin board located outside the District headquarters that is accessible twenty-four (24) hours a day; (2) on-line at the District's website known as www.threevalleys.com; and (3) an interior bulletin board located in the lobby of the District headquarters.

2.3.5. Background Material. Staff material, consisting of agendas, staff reports, and other material prepared and forwarded by staff which provide background information and recommendations, regarding agenda items, when distributed to all or to a majority of the members of the Board in connection with a matter which is subject to discussion or consideration in open session at a public meeting, shall be made available to the public upon request.

2.4. Closed Sessions.

2.4.1. Agenda Descriptions. Substantial compliance with the permissive provisions of Government Code Section 54954.5, as reflected in Exhibit A attached hereto and

incorporated herein by this reference, is mandatory under this ordinance with respect to the description of any closed session items on any Board meeting agenda. For closed sessions held pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, the agenda will use the description in Exhibit A that best describes the purpose of the closed session. When the purpose of the closed session is to conduct a hearing on specific complaints or charges brought against an employee of the District, the agenda description shall read “PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE, employee given 24-hour notice.”

2.4.2. Advance Announcement. Prior to holding any closed session, the Board shall state in open session the item or items to be discussed in the closed session. The statement may take the form of a reference to the item or items as they are listed by number or letter on the agenda, and must include any and all matters otherwise required to be disclosed under the Brown Act. For closed sessions held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b), the Board must announce the existing facts and circumstances which authorize the holding of the closed session or specifically state that it believes that facts and circumstances that might result in litigation against the District are not yet known to a potential plaintiff or plaintiffs. In the closed session, the Board shall consider only those matters covered in its statement. Nothing in this section shall require or authorize the release of information which is exempt from disclosure under state or federal law.

2.4.3. Public Reports on Closed Session Actions. The Board shall publicly report any action taken in closed session, and the vote or abstention of every member present thereon, in the manner and to the extent required by Government Code Section 54957.1.

2.5. **Ad Hoc Committees.** In order to be exempt from the notice, agenda, and public participation requirements of the Brown Act, all ad hoc committees of the Board shall substantially comply with the following guidelines: (1) The committee shall be comprised of less than a quorum of the Board; (2) The committee's life should be restricted to a relatively short period of time; (3) The committee's purpose should be limited to a single and specific task; (4) The committee shall not be given any independent discretionary authority to make ultimate decisions on behalf of the Board with respect to the final resolution of the task; (5) The committee's charge should not be automatically renewed upon completion of its particular assignment or expiration of its fixed term; (6) The committee's meeting schedule should not be on a regular basis or established by formal action of the Board; and (7) Public notice of the formation of the committee shall be given in a timely manner.

Section 3. **REVIEW OF ORDINANCE ON ANNUAL BASIS.**

Each year, the Board may review this ordinance to determine its effectiveness and the necessity for its continued operation. At such time, the District's General Manager shall report to the Board on the operation of this ordinance, and make any recommendations deemed appropriate, including proposals to amend the ordinance. Upon conclusion of its review, the Board may take any action it deems appropriate concerning this ordinance. Nothing herein shall preclude the Board from taking action on the ordinance at times other than upon conclusion of the annual review. The Board's failure to conduct the annual review shall result in the continued operation of this ordinance for another year or until otherwise modified by the Board.

Section 4. **SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The provisions of this ordinance shall supersede all prior inconsistent ordinances and shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 18th day of January, 2012.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bowcock, De Jesus, Goytia, Horan, Kuhn, Mendoza, Ruzicka

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:



President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Secretary, Board of Directors

EXHIBIT A

Under Government Code Section 54954.5, the following language has been provided by the State Legislature as sample language which will meet the mandate of the Brown Act for properly identifying closed session items on the Board's agenda:

LICENSE/PERMIT DETERMINATION (Government Code Section 54956.7)

Applicant(s): (Specify number of applicants)

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: (Specify street address; parcel number if no street address; or other unique reference of parcel under negotiation)

District Negotiator: (Specify names of negotiators attending closed session) (If the specified negotiator is to be absent, an agent or designee may participate provided the name of the agent or designee is announced publicly prior to the closed session.)

Negotiating parties: [Specify name of party (not agent)]

Under negotiation: (Specify whether instruction to negotiator will concern price, terms of payment, or both)

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION [Government Code Section 54956.9(a)]

Name of case: (Specify by reference to claimant's name, name of parties, case or claim numbers)

or

Case name unspecified: (Specify whether disclosure would jeopardize service of process or existing settlement negotiations)

- # CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b):
(Specify number of potential cases)
- # CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c): (Specify
number of potential cases)
- # LIABILITY CLAIMS (Government Code Section 54956.95)
Claimant: (Specify name unless unspecified pursuant to Section 54961)

Agency claimed against: (Specify name)
- # THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES (Government Code Section 54957)

Consultation with: (Specify name of law enforcement agency and title of officer, or
name of applicable District representative and title)
- # PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (Government Code Section 54957)

Title: (Specify description of position to be filled)
- # PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Government Code Section
54957)

Title: (Specify position title of employee being reviewed)
- # PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Government Code
Section 54957)

(No additional information is required in connection with a closed session to consider
discipline, dismissal, or release.)

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6)

District designated representatives: (Specify names of designated representatives attending the closed session) (If circumstances necessitate the absence of a specified representative, an agent or designee may participate in place of the absent representative so long as the name of the agent or designee is announced at an open session held prior to the closed session.)

Employee organization: (Specify name of organization representing employee or employees in question)

or

Unrepresented employee: (Specify position title of unrepresented employee who is the subject of negotiations)

CASE REVIEW/PLANNING (Government Code Section 54957.8)

(No additional information is required in connection with a closed session to consider case review or planning.)