

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THREE VALLEYS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
VIA TELECONFERENCE

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
8:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. via teleconference. The presiding officer was President Bob Kuhn.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken with a quorum of the Board present. Director De Jesus was not present during roll call and joined the meeting at 8:52 a.m.

Directors Present

Bob Kuhn, President
David De Jesus, Vice President
Carlos Goytia, Secretary
Brian Bowcock, Treasurer
Jody Roberto, Director
Danielle Soto, Director
Mike Ti, Director

Staff Present

Matt Litchfield, General Manager
Steve Kennedy, Legal Counsel
Dominique Aguiar, Operations Supervisor
Nadia Aguirre, Executive Assistant
Liz Cohn, Senior Financial Analyst
Maria Contreras, Admin./Communications Assistant
Karen Harberson, Compliance Specialist
Kirk Howie, Chief Administrative Officer
Tim Kellett, Chief Water Resources Officer
Steve Lang, Chief Operations Officer
James Linthicum, Chief Finance Officer
Lucy Peña, HR/Risk Manager
Robert Peng, I.T. Manager

Virtual Attendees: Maritza Alvarez, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples; Ileene Anderson, Center for Biological Diversity; Ray Anderson, Anderson Business Coaching; Ray Baca, Engineering Contractors' Association; Allison Bailey, Vet Voice Foundation; Jayson Baiz, LiUNA; Steve Bardwell, Morongo Basin Conservation Association; Jordan Brandman, Building Industry Association of Southern California; Anthony Brown, Aquilogic; Sara Catalan, Catalan Consulting; Moises Cisneros, Ignite Movements; Chris Clarke, National Parks Conservation Association; Tom Coleman, Rowland Water District; Hugh Coxe, Sustainable Claremont; Courtney Degener, Cadiz, Inc.; Neal Desai, National Parks Conservation Association; Demi Espinoza, National Parks Conservation Association; Pat Flanagan, Morongo Basin Conservation Association; Gregory Foster, Southern California Group; Matthew Gaines, Operating Engineers Local 12; Jose Garcia, LiUNA; Charles Gibson, Santa Margarita Water District; Kareem Gongora, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice; Kevin Hayakawa, Walnut Valley Water District; Ed Hilden, Walnut Valley Water District;

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Erik Hitchman, Walnut Valley Water District; Joan Holtz, SGV Task Force Angeles Chapter; John Husing, Economics & Politics, Inc.; Denise Jackman, resident; Brad Jensen SGV Economic Partnership; Judy Kuhn, resident; Scarlett Kwong, Walnut Valley Water District; Richard Lambros, Engineering Contractors' Association; Jim Leach, Santa Margarita Water District; Michael Lewis, Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality; Tony Lima, Rowland Water District; Gabriella Mendez, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice; Peter Mitchell, California State Law Enforcement Association; John Monsen, National Parks Conservation Association; Stephanie Moreno, Water Quality Association; Kris Murray, Cadiz, Inc.; Gayle Pacheco, Western Hardware Company; Laer Pearce, Laer Pearce & Associates; Columba Quintero, Native American Land Conservancy; Carlos Rodriguez, BIA; Thomas Ruiz, LiUNA 783; Mary Ann Ruiz, retired; Ronald Sikorski, IUOE Local Union No. 12; Parker Simon, Independent; C. Robin Smith, Sierra Club; Marci Stange, Rebuild Social Partnership; Jennifer Stark, City of Claremont; Ron Sundergill, National Parks Conservation Association; Lisa Tarpin, Southern California Group; Gracie Torres, RCFC; Ralph Velador, LiUNA; Blanca Villalobos, Cultural Worker-Community Member; Sarah Wiltfong, BizFed; Adam Wood, Southern California Group; Roel Zamora, Sierra Club; Janet Zimmerman, CV Strategies.

3. Receipt by Board of Update on Bonanza Springs Study

- a. The staff report provides (1) a brief history of Three Valleys MWD involvement in the study, along with six other water agencies that entered into an options agreement with Cadiz, Inc., (2) an update of the ongoing Bonanza Springs Study and (3) an update of the permitting process with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Milestones are highlighted in the staff report. The BLM advised portions of field work are being recommended for approval under a categorical exemption to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition, portions of Part B & C of the scope of work will be approved.
- b. Mr. Anthony Brown provided a presentation on the Bonanza Springs Study. He provided a historical perspective of the study and BLM approvals. Objectives of the study are (1) to answer remaining questions on whether a hydrologic connection exists between the Cadiz Water Conservation and Storage Project and Bonanza Spring, (2) even if a connection exists, determine whether the Water Project can proceed in a manner protective to the spring and (3) if necessary, recommend amendments to the GMMMP to protect the spring.

A discussion amongst Board members and Mr. Brown ensued. Quarterly updates have not been provided because of delays and the lack of progress. Once the BLM approves field work, quarterly memos will be provided and posted on the District website.

- c. Mr. John Monsen and Ms. Demi Espinoza spoke on behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and addressed five main claims. A discussion and several questions were raised by Directors. The NPCA provided a list of questions and a response will be provided at a later date.

- d. Mr. Ray Baca and Mr. Rich Lambros provided a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of study supporters and reviewed facts and myths of the project.
- e. Public Comment

Barbara Thomas submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Mayor Robert Pacheco submitted public comment to be read on his behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Doug Zielasko submitted public comment to be read on his behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Robin Smith commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Columba Quintero commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Marci Stanage commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Charming Evelyn submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Carlos Rodriguez commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Chuck Gibson commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Jennifer Ward submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Dr. John Husing commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Sarah Wiltfong commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Jayson Baiz commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Gayle Pacheco submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Pat Flanagan commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Ileene Anderson commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Diane Staff submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Shirley Wilson submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Jennifer Riley submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Roel Zamora commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Steve Bardwel commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Mary Ann Ruiz submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Richard Haskell submitted public comment to be read on his behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Chris Clarke commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Jose Garcia commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Hugh Coxe submitted public comment to be read on his behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Ralph Velador commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Joan Holtz submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Kris Murray commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Martiza Alvarez commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Michael Lewis commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Blanca Villalobos commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Neal Desai commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Ray Anderson submitted public comment to be read on his behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Matthew Gaines commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Brad Jensen commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Gabriella Mendez Ulloa submitted public comment to be read on her behalf regarding Item 3 of the agenda.

Kareem Gongora commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Gracie Torres commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

Jordan Brandman commented on Item 3 of the agenda.

4. Directors Comments

Director Kuhn thanked all presenters and speakers for attending the meeting. The District is still seeking information to make a decision and it is not a decision he will take lightly.

Director Ti stated he gained a better appreciation for how the community feels about the project and understands the passion on both sides. He is curious as to what options the Board has to move forward. Director Ti exited meeting at 1:04 pm.

Director Soto would like to continue and improve public transparency on the District's website and thanked staff for being responsive. She requested contact information from various public speakers to gain a better understanding of their concerns. Director Soto would like the Board to consider off ramp options and requested to agendaize a discussion on how to proceed with the study.

Director Roberto left the meeting at 11:58 p.m. for a previously scheduled meeting and returned to the meeting at 12:47 p.m. Director Roberto apologized for missing a portion of the meeting. She has mixed emotions on the study and wants to have all the information before making a decision. She inquired how TVMWD got involved and why Santa Margarita Water District is not the lead agency.

Director De Jesus asked Mr. Litchfield to review work plans from the previous General Manager around the time the initial study was authorized. The previous General Manager was directed by the Board with seeking additional water supply and circulated with member agency managers for concurrence. Director De Jesus has not made a decision yet on how he will proceed.

Director Bowcock advised the previous General Manager was asked to put together a list of projects that would bring water into the area. It was brought to the Board via agenda as Directors at that time wanted to learn more about the study and see the results. Director Bowcock stated each Director has a fiduciary responsibility to the District.

Director Goytia stated he represents a diverse community and wants to hear everyone's concerns. The Native American community should not be disregarded in this process. Director Goytia asked for all to have an open mind on decisions as the District continues to look for reliable water resources.

5. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

6. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 1:54 p.m. to its next regular Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

/s/ Bob Kuhn
President, Board of Directors
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Recorded by: Nadia Aguirre
Executive Assistant