



**LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Held at:  
**ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY**  
100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore, CA 94551  
April 10, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

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Chair Angela Ramirez Holmes called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – led by Chair Angela Ramirez Holmes

Chair Ramirez Holmes welcomed Director John Varela of Santa Clara Valley Water District and Alternate Director Ken Swanson of Grassland Water District as new members to the Board and new Director Ricardo Ortega, who formerly served as Alternate Director for Grassland Water District.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency  
Anthea Hansen, Vice Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District  
Antonio Martinez, Director, Contra Costa Water District  
Michael Tognolini, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Ricardo Ortega, Director, Grassland Water District  
John Varela, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District

**ALTERNATE DIRECTORS**

Jonathan Wunderlich, Alternate Director, Alameda County Water District  
Patt Young, Alternate Director, Contra Costa Water District  
\*Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Richard Santos, Alternate Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District  
\*Alternate Director Ritchie participated in place of absent Director Herrera

**ABSENT**

Dennis Herrera, Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Doug Linney, Alternate Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District

Ken Swanson, Alternate Director, Grassland Water District

Jose Gutierrez, Alternate Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Sandy Figuers, Alternate Director, Zone 7 Water Agency

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Taryn Ravazzini, Executive Director

James Ciampa, Lagerlof, LLP, General Counsel

Chuck Gardner, Program Manager, Hallmark Group

Jessica Alwan, Hallmark Group

Maddy Benner, Hallmark Group

Jacqueline Harris, Hallmark Group (via Zoom)

Rosemarie Perea, Board Clerk (via Zoom)

M. J. Brown, Assistant Board Clerk

Others were present in person, via Zoom and by telephone.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Ramirez Holmes called for public comments on non-agenda items. None were received.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

**1.1 Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting**

**1.2 Treasurer's Report Month Ended February 29, 2024**

Chair Ramirez Holmes called for public comments in the room, on Zoom and from the Board. None were received.

Upon motion by Director Tognolini, seconded by Director Martinez, the Consent Calendar was approved, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Anthea Hansen, Vice Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Antonio Martinez, Director, Contra Costa Water District  
Michael Tognolini, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Ricardo Ortega, Director, Grassland Water District  
John Varela, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District (but noted his approval of the Treasurer’s Report)

The motion passed with a 7-0 vote, with Treasurer Sethy abstaining.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**2.1 Appointment of Authority Secretary**

Chair Angela Ramirez Holmes advised that pursuant to Article 4.3 of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, the Board may appoint the Authority’s Secretary to fill the recent vacancy left by former Secretary Ellen Wehr’s departure from the Board. Chair Ramirez Holmes nominated Director Ricardo Ortega of Grassland Water District, to fill the vacancy as Secretary. Director Ortega accepted that nomination and no other nominations were made.

Chair Ramirez Holmes called for public comments in the room, on Zoom and from the Board. None were received.

Ricardo Ortega, Grassland Water District, was appointed as the Authority’s Secretary, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Anthea Hansen, Vice Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District  
Antonio Martinez, Director, Contra Costa Water District  
Michael Tognolini, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Ricardo Ortega, Director, Grassland Water District  
John Varela, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

**2.2 Consideration and Possible Adoption of Resolution No. 4-24-01 In Appreciation of Service of Maureen Martin**

Executive Director Taryn Ravazzini noted that Maureen Martin, Ph.D, has been instrumental in advancing the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project over many years through her work at Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and in assisting with the formation and organization of the Authority. Dr. Martin was also instrumental in interactions with various state and federal agencies in moving the Project forward. Dr. Martin’s last day of employment at CCWD was on April 5 and the proposed resolution recognizes her many years of dedication to the Project

and assistance to the Authority. Executive Director Ravazzini then read the proposed resolution to the meeting.

Dr. Martin expressed her gratitude to all members of the Board and for their efforts in working with her on the Project and with the Authority. Chair Ramirez Holmes then called for Directors' comments.

Secretary Ortega presented Dr. Martin with a hand-carved wooden duck that was carved by a master carver on behalf of Grassland Water District in recognition of her many contributions and accomplishments. Alternate Director Ritchie thanked her very much for her insight, for her measured way of thinking and for her spirit of cooperation. Director Martinez expressed his gratitude and wished her the best. Vice Chair Hansen thanked Dr. Martin for all of her contributions. Treasurer Sethy expressed his appreciation for all of her insight and thanked her for her service. Chair Ramirez Holmes stated it has been an honor working with her and that she will miss her brilliance and unmatched knowledge of the Project.

Chair Ramirez Holmes called for public comments in the room, on Zoom and from the Board. None were received.

Upon motion by Alternate Director Ritchie, seconded by Vice Chair Hansen, Resolution No. 4-24-01 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

- AYES:** Anthea Hansen, Vice Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Ricardo Ortega, Secretary, Grassland Water District  
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District  
Antonio Martinez, Director, Contra Costa Water District  
Michael Tognolini, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
John Varela, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency
- NOES:** None
- ABSENT:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None

The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

**2.3 Consideration and Possible Adoption of Resolution No. 4-24-02 In Appreciation of Service of former Authority Secretary Ellen Wehr**

Chair Ramirez Holmes noted it has been the Authority's practice to recognize departing Board members who have served the Authority from its inception.

Executive Director Ravazzini reviewed former Director and Secretary Ellen Wehr's accomplishments and then read the proposed resolution recognizing her service.

Chair Ramirez Holmes called for public comments in the room, on Zoom and from the Board. None were received.

Upon motion by Director Martinez, seconded by Vice Chair Hansen, Resolution No. 4-24-02 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Anthea Hansen, Vice Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Ricardo Ortega, Secretary, Grassland Water District  
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District  
Antonio Martinez, Director, Contra Costa Water District  
Michael Tognolini, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
John Varela, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District

Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency

**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

**2.4 Consideration and Possible Adoption of Resolution No. 4-24-03 Approving Letter of Support to Maintain Budgeted Funding for Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program for FY 2025-2026**

Executive Director Ravazzini reviewed the staff report for this item and gave the background regarding a recent Legislative Analyst’s Office report that highlighted that \$500 million in funding for Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) projects, including the Project, proposed for the 2025-2026 budget year could be eliminated.

Executive Director Ravazzini stated a joint letter from the WSIP project proponents is being developed advocating that the \$500 Million proposed for the 2025-2026 budget year remain and not be cut from the budget. Treasurer Sethy stated he supports preparing the letter and sending it in. Chair Ramirez Holmes clarified that the budget allocation funding is in addition to the voter-approved Proposition 1 funding.

Chair Ramirez Holmes called for public comments in the room, on Zoom and from the Board. None were received.

Upon motion by Treasurer Sethy, seconded by Secretary Ortega, Resolution No. 4-24-03 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Anthea Hansen, Vice Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Ricardo Ortega, Secretary, Grassland Water District  
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District  
Antonio Martinez, Director, Contra Costa Water District  
Michael Tognolini, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
John Varela, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **3.1 Multiparty Agreement Amendment #6 Update**

General Counsel James Ciampa reviewed the background of draft Amendment No. 6 to the Multi-Party Cost Share Agreement. He clarified the version of the amendment in the meeting materials was the initial draft of the amendment, along with notes in yellow highlighting regarding various changes made from Amendment No. 5. General Counsel Ciampa stated the Members have provided comments and a revised draft Amendment No. 6 was distributed last Friday, April 5, after the Board meeting packet was distributed. Those changes were non-substantive and clarifying in nature. The proposed Amendment No. 6 will, among other things, extend the term of the Cost Share Agreement through June 30, 2025, memorialize the transfer of \$1,555,000 in contingency moneys from Contra Costa Water District to the Authority and update the Scope of Work and other exhibits to the amendment.

General Counsel Ciampa stated the final version of Amendment No. 6 will be presented to the Board for approval at the May 3 Board meeting. A redlined version of the amendment will be provided to show the final changes. Mr. Ciampa stated CCWD may be approving Amendment No. 6 at its May 1 Board of Directors' meeting, but Kyle Ochendusko, CCWD's Assistant General Manager, clarified the exact date for CCWD's Board's consideration and possible approval had not been set.

Vice Chair Hansen questioned the different presentation of the contingency amounts on Exhibits B-6 and C-6. Maureen Martin advised that each exhibit presented the contingency amounts in a different manner and format and the contingency amounts are included in each of the various line items on Exhibit B-6.

Chair Ramirez Holmes called for public comments in the room, on Zoom and from the Board. None were received.

### **3.2 Program Management Update**

- **Budget & Schedule**
- **Agreements**
- **Design & Permitting**

Executive Director Ravazzini reviewed the Authority's recent accomplishments. She stated CCWD recently provided an updated construction schedule that Chuck Gardner will review in his report.

Program Manager Gardner then reviewed Authority contract authorizations, budget, schedule, cash flow and status of agreements. On the contract authorizations, he noted Clean Energy Capital is now on budget and Hallmark Group should be on budget by next month's report.

He also noted the J Comm agreement expired in January although its services have been put on hold. That agreement will be extended so the video services can be provided when needed.

On the budget, Mr. Gardner noted the Authority is currently \$4.6 million under budget and the cash flow has improved by \$200,000 from last month, with over \$1.8 million anticipated to be available at the end of the current fiscal year. Mr. Gardner then reviewed the revised construction schedule. He noted the schedule reflects changes resulting from delays in completing the partner agreements, implementation of the Capital Preservation Strategy, resulting delays in CWC funding that impacts the ability to proceed with various pre-construction activities (such as land acquisition for the Transfer-Bethany Pipeline), new project components relating to the CCWD Backstop requirements and the fact the Transfer-Bethany Pipeline right-of-way process will take longer to complete than originally anticipated. Those factors have resulted in delays of one year for the Pumping Plant 1 replacement, 3.25 years for the Transfer-Bethany Pipeline and 1.75 years for the Los Vaqueros Dam expansion.

Mr. Gardner then reviewed the status of the various Project agreements. He noted a potential new requirement is that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has requested all Authority agreements with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation be finalized prior to the completion of the Contract for Administration of Public Benefits. That is potentially problematic because it is unknown how long it will take to finalize the Bureau of Reclamation agreements. The Project agreements are proceeding and discussions with CCWD are occurring regarding various issues concerning the Design and Construction and Facilities Usage Agreements. One item that had been considered was to have the Authority undertake work for the design and/or construction of the Transfer-Bethany Pipeline, but further discussions have revealed the Members do not desire that approach.

Several directors then had questions and comments for Mr. Gardner. Director Tognolini stated the critical path should be shown on future schedules. Mr. Gardner advised that a cleaner presentation of the schedule will be made at the next meeting. Alternate Director Ritchie noted that most of the Authority's Members are members of Northern California Urban Water Agencies, who will be meeting with the Governor's Strike Team and the issue with CDFW's request relating to the Bureau of Reclamation agreements will be brought to the Strike Team's attention, although CDFW is not included in the Strike Team. Director Martinez asked about timing on the Member's business cases analyses. Mr. Gardner advised the timing varies depending on the agency and that some data gaps have been identified and are being worked on. Mr. Gardner noted the CCWD Facilities Usage Agreement is a key component to those business cases. Chair Ramirez Holmes asked who is on the capacity and allocation work group. Executive Director Ravazzini advised that work group is made up of key technical staff and some attorneys from each Member Agency and that work group is led by Ibrahim Khadam.

Treasurer Sethy inquired who is to pay for the Backstop Plan improvements. Mr. Gardner replied that has not been definitively determined and that CCWD has stated those improvements should be Project costs the Members would pay because those improvements would not be necessary but for the Project. Mr. Gardner stated CCWD will derive some benefits from the improvements so further discussions will take place on that issue.

Vice Chair Hansen asked about CDFW’s concern regarding the Bureau of Reclamation agreements. Executive Director Ravazzini replied that CDFW wants to know how the water will be moved via Project facilities.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **REPORTS**

### **4.1 Directors**

Chair Ramirez Holmes thanked Secretary Wehr and Director Eisenberg for their past involvement with the Authority. She noted recent departures have created vacancies on several committees and she will be making some new committee assignments in May. She also advised that she will be leaving the Zone 7 Board in early May and thus will also be leaving the Authority’s Board. Alternate Director Ritchie thanked Chair Ramirez Holmes for her service and wished her good luck. Directors Martinez, Tognolini and Ortega thanked Chair Ramirez Holmes for her service and leadership. Vice Chair Hansen thanked Chair Ramirez Holmes for her service to the Board, that she greatly enjoyed working with her and added that she will try to live up to the high standards Chair Ramirez Holmes has set. A public comment was made by Maureen Martin, who thanked Chair Ramirez Holmes for doing an amazing job as chair of the Authority.

### **4.2 Executive Director**

#### **4.2.1 Federal Relations Report**

#### **4.2.2 March 2024 Engagement Activities with Reclamation**

In addition to the written report in the Board packet, Executive Director Ravazzini reported she spoke at the California Municipal Utilities Association conference in Monterey earlier in the week on the future of water in California. She also reported on a meeting that occurred with the California Water Commission, CDFW and the Department of Water Resources on the interplay of the CWC Funding Agreement and the respective Contracts for the Administration of Public Benefits. The state agencies are in the process of reviewing several issues that were raised in that meeting.

Garret Durst of Natural Resource Results then addressed the Board on Fiscal Year 2025 federal budget appropriations items that are ongoing in Washington, D.C. He stated California Representatives LaMalfa and Thompson have written a letter seeking \$134 million to be appropriated for the WIIN Act. That is not a project-specific request and thus is likely to garner support from representatives of other states, such as Idaho and Washington.

### **4.3 General Counsel**

General Counsel James Ciampa thanked the Directors for sending in their Form 700’s. He also thanked Chair Ramirez Holmes for her leadership of the Authority. In connection with “Closed Session” participation, he advised that the participants will be the Directors and Alternate Directors participating on behalf of absent Directors, so Alternate Director Ritchie will participate in place of absent Director Herrera.



**4.4 Committee Meeting Summaries**

There were no Authority Committee meetings convened in March 2024 due to cancellations.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION (convened at 11:14 a.m.)**

**5.1 Performance Evaluation – Government Code Section 54957**

**TITLE: Executive Director**

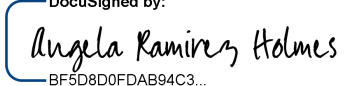
**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION (reconvened at 11:58 a.m.)**

**REPORT OF ACTION, IF ANY, TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Ramirez Holmes announced the Board met in closed session and conducted the Executive Director’s performance evaluation. Chair Ramirez Holmes noted the Executive Director’s performance has exceeded expectations and goals for the coming year were provided to the Executive Director.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

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Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair

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