



**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
February 8, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Chair Angela Ramirez Holmes called the meeting order at 9:37 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by Chair Angela Ramirez Holmes

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency
Ellen Wehr, Secretary, Grassland Water District
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District
Ernesto Avila, Director, Contra Costa Water District
John Coleman, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District – Participated Telephonically
Rebecca Eisenberg, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District (arrived at 9:55 a.m.)
TBD, Director – Ex Officio - Department of Water Resources

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

Jonathan Wunderlich, Alternate Director, Alameda County Water District
Antonio Martinez, Alternate Director, Contra Costa Water District
*Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
*Richard Santos, Alternate, Santa Clara Valley Water District (participated until Director Eisenberg arrived)
Sandy Figuers, Alternate Director, Zone 7 Water Agency
*Jose Gutierrez, Alternate Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority -- Participated Telephonically
TBD, Alternate Director – Ex Officio, Department of Water Resources
*Alternate Director who replaced absent Director from his member agency

ABSENT

Anthea Hansen, Vice Chair, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Dennis Herrera, Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Ricardo Ortega, Alternate Director, Grassland Water District
Lesla McIntosh, Alternate Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District

OTHERS PRESENT

Taryn Ravazzini, Executive Director
James Ciampa, Lagerlof, LLP, General Counsel
Rosemarie Perea, Board Clerk (by telephone)
David Moore, Clean Energy Capital (by telephone)
Numerous others were present in person and by telephone

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- 1.1 Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 2-23-01 Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Gavin Newsom and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Board of Directors of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Powers Authority for the Period from February 3, 2023 to February 28, 2023 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions**
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting**
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report – Month Ended December 31, 2022**
- 1.4 Update to Public Records Act Guidelines**

Upon motion by Treasurer Sethy, seconded by Secretary Wehr, the Consent Calendar consisting of Items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency
Ellen Wehr, Secretary, Grassland Water District
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District
Ernesto Avila, Director, Contra Costa Water District
John Coleman, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Jose Gutierrez, Alternate Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Richard Santos, Alternate Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

ACTION ITEMS

2.1 2023 Communications Goals and Priorities

A draft of the Communications Goals and Priorities, which had been reviewed and revised by the Communications and Outreach Committee at its January 25, 2023 meeting, was presented by Taryn Ravazzini, Executive Director. Those goals and priorities will inform the development of the Authority's annual Communications and Outreach Plan.

After discussion, upon motion by Alternate Director Ritchie, seconded by Treasurer Sethy, the 2023 Communications Goals and Priorities, with the addition of "project approvals" under Priority 2, were approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency
Ellen Wehr, Secretary, Grassland Water District
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District
Ernesto Avila, Director, Contra Costa Water District
John Coleman, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Jose Gutierrez, Alternate Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Richard Santos, Alternate Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District

NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

2.2 Conflict with May Regular Board of Directors' Meeting

Executive Director Ravazzini noted the May Regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2023 and falls on the first day of the ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey. This conference is well attended by Authority Board members, and the May 10 Board meeting would present a scheduling conflict for many Directors and Alternate Directors. With that being the case, staff asked for direction with respect to the possible rescheduling of the May Board meeting to an alternate date, either through discussion at this meeting or through a subsequent scheduling poll.

After discussion, a motion to reschedule the May Regular Board meeting and directing staff to conduct a poll of board members to determine a mutually convenient date was made by Treasurer Sethy, seconded by Alternate Director Ritchie, and approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair, Zone 7 Water Agency
Ellen Wehr, Secretary, Grassland Water District
Paul Sethy, Treasurer, Alameda County Water District
Ernesto Avila, Director, Contra Costa Water District
John Coleman, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Steve Ritchie, Alternate Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Jose Gutierrez, Alternate Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Richard Santos, Alternate Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District

NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Program Management Request for Proposals

Executive Director Ravazzini gave a presentation regarding the Program Management Request for Proposals. She stated with the work on the Service Agreement and other agreements now moving forward, it is important that the Authority proceed with the engagement of the Program Manager through a competitive proposal process. Ms. Ravazzini's presentation gave an overview of the Program Manager position and reviewed the proposed scope of work, proposed selection criteria, proposed schedule and proposed selection process, which involved a team of staff from various Authority members. She then asked for Board input on those proposed components of the Request for Proposals process.

With respect to the proposed selection criteria, Director Avila and Alternate Director Ritchie suggested increasing the weight to be given to "Specialized Experience and Capabilities" from 5% to 15% and reducing the percentages of "Firm Qualifications and Program Team" and "Approach to Work" accordingly. Director Avila also suggested decreasing the weight of the "Presentation" to 20% and increasing the "Questions and Answers" to 30%. Director Eisenberg suggested increasing the "Firm Qualifications and Program Team" to 50% and decreasing the "Presentation" factor.

Alternate Director Ritchie inquired about outreach to consultants and also inquired whether the Executive Director would still act as the Authority's spokesperson after the Program Manager is retained. Executive Director Ravazzini responded that outreach to consultants has been occurring over many months and that she intended to continue to be the Authority's spokesperson. Director Eisenberg stated it is important for the Authority to reach out to underrepresented communities and minority and women-owned firms in the solicitation process.

Directors Sethy and Eisenberg and Alternate Director Figuers then raised concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest with the consultants, particularly with respect to any former employee of an Authority member full disclosure of any conflict of interest and full transparency is necessary. They emphasized the need for any proposing entity to fully disclose any potential or perceived conflict of interest.

The Executive Director will take into consideration the issues raised as proceeds in working on and completing the Request for Proposals.

3.2 Future Board Actions for Bridge Financing Approach

Executive Director Ravazzini introduced the Authority's financial consultant, David Moore of Clean Energy Capital, who made a presentation on contemplated bridge financing. That issue was raised in prior committee and Board meetings and was the subject of the January 31, 2023 Joint Finance Committee and Operations and Engineering Committee meeting. The primary

concept relates to securing outside debt financing to cover short-term intervals between the time Project expenses are incurred and when grant or WIFIA loan funds are received.

Mr. Moore stated the Joint Committee meeting resulted in a consensus to proceed with bridge financing after the Service Agreement is in place to cover Project costs until grant or loan monies are received. The Board concurred with that approach.

3.3 State Legislature Outreach and Advocacy Planning

Executive Director then reviewed the tentative plan for the Authority to conduct a group visit to Sacramento on March 22, 2023 to meet with pertinent legislators. Ms. Ravazzini reviewed the materials included in the meeting packet, including the delegation lists and maps of the legislators serving the Authority's service area and fact sheets from the September 2022 Washington, D.C. trip, which will be updated.

Chair Angela Ramirez Holmes thanked Grassland Water District for the assistance its lobbyist, Mark Smith of Smith Policy Group, LLC, has provided in the early planning stages of this effort. Directors Avila and Eisenberg signaled their interest in participating in this trip.

3.4 Authority Open House at ACWA Spring Conference

Executive Director Ravazzini noted the Association of California Water Agencies will hold its Spring Conference in Monterey, California from May 9 through May 11, 2023. Ms. Ravazzini stated some Authority members have expressed an interest in having the Authority host an open house at this conference to offer information on the Project and the Authority. The Board was supportive of that event as a way to build relationships.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

REPORTS

4.1 – Directors

Chair Angela Ramirez Holmes advised that the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Review of the Contra Costa Water District Design, Guidelines and Principles are: Secretary Ellen Wehr, Alternate Director Steve Ritchie and Alternate Director Sandy Figuers. Members of the various committees were re-appointed without change for the coming year, with Director Eisenberg being appointed to the Finance Committee to take the position previously held by Alternate Director Linda LeZotte.

Secretary Ellen Wehr advised that she attended the Mid-Pacific Users Water Users' Conference which took place in Reno, Nevada from January 25 through January 27, 2023 and complimented the Executive Director on a great job of representing the Authority at the conference, as well as CCWD's staff for their support of the Authority.

4.2 - Executive Director

Executive Director Ravazzini advised she will be providing a written report to the Board each

month. She stated she is making an effort to meet in person with member agencies as frequently as feasible. Included in her written report is a list of monthly Authority contracts entered into as well as the response letter from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the California Congressional Delegation regarding the delegation's prior letter Supporting Phase 2 of the LVR Expansion Project.

Director Sethy asked for clarification on the contract entered into with Natural Resource Results for federal lobbying services. Executive Director Ravazzini advised this is a short-term contract for needed federal strategy support and to assist with establishing a strategic plan for federal lobbying activities. The contract is in the amount of \$12,500.00 per month, for four months, with a price reduction for the early termination in the fourth month. Secretary Wehr commended staff on the selection of Natural Resource Results and feels they will be a positive addition. Director Avila stated his opinion that the contract to engage Natural Resource Results for federal advocacy services should have been brought to the JPA Board for consideration and approval, similar to how the Program Management RFP was handled at the February 8 Board meeting. Director Avila also asked for legal counsel's signature block to be added to all Authority agreements indicating his evaluation and approval of the agreement as to form.

4.3 - General Counsel

General Counsel James Ciampa stated he will ensure the signature block Director Avila requested is added to all future Authority contracts he reviews. The Legal Work Group will meet on February 14 to discuss the Service Agreement process and other Project-related agreements. He has filed the required Registry of Public Agencies update with the California Secretary of State to reflect the renewal of officers and new members on the Board. He will further review the Brown Act regarding teleconference requirements and will update the Brown Act meeting guidelines as necessary and appropriate to address the issue of directors participating by teleconference if their names and locations are not listed on the meeting agenda.

4.4 - Board Policy and Action Calendar

Chair Ramirez Holmes stated the updated Board Policy and Action Calendar was included in the meeting materials for the Board's information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Angela Ramirez Holmes
Angela Ramirez Holmes (Apr 24, 2023 22:25 PDT)

Angela Ramirez Holmes, Chair

ATTEST:

Ellen Wehr
Ellen Wehr (Apr 21, 2023 16:57 PDT)

Ellen Wehr, Secretary