

DIVISION 1
John Aguilar
Director

DIVISION 2
Anthony Bianco
Director

DIVISION 3
John Powell
President

DIVISION 4
Peter G. Nelson
Director

DIVISION 5
Castulo Estrada
Vice President



Steve Robbins
Administration Building
Board Chambers

75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA

www.cvwd.org

OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 23, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Powell called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Coachella Valley Water District to order at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at the office of the District in Palm Desert, California. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Powell.

2. TELECONFERENCE

The February 23, 2021 Coachella Valley Water District Board of Directors Meeting was conducted pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: President John P. Powell, Jr
Vice President Cástulo R. Estrada
Director Anthony Bianco
Director Peter Nelson

Absent: Director John Aguilar

Staff Present: Jim Barrett, General Manager
Jeff Ferre, Counsel
Sylvia M. Bermudez, Clerk of the Board

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

In accordance with the section 54954.2 of the Government Code additions to the agenda require a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, which makes the determination that there is

a need to take action, and the need to take action arose after the posting of the Agenda.

- A. No items were removed or continued from the Agenda
- B. No emergency item(s) were added to the Agenda
- C. No changes were made to the order of the Agenda

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Reid, president of CVWD Employees Association provided public comment to the Board.

6. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent calendar items are expected to be routine and to be acted upon by the Board of Directors at one time without discussion. If any Board member requests that an item be removed from the consent calendar, it will be removed so that it may be acted upon separately.

- A. Approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 Regular meeting of the CVWD Board of Directors
- B. Accept and file the General Manager's Report of Activities during the month of January 2021
- C. Accept and file the General Manager's Report of Authorizations, Executions, and Acceptance of Documents during the month of January 2021
- D. Accept and file the Secretary's Report of Written Instruments Accepted and Recorded during the month of January 2021
- E. Approve and authorize the General Manager to execute a Special Sanitation System Installation Agreement with DSA Management, LLC
- F. Approve payment of 2021 annual dues for National Water Resources Association (NWRA) - Municipal Caucus in the amount of \$525

On a motion by Director Nelson, second by Director Bianco, the Board approved the Consent Calendar items 6A through 6F.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Aguilar

Motion Passed: 4-0

7. DISCUSSION OF ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

No items pulled for discussion.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

- A. Written Communications Received – on file.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. **Authorize Preparation and Mailing of Proposition 218 Notices for the Proposed Canal Rate Increases for Fiscal Year 2022**

through 2026 and to Receive and File the Cost of Service Study Report for Canal Rates.

Following a presentation by Geoffrey Kiehl, Director of Finance the Board discussed Proposition 218 notices for the proposed canal rate increases for FY 2022 through 2026.

On a motion by Director Nelson, second by Director Powell, the Board approved and authorized the mailing of Proposition 218 Notices for the Proposed Canal Rate Increases for Fiscal Year 2022 through 2026 and received and filed the Cost of Service Study Report for Canal Rates.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Powell, Bianco, Nelson

NOES: Estrada

ABSENT: Aguilar

Motion Passed: 3-1

B. Follow-up discussion regarding February 16, 2021 RAC and SGMA Cost of Service Rate Study.

Geoffrey Kiehl, Director of Finance provided a recap of the February 16, 2021 study session to the Board.

10. ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

A. Adopt Ordinance 1427.2 amending Regulations Governing Sanitation Service.

Following a presentation by Adam McWey, Management Analyst, the Board discussed an ordinance, amending the regulations governing sanitation service.

On a motion by Director Powell, second by Director Estrada, the Board approved and adopted Ordinance 1427.2 amending Regulations Governing Sanitation Service, which excluded the proposed amendments related to street sewer laterals. Proposed changes related to the street sewer laterals will return to the Board for consideration at a future date.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Aguilar

Motion Passed: 4-0

Director Bianco left following closed session and did not participate in items 11 and 12.

11. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Board Member General Comments

- Director Nelson commented the Imperial County Board of Supervisors is considering an item to request the Governor allow the County to join the QSA-JPA.
- Director Estrada also commented on the comments regarding Imperial County's request for consideration to join the JPA.
- Director Powell had no report.

B. Meetings and Conference Reports

- i February 10, 2021 Colorado River Board of California Teleconference meeting (Director's Nelson, Powell and Estrada)
- ii February 11, 2021 Desert Valleys Builders Association Board meeting (Director Powell)
- iii February 16, 2021 Board Study Session - RAC and SGMA Cost of Service Rate Study (Director's Powell, Bianco and Aguilar)
- iv February 17 - 18, 2021 Urban Water Institute 2021 Virtual Conference (Director's Nelson and Aguilar)
- v February 22, 2021 California Farm Water Coalition Teleconference meeting (Director Nelson)
- vi February 22, 2021 Standing CVWD Legislative Committee Teleconference meeting (Director's Aguilar and Estrada)

Additional meetings reported:

- vii February 4, 2021 Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (CVILC) Nominating Committee meeting (Directors Nelson and Powell)
- viii February 16, 2021 Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (CVILC) Board meeting (Directors Nelson and Powell)
- ix February 18, 2021 Presenter for CV Water Counts Academy regarding agriculture water use (Director Nelson)
- x February 18, 2021 Meeting with the State of California, California Natural Resources, DWR, California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Riverside County, SSA regarding the North Lake demonstration Pilot Project (Director Estrada)
- xi February 19, 2021 Southern California Water Coalition: "Water Quality Matters Webinar: Understanding and Addressing PFAS in our Water (Director Nelson)
- xii February 19, 2021 watched the recorded study session meeting video of February 16, 2021 (Director Estrada)
- xiii February 20, 2021 watched the recorded study session meeting video of February 16, 2021 (Director Nelson)

C. Approval of per diem for meetings reported

On a motion by Director Nelson, second by Director Estrada,
the Board approved per diem for meetings reported.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Powell, Estrada, Nelson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Bianco, Aguilar

Motion Passed: 3-0

12. STAFF REPORTS

- A. General Manager, Jim Barrett reported on the following:
- Provided an update to the Board on COVID numbers at CVWD.
 - Received a letter from Joe Campbell, CEO Coachella Valley Economic Partnership asking for participation on an advisory committee to set up a secure stand alone 4-year CSU campus in Palm Desert.
 - Reported on the ongoing technical issues in the SRAB board chambers and the need to replace the system, this project was assigned to Information Systems Director, Luis Maciel and in the Clerk of the Board, Sylvia Bermudez would be looking for a vendor to provide interim streaming services to ensure the board meetings continue to be recorded and streamed to the public.
 - Announced Kristen Johnson, Government Affairs Specialist, has announced her resignation effective March 1; Kristen accepted a position with the State of Arizona, Department of Water Resources, as the Colorado River Program Manager.
- B. Counsel – no report
- C. Departments – no report

13. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

Due to time constraints from outside counsel, the Board convened to closed session at 10:05 am to discuss the following items

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION, Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9 (a) Name of Case: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians v. Coachella Valley Water District, et al., Case No. EDCV 13-883 JGB
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
Agency designated representative: President John Powell
Unrepresented employee: General Manager
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 –
Agency negotiator: Jay Trinnaman, Robert Cheng, Scott Hunter and Bill Walters; Employees' organization: Coachella Valley Water District Employee Association (CVWDEA)

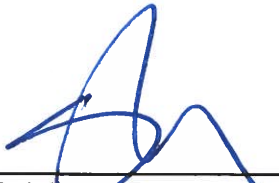
14. RECONVENE

- A. Report out of Closed Session


President Powell reconvened the meeting back into Open Session and reported there were no reportable actions for closed session. The Board then considered items 11 and 12 on the agenda.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, President Powell adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m. The next scheduled regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Water District Board of Directors is Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.



Sylvia M. Bermudez, MMC
Clerk of the Board
Coachella Valley Water District



John P. Powell, Jr., President
Coachella Valley Water District

