



APPROVED: 03-23-21  
ITEM NO.: 9.A.

**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](http://www.cvwd.org)

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

**March 9, 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, March 9, 2021 at the office of the District in Palm Desert, California. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Powell.

**2. TELECONFERENCE**

The March 9, 2021 Coachella Valley Water District Board of Directors Meeting is being 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 John Aguilar  
Director Peter Nelson *joined at 8:10am*

*Absent:* Director Anthony Bianco

*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 to the order of the Agenda

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment provided by Jesus Gonzalez.

**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 February 23, 2021 CVWD Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve and authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 4 to Task Order 16 with Rincon Consulting in the amount of \$13,125 for 404 permitting support for the Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Facility Phase 2
- C. Approve and authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order No. 2 for an additional amount of \$73,035 with Carollo Engineers, Inc for the completion of the Cost of Service Study (COSS) for the Canal Water, Domestic Water, and Replenishment (Three Areas of Benefit) Funds

*Director Aguilar abstained from voting on item 6A, minutes of February 23, 2021.*

**On a motion by Director Nelson, second by Director Estrada,** the Board approved the Consent Calendar items 6A through 6C.

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

**7. DISCUSSION OF ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

- A. Written Communications Received – on file
- B. Informational Reports to the Board
  - i Water Year 2019-2020 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Annual Reports for the Indio and Mission Creek Subbasins, presentation by Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Water Resources Manager

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Approve additional funding of \$60,000 to replenish the Water Resources Development Act Memorandum of Agreement Funding with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

Following a presentation by William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor the Board discussed the additional funding to replenish the Water Resources Development Act Memorandum of Agreement Funding with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

***On a motion by Director Aguilar second by Director Estrada,*** the Board approved the additional funding of \$60,000 to replenish the Water Resources Development Act Memorandum of Agreement Funding with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

B. **Approve Solicitation of Bids for the Construction of Irrigation Lateral 119.64-7.5 Replacement Project–Phase I, Specification No. 2020-46.**

Following a presentation by David Wilson, Engineer Manager, the Board discussed the solicitation of bids for the construction of irrigation lateral 119.64-7.5 replacement project; phase 1.

***On a motion by Director Aguilar second by Director Estrada,*** the Board approved solicitation of Bids for the Construction of Irrigation Lateral 119.64-7.5 Replacement Project – Phase I, Specification No. 2020-46

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**RECUSED:** Powell

**Motion Passed: 3-0**

C. **Approve Solicitation of Bids for the Construction of the Coachella Campus Roof Access and Ion Exchange Treatment Plants Safety Improvements Project, Specification No. 2020-17.**

Following a presentation by Dan Ruiz, Engineer Manager the Board discussed the solicitation of bids for the construction of the Coachella campus roof access and Ion Exchange Treatment Plants, safety improvements project.

**Director Estrada made a motion, second by Director Aguilar** to solicit bids for the construction of the Coachella campus roof access and ion exchange treatment plants, safety improvement project, specification no. 2020-17.

**AYES:** Estrada, Aguilar

**NOES:** Nelson

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**RECUSED:** Powell

**Motion Failed: 2-1**

A second ***motion was made by Director Estrada, second by Director Aguilar*** to authorize staff to solicit bids for the construction of the Coachella campus roof access and ion exchange treatment plants, safety improvement project, specification no. 2020-17 and for staff to include in the solicitation a call for a fourth option whereby a bidder can provide a bid for a potential alternative approach for the campus roof access project which may be more cost effective.

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**RECUSED:** Powell

**Motion Passed: 3-0**

- D. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order No. 5 with Dokken Engineering in the amount of \$68,190 for Consulting Services to complete the design of the Avenue 66 Transmission Main, Phase 1B Project, and approve additional expenditures for a total request of \$83,500.**

Following a presentation by Dan Ruiz, Engineer Manager the Board discussed Task Order No. 5 with Dokken Engineering in the amount of \$68,190 for Consulting Services to complete the design of the Avenue 66 Transmission Main, Phase 1B Project.

***On a motion by Director Nelson second by Director Estrada,*** the Board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute Task Order No. 5 with Dokken Engineering in the amount of \$68,190 for Consulting Services to complete the design of the Avenue 66 Transmission Main, Phase 1B Project, and approve additional expenditures for a total request of \$83,500.

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

- E. **Approve and authorize Change Order No. 52 to Pacific Hydrotech Corporation for the Construction of the Water Reclamation Plant10 Secondary Effluent Pump Station Improvements, Specification 2018- 77.**

Following a presentation by Armando Rodriguez, Engineer Manager the Board discussed a change order no. 52 to Pacific Hydrotech Corporation.

***On a motion by Director Estrada second by Director Aguilar,*** the Board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute Change Order No. 52 to Pacific Hydrotech Corporation for the Construction of the Water Reclamation Plant10 Secondary Effluent Pump Station Improvements, Specification 2018- 77.

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

- F. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Lee & RO in the amount of \$84,870, to provide professional engineering services to finalize design of the Burr Street Force Main Project, and approve additional expenditures for a total request of \$94,870.**

Following a presentation by Armando Rodriguez, Engineer Manager, the Board discussed a professional services agreement with Lee & Ro.

***On a motion by Director Aguilar second by Director Estrada,*** the Board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Lee & RO in the amount of \$84,870, to provide professional engineering services to finalize design of the Burr Street Force Main Project, and approve additional expenditures for a total request of \$94,870

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

- G. **Authorize the Temporary Supplemental Drinking Water Assistance for Oasis Mobile Home Park.**

Following a presentation by Carrie Oliphant, Director of Engineering, the Board discussed CVWD's temporary assistance with drinking water for residents of the Oasis Mobile Home Park.

The following residents of the Oasis Mobile Home Park provided public comment: Manuel Estevan, Delfina Sanchez, Maria Lopez, Miguel Aguilar and Linda Ochoa.

***On a motion by Director Estrada second by Director Aguilar,*** the Board approved and authorized the Temporary Supplemental Drinking Water Assistance for Oasis Mobile Home Park.

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

H. **Approve Revisions to the 2021 Board Committee Appointments**

Following a presentation by Sylvia Bermudez, Clerk of the Board, the Board discussed the revisions to the 2021 Board Committee List.

***On a motion by Director Aguilar second by Director Nelson,*** the Board approved revisions to the 2021 Board Committee Appointments.

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

I. **Approve the Sixth Amendment to General Manager Employment Agreement to incorporate a cost of living adjustment and performance goals for calendar year 2021.**

Jeff Ferre, Counsel provided an oral report of the final action recommendation as required under the Brown Act requirements related to executive compensation.

***On a motion by Director Aguilar second by Director Estrada,*** the Board approved the sixth amendment to the General Manager Employment agreement to incorporate a cost of living adjustment and performance goals for calendar year 2021.

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT: Bianco**  
**Motion Passed: 4-0**

**10. BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

A. Board Member General Comments

- Director Nelson thanked General Manager Barrett; also commented on the passing of Bobby Bianco and expressed his condolences to Director Bianco and his family.
- Director Aguilar also thanked General Manager Barrett and expressed his condolences to the Bianco family; also reported he would be participating in the Law of the Colorado River Conference on Thursday and Friday of this week.
- Director Estrada thanked General Manager Barrett; expressed his condolences to the Bianco family; and thanked the Board for the collaboration. Also commented in regards to the public comment provided by Mr. Gonzalez.
- Director Powell also commented on the passing of Bobby Bianco and expressed his condolences to the family; also reported Jenny Harkness, Hydrologist CA Water Science Center with the USGS, requesting for well data for well monitoring of private wells.

B. Meetings and Conference Reports

- i February 25, 2021 Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting (Director's Bianco and Estrada)
- ii March 1, 2021 Discussion with staff regarding State Water Project Tax (Director Aguilar)
- iii March 4, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors (all board members)
- iv March 6, 2021 Meeting at Oasis Mobile Home Park (Director Estrada)
- v March 8, 2021 Follow-up meeting with Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia and SWRCB Chair Joaquin Esquivel (Director Estrada)

**Additional meetings reported:**

- vi March 1, 2021 Meeting with AGM Cheng and Bill Hasencamp, Chair of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Director Nelson)
- vii March 5, 2021 California Farm Water Coalition Ad Hoc meeting (Director Nelson)
- viii March 8, 2021 Conference call with Christopher Harris, Executive Director of Colorado River Board for a pre-meeting to review the March 10 Colorado River Board meeting agenda and the March 12 Principals meeting at the Seven Basin States,

regarding new appointees in the Biden Administration (Director Nelson)

C. **Approval of per diem for meetings reported**

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

**Approved by the following vote:**

**AYES:** Powell, Estrada, Aguilar, Nelson

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Bianco

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

**11. STAFF REPORTS**

- A. General Manager, Jim Barrett provided an update on COVID numbers; and reported Kyla Brown, Parks Director, Riverside County had informed him the County Board had pulled the Lake Cahuilla lease agreement for discussion. Brown would advise CVWD on the Board's actions.
- B. Counsel Jeff Ferre had no report.
- C. Departments - none

**12. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**

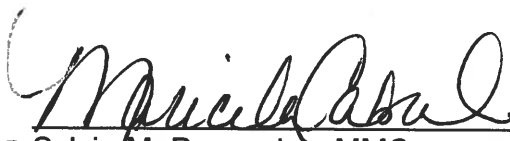
- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9  
One (1) potential case


**13. 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.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, President Powell adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. The next scheduled regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Water District Board of Directors is Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

