

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

**November 14, 2024
At the South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765**

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Edwin Hilden
Scarlett Kwong (Via Zoom)
Theresa Lee
Jerry Tang
Henry Woo

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Sherry Shaw, General Manager/Chief Engineer
Jared Macias, Assistant General Manager
Josh Byerrum, Director of Finance
Thomas Monk, Director of Operations
Alanna Diaz, Director of Administrative Services
Lily Lopez, Director of External Affairs & Sustainability
Lucie Cazares, Executive Services Administrator
Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel Mr. Jim Ciampa announced that the Board of Directors received a request from Board Member Kwong to attend and participate in the Board Meeting remotely. Mr. Ciampa indicated that AB 2449 allows a Board Member to attend and participate remotely for emergency circumstances or just case reasons. The Board Member must provide a brief general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely.

Board Member Kwong stated that she is participating remotely due to a contagious illness.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with President Lee presiding.

Guests and others in attendance: WVWD employees Bertha Perez, Greg Galindo, James Ning, Dave Rudy, Ron Woodruff, Carmen Fleming, Cecilia Marquez, Stephanie Fu, Donna DiLaura, Katrina Lumague, Debby Chu and Manny Rodriguez.

Item 3: Public Comment

- ◆ There were no requests. (Item 3)

Item 4: Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Increase in Water Rates

A. Open Public Hearing (6:07 p.m.)

President Lee opened the Public Hearing and advised those who wished to speak about the proposed increase in water rates to submit speaker cards to be provided by District staff. She also stated that any protests must be in writing and be provided to District staff.

- B. Mr. Ciampa, Legal Counsel reviewed the rules of the public hearing process, gave an overview of Proposition 218 and its respective requirements. He stated that the Public Hearing and related process is being conducted in compliance with those requirements.

- C. Presentation of Rate Review Process by District Staff and IB Consulting. Ms. Lily Lopez and Mr. Josh Byerrum commenced with a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the Walnut Valley Water District and responded to various questions asked by attendees. Mr. Habib Isaac from IB Consulting then continued with a PowerPoint presentation detailing the Domestic and Recycled Water Rate Study Final Report presented for Board consideration and approval.

D. Receive Public Comments

President Lee then stated that public comments would now be accepted. Comment cards were received from three (3) District customers wishing to address the Board.

The Board was addressed with comments (as highlighted below) by Mr. Matt Rzonca, Mr. David, and Mr. Jeff McCain regarding the proposed rates and other concerns:

- ◆ An inquiry about desalination projects, technology and reducing capital improvement projects to keep costs down.
- ◆ Hardships rate increases cause for retirees.
- ◆ Thanked District employees for answering questions during the presentation.

Prior to closing the Public Hearing, President Lee advised that for anyone who is opposed to

the proposed adjustments, a written protest the proposed action must be submitted prior to closing the Public Hearing. She then invited anyone wishing to submit or withdraw a written protest do so at that moment.

E. Close Public Hearing (7:21 p.m.)

President Lee closed the Public Hearing and indicated that a brief recess will take place so Legal Counsel may tabulate protest letters.

F. Review of Protests Submitted and Determination of Whether Majority Protests Exists (7:23 p.m.)

G. Mr. Ciampa stated that the District has 27,491 total service connections, and fifty percent plus one (13,746) are needed to preclude the Board from approving the proposed rate increase. Under Proposition 218, only one vote per parcel is allowed. There was a total of 21 valid protests received, and thus a majority protest did not exist under any of: (i) total service connections; (ii) solely potable water connections; and (iii) solely recycled water connections. With this, Mr. Ciampa indicated the Board is authorized to proceed in its discretion to consider possible action on the increase in water rates.

Item 5: Receive, Approve, and File the Domestic and Recycled Water Rate Study Final Report

- ◆ The Board was asked to receive, approve, and file the Domestic and Recycled Water Rate Study Final Report. (Item 5)

Motion No. 24-11-2104: Upon consideration thereof, it was moved by Director Hilden, seconded by Director Tang and unanimously carried 5-0, to receive, approve, and file the Domestic and Recycled Water Rate Study Final Report. (Item 5)

President Lee indicated Motion No. 24-11-2104 was approved by a 5-0 roll call vote

Item 6: Consider Approval of Resolution No. 11-24-737, Adopting Revised Rates and Charges for Water Service

- ◆ The Board was asked to consider approval of WVWD Resolution No. 11-24-737 “Adopting Revised Rates and Charges for Water Service.” (Item 6)

Motion No. 24-11-2105: Upon consideration thereof, it was moved by Director Hilden, seconded by Director Woo and unanimously carried 5-0 by the roll call vote noted below to approve, and file WVWD Resolution No. 11-24-737, Adopting Revised Rates and Charges for Water Service . (Item 6)

Ayes: Hilden, Kwong, Lee, Tang, Woo
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

President Lee indicated Motion No. 24-11-2105, adopting Resolution No. 11-24-737, was approved by a 5-0 roll call vote

Adjournment at 7:28 p.m.