

APPROVED

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 17 MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ronald Marks, Christopher Shubeck
Neil Sokoler, Steven Price, Greg McHugh

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCY: None

STAFF: David Fleisch, Assistant Agency Director PWA
Jeff Palmer, Assistant Agency Director PWA
Gilberto Minero, Staff Services Manager
Art Aseo, Deputy Director
Sara Negrete, Accountant II-zoom
Homer Arredondo, Engineering Manager-zoom

GUESTS: None

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1. CALL TO ORDER - The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. Approval of the Minutes of November 19, 2024, Meeting. Steve Price asked for motion to approve the minutes, Neil Sokoler 2nd the motion. All Members present approved the minutes
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
None.
4. DISTRICT STAFF REPORT
Introduction of Jeff Palmer replacing David Fleisch as of February 14, 2025. Jeff Palmer said he spent his entire career in Ventura County the last 35 years, in infrastructure design and construction the past 13 years. I was in the Ojai Valley Sanitary District, General Manager.
Art Aseo (previously introduced) and Gilberto Minero-Staff Services Specialist were introduced, as well.
 - A. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REVIEW – An update on the budget and financial status of the District.
 - David started off saying, he had asked the Fiscal group to put a summary sheet in and they did not, going forward you should see a summary sheet in the beginning as a review of the package following.
 - Through 11/30/24 financials. The budget is based on historical average.
We projected 3.4M in Water Sales and we're projecting 3.6M. We are close.

B. CAPITAL PROJECTS – The Capital Project Status Report provides regular reporting on the status of active capital projects within the District.

- David Fleisch explained, we initially planned to have Homer come and present a PowerPoint on Bell Canyon's Reservoir No. 3. We have a zero interest Grant and at the end they forgive the remaining balance. We have done a lot of work, but the physical part of constructing this project has become twice what we anticipated. One part is the cost of the road. It's very steep and windy to get equipment up and for maintenance. We would like to come in March or Early April and present it to the Committee and homeowners. We are proceeding on the work we intended to do. Steve Price is asking that this presentation be at the Bell Canyon HOA Board of Directors Meeting and let the public ask questions. Steve must go to the Board and tell them what we want to do. Early March or April. Make a special presentation at our Board Meeting. Jeff can let Steve Price know when we will be able to present the presentation. This loan offer expires in 2026. Steve wants to have official representation while we give the special presentation.

C. O&M UPDATE

WATER SALES TO BUDGET, SYSTEMS STATUS AND AMI

- Monthly Demand is up from the last two years
- 2024, We had two pressure complaints, both were customer's regulators
- No mainline leaks, no mainline 100 mile leaks, service leaks/none
- AMI up with users. We encourage all customers to sign up. We will provide the CAC with magnets to pass out to customers encouraging sign up.

5. DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – Provides the opportunity for the Director to present items that are not within the subject matter of the District's Staff Report.

A. HOA/EQUESTRIAN CENTER WATER USAGE

- Usage as of time. We have provided with graph and date/water usage.

B. CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT/METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UPDATE – An update on decisions and rulings by these agencies which may impact the District.

- None

C. BOARD LETTER TRACKER-UPDATE ON VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS RELATED TO THE DISTRICT

- 3/11/25 Regional Edible Food Recovery Admin Contract
- 4/08/25 Public Hearings re: Miscellaneous Fees
Gilberto Minero explained that the last time we increased the fees was 2020. Most of the customers will never see these fees. These are for

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pending shut off, requested services, violation fees, backflow device or fees for printed copy. 5% increase. It was brought up that they prefer that mailing a bill should not cost to mail to elderly people. The Committee would like to know how many accounts we have and how many bills we must mail? Most businesses do not charge a fee to mail a bill. This will go into effect in July.

D. UPDATE ON AVENUES OF PUBLIC OUTREACH – How the District is reaching out to its customers concerning water conservation.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Reservoir 1 repair-is that going to be taken offline when repairing? Homer said it may impact on what we decide to do, just because of the cost of the other Reservoir. Steve asked, doesn't the maintenance of two existing tanks need to happen anyway, recoating periodically? They are just concerned about the tank having to be taken offline. Homer will get back with this information.

7. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM
Next Meeting April 15, 2025.