

APPROVED

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1 MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2025, MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: **In Person**-John Newton,
Michael Smith, David Schwabauer,
Steve Morgan

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Andy Waters

COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCY: None

STAFF: Jeff Palmer, Assistant Director
June Kim, Sr Engineering Mgr.
Jean Fontayne, Staff Services II
Sean Hanley, Water Superintendent
Gilberto Minero, Staff Services
Specialist II
Homer Arredondo, Engineering Mgr.
Maryann Ranallo, Mgmt. Asst.
Tony Allen, Accountant
Art Aseo, Deputy Director

GUESTS: Chelsie Kennedy-Board of Director
Parvin's Office
Daryl Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by John Newton at 3:30 p.m. John introduced Jeff Palmer and asked him to introduce himself and have him tell us his career background. Jeff said, I spent my entire career in Ventura County. In the 80's, I worked for the City of Santa Paula. Started on the Public side and moved over to the Private side. Moved over to the home building site with Shea Homes. The last 13 years, I was the General Manager of Ojai Valley Sanitary District, like what is here in Moorpark, we had a seven-member board. I've been at the County now for about a year. I was the Director of Watershed Protection and now Assistant Director of PWA. Any questions, problems or concerns, please reach out. We have a new Director of Water & Sanitation starting in May.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF: Meeting on January 9, 2025, John Newton asked if everyone agreed with the minutes. There was one correction on the Minutes at the top it said January 9, 2024. Please change the year to 2025.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Michael Smith and seconded by Steve Morgan. All Members present approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

- Daryl Smith asked if we were having any problem with water pressure. Daryl thinks his water pressure was 135. Sean said that was high, but it's gravity to get to Daryl's residence. No one else replied to having issues or any comments.
- Chelsie said that they are happy to have Jeff in his role of Assistant Director of Public Works. No other comments.

4. DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION ITEMS

A. SEWER RATE PRESENTATION

John Newton suggested any item that we are presenting regarding the customers, like this Sewer Rate Presentation we need to type "Action Item" below the item, so the public knows we are asking for something.

- Power seems to increase in cost. Labor increases because staffing increases in filling positions, and the CPI (Consumer Price Index) is up 5.7% based on November 2024. We will be very mindful of what we do, and how we do it. We are processing new sewer customers, so we need to be prepared to service these customers.
- Going through the Budget Expenses. O&M labor is 34% which is typical. Power cost at 7% and is high. Sewer plants run 24/7 so SCE can get pricy.
- Revenue vs. Expenditures: Out of balance, but that is okay where we are. We are proposing a rate increase of 5.7% to match the CPI that we are seeing.
- Financial Impact with proposed rates: We will have to watch what's happening nationally. We may have a hard time getting parts and materials. If we ever have to buy a new generator, 40–50-week delivery time and the cost increase will have to factor in.
- Historic Rate increase. Rate goes from 30.50 to 32.25
- Capital projects: The sewer system has one flow meter. We need a little more redundancy. And could install another flow meter. We need relining. We are still looking at Solar projects. Costs of cleaning silted grit, grease and sterilizing. Pre-treatment: we have been asked to inspect food service establishments to see if they have a grease interceptor.
- County wide rate comparison: We are going to see some push from regulatory which will push the fees up a little more.

John Newton asked, about Edison cost, don't we have a solar field. Doesn't most of the plant run on the solar field? Jeff said it does, but it doesn't sustain all hours. 10-4 is on solar, but the plant runs all night. We can't store the energy 6-7 PM or Midnight. We were working on a battery storage project, but we ran into permitting delays with Edison, and they were no longer interested in supporting our project since they were no longer going to make money on the project. How much per kilowatt per hour are we using with Edison? We will find out and let everyone know.

- This will be going to the Board June 24th. Recommendation to approve as proposed by John Newton. Motion to approve by Michael Smith, seconded by David Schwabauer.

5. DISTRICT STAFF REPORT– Provides the opportunity for the Director to present items that are not within the subject matter of the District's Staff Report

A. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REVIEW- An update on the budget and financial status of the District.

- Finalizing the budget. We are proposing the 2025/26 budget to make sure we design and estimate it right. The ending cash reserves \$7M.
- Operations and capital costs, 25% expenses and 10% rate revenue
- Ending fund balance 6.4M

John is suggesting putting the Desalter back on the agenda to move this project up to work on it before 2026. Jeff agreed and suggested having a separate meeting to go over the desalter in a group or individually. Jeff has a meeting with Calleguas about the desalter and John would like some feedback on the meeting. Chelsea has all the documents digitally, if needed.

B. PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - Status Report provides updates on the status of active development projects within the District.

- Hitch Ranch, we don't think they are coming online this year. They are required to install all the infrastructure for their system. None of the development puts a burden on existing users. It does put capacity on the plant.

C. O&M UPDATE –

WATER SALES TO BUDGET, SYSTEM STATUS AND AMI

- Water Efficiency, January water sales were high, February went back to normal.

- Wells/Source Production, Well 15 down, contractor has received the pump. We will get that scheduled and get it back online. Well 20 is close to going out to bid. Will not be done this calendar year. Well 95 is 77 years old; we are looking at a sleeve, we have to make sure the hole is straight enough. If we must drill a new well, it will cost us about 5M.
- Well Production - Well 15 had a mechanical failure, we will video it. The pump is the only issue. Well 20, well down. Well 95, well down. Well 98, online and producing.
- Recycled water production has been average.
- AMI Report, we are constantly trying to push people to use this tool. Beneficial to everyone.
- Drought wise, we had great rain fall for 2 years, but very little this year. All the lakes are full still.

D. LOS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER rulings by the LPV Watermaster and LPV Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees.

- The various committees are continuing their work. Next year or so LPV will be interested in talking about a ramp down. We all want to see a solution.

E. CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT/METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UPDATRE- An update on decisions and/or rulings by the LPV Watermaster and LPV Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees.

- We are working on discussions, on the desalter with them.

F. BOARD LETTER TRACKER - AN UPDATE ON VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS RELATED TO THE DISTRICT - A status report on items the district may be presenting or has recently been presented, before the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

- 4/8/25 Public Hearing Adoption of Miscellaneous Fees, individual property fees, shut down, startup fees.
- 4/29 Well No. 99 rehab

G. AVENUES OF PUBLIC OUTREACH – An update on how the District is reaching out to its customers concerning water conservation.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Meeting schedule, we have a concern and would like to see the meetings for WWD1 every other month. Having three wells down is bad

and we, as a community, would like to stay on top of items. Please consider bi-monthly. David Schwabauer and Michael Smith agree. Jeff and Jean are going to look at the costs and decide if it is best to stay at every other month. Steve Morgan agreed that the three wells off-line is a big deal and is interested in meeting more often to see where we are and what is going on.

- John Newton said, Jean contacted me because I am a land developer, she wanted to know how the district can get a listing of property on sale. I didn't know the Board did this, Rule: Sale of Property was added to allow a property lien to be put on intent to sell the property, allowing the district to collect the final bill. John is working on providing this to us.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Next Meeting June 12, 2025