

APPROVED

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1 MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2025, MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE **In Person**-Michael Smith, David Schwabauer, Steve Morgan, Reddy Pakala

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: John Newton

COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCY: None

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by David Schwabauer. Reddy introduced himself, he was the Director of Water & Sanitation for Ventura County 10.5 years ago, Reddy retired after working here for 34 years. Reddy was recently elected to the Board of Calleguas and agreed to become a CAC Member for WWD1.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF: Meeting on April 3, 2025, David Schwabauer asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Michael Smith approved and seconded by Steve Morgan. Abstained by Reddy Pakala. 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.

4. DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- End of the fiscal year is better than what we projected. Water sales, O&M Costs, and Sewer came out to be better than projected. We will be close to what we thought budget wise. The sewer end of the year, Net operating is \$800,000 more than what we projected. Reddy asked why we have historical financial data and not projected future data. He sees our funds decreasing year after year. Reddy recommends another meeting to possibly go over some future projections. Jeff responded that we need to do a facilities management plan. Looking at the 1, 5, 10, 20-year condition of our facilities, the life expectancy, at what point, and time should we expect some re-build/retrofit of those and program that out into a capital timeline. We need to save money now, so that we have reserve funds for the future and not have to pay interest charges. Reddy is asking that we smooth out water rate hikes from year to year. He would like to have an additional meeting to discuss this.

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

- UV Disinfection is continuing at a fast pace. Back and forth with Grant funding on this project. Trying to finish the design. UV equipment, we are still planning on receiving it within the next month.
- Recycled Water Pump Station. 90% complete. Funding will end in December. The UV equipment will be delivered in September and installed on this project.
- Concrete Basin lining on hold due to the importance of the UV and Pump Station
- Groundwater recharge on hold due to the importance of the UV and Pump Station
- Structure Storage Building on hold
- MWRF Solar Expansion, separate meter with Edison will be completed Summer 2025. Design/Build contract. We will leverage attractive loan terms through Edison. This will help reduce the cost of a recycled water system.
- Left-turn Lane handled by our Roads Department on hold.
- Stockton Reservoir also on hold. Working with Real Estate. Acquisition of purchase of property has been difficult with the Owner.
- Construction of Well 99, we just received approval to go to contract. The previous well failed and we now have a new well going in.

- Well 20 Rehab in design. Will start in the Summer 2025. Every meeting we will choose one project that we are working on sharing it with the CAC Members so they can get a feel for the project and what is going on. Well 20 is located off Championship Drive. Back in 2022, we started having issues with this Well. We started getting air sucked into this pump. The Well and it has a bottom depth of 800 feet. In 2010 we had to go in and release agents on the screens that were damaging the well and making water flow slow. We have had to come up with an aggressive manner of cleaning the screens, to allow water to flow more efficiently. We now need to install a new pump and materials. We will also install a packer assembly to monitor and control how water is being sucked through the screens, to reduce draw down. We will also install a frequency drive that will pump at different speeds and get different flow rates out of them, which will modulate different flow rates, to avoid having too much air pumped in. We expect to be running 700-1,000 GPM. Cost will be \$500,000

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

- Hitch Ranch – Well advanced in the design phase. City of Moorpark will be issuing a rough grading in the next 30 days. Still a couple of years out before hitting revenue. Will they be using reclaimed water? They will be using grading water that is reclaimed water. This water will be connected to the domestic water and then when it is up and running reclaimed water will be cut off and domestic water will take over. Reddy asked, is there a massive plan for reclaimed water in the future? Homer replied that we created an advance planning group of two engineers. Their roles are currently doing a master plan, feasibility studies, to start thinking about where we want to be in five years. Reddy asked on Championship Drive there is recycled water. Is there a way to put a hydrant there and bring that into the project site? or is it too far away? Jeff replied that the reclaimed water they need cannot be going in a truck it's going in the water buffalos on the grading operation. There was not enough water and pressure in that zone deliverable, so they had to connect in three spots. It then turns into a revenue stream.
- Beltramo Ranch is under construction.

C. O&M UPDATE – WATER SALES TO BUDGET, SYSTEM STATUS AND AMI

- Water Sales still trending up, better than in the last two years.
- Well Source for Well #15 is pumping and online. Well 98 is our other source of pumping.

- On a normal year, you will see 70% imported water, 20% ground water and 10% recycled water.

A couple of years ago we did a study, title 22. We certified that the filters that filter our secondary wastewater to a state of tertiary water before disinfection, that they could produce up to 3 million gallons of recycled water per day. The UV system that would replace our disinfection with chlorine is designed in a pump station to produce up to 3 million recycled gallons per day.

1. Increase this system
2. Build more storage at the plant
3. Figure out more pipelines alignments to get more water to other areas.

Did the Water Board approve CNG as a part of the permit? Yes

- Water supply conditions are at or above historic average

AMI, continues to be about 12%

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

- Fox Canyon GMA has extended an offer to an Executive Officer, hopefully they will make an announcement soon. We will be finding ways to solve some problems soon.
- Once a basin gets adjudicated it gets passed down to the Courts.
- Reddy attended a meeting on June 4th. He spoke as a private citizen and a resident of Moorpark. The 5 projects they were speaking about were
 1. Arundo removal, removes a lot of water
 2. Calleguas water, leaving it in the ground for the benefit of the basin
 3. GMA to acquire Simi Valley surface water (recharge)
 4. Moorpark Desalter
 5. Las Posas ground water

They decided to omit 4 and 1 as a Board.

Reddy asked why they omitted Moorpark Desalter, and they said they want Moorpark to do a feasibility report submitted to GMA then it will go to Watermaster for approval on the Desalter.

- Los Posas wants to do some modeling but there are some legal ramifications. Not a clear path. Once a basin gets adjudicated all the good ideas still have to get passed through court. Our goal is to use the best data we can, and supply the most cost effective, quality water we can to the people we serve. We may not agree with all the parties, but we need to work through conversations.

B. 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 had a conversation about the desalter with Calleguas, some of the information gathered was with many of the water purveyors and water parties about doing a county wide desalter as a cohesive way forward soon.
- Reddy said Calleguas staff is willing to come out and make a presentation to this committee to let us know what Calleguas is doing to make sure you have about 6 months water, no interruption. In the event of an earthquake, we will need to know if we will have enough water to sustain until we get up and running again.

C. 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.

- 6/3/2025 WWD1 Well 99 Facility Design
- 6/24/2025 Property Liens on Tax Roll for Collections
- 6/24/2025 Proposed Sewer Rate Increase

D. AVENUES OF PUBLIC OUTREACH

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM

Next Meeting August 14, 2025