

Approved

**SOMIS CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 19
MINUTES OF THE JULY 10, 2025, MEETING**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Mishler-Chair,
Keith Huss, Debra Tosh

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Hutter, Tyler Cobb

COMMITTEE VACANCY: One

STAFF: Art Aseo, Deputy Director
Homer Arrendondo, Senior Engineering Mgr.
Vimie Alvarez, Senior Accountant-zoom
Gilberto Minero, Staff Services Mgr
Lourdes Handlin, Accountant II-zoom
Maryann Ranallo, Mgmt. Asst III

GUESTS: Lynette Buchanan-Roth-zoom
Esper A. Petersen-zoom
Michelle Willer-zoom
Reddy Patilla, CAC WWD1
Israel Rodriguez, Admin Asst II, BOS Office
District 2- zoom

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1. CALL TO ORDER 3:30PM
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 2025, MEETING
Motion to adopt the minutes was made by Michael Mishler.
Vote: Nay 0, Yea 3. Minutes adopted.
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - o Lynette has a question for later about the Wells being down.
 - o Reddy Patilla introduced himself. He lives in Moorpark. He has lived here for 25 years, and in Ventura County for 45 years. He is experienced in Water resources, water supply and water engineering. Reddy was the Director of Sanitation/Ventura County for 30 years. He has knowledge in Water/Sewer/Trash/Recycling. He has been in construction/design. He was just elected as a Board of Direct in November for Calleguas. He was also elected as an alternate Board Member to the Ground Water Management Agency for Special Districts. He wanted to introduce himself to the CAC. One proposal he has for CAC19 is a joint update with CAC1 and CAC19. We need to understand how we can keep our rates lower and how we can get water emergency supply during earthquakes. Calleguas is looking into how we can get six months' supply in the event of an earthquake. Reddy has been involved in every process. This year

he is getting more involved. WWD1 is interested in having a joint meeting with CAC19. If you have any questions

about Calleguas you can feel free to talk to me. Please feel free to reach out to Maryann, Jeff or Art Aseo, to schedule a meeting to keep rates lower and double up on water supply. Debra Tosh said since you are involved with the Water Master, I would be happy to serve because I understand they have a tougher time having a quorum. Reddy said, as far as the Water Master, he would talk to PAC that Debra is interested in being on the Board. Art said we do have representation. Jeff Palmer is sitting in support of WWD1 and 19. Debra said she would like representation for District 19 Agriculture, as a farmer we are reliant on District 19. Art will follow up. Michael Mishler said why don't we meet up with WWD1, we meet at your headquarters? Let's also meet up with Calleguas and take a mini tour. Reddy said we have to approach Calleguas for a walk-through tour of the facilities.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

A. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

- A summary of our financials, period ending 5/31/25. Our actual operating revenue. Looking at the expenditure, two wells have been down, and we have been importing more water, so we expect these figures will go up a little. Local water GMA, a new bill we have been paying 2024. Our ending Cash reserves are \$1.5 million, it is projected that it come in just under \$1 million at \$966K. Debra asked if we do not use our allocation, do we have resources to sell off our excess? Can we bank it? Once adjudication is settled, discussion will be had. Homer said, there is a certain portion we can roll over to the next year, then if you don't use it, you will lose it. Debra said, this is such a waste.
- Reddy commented, the budget is doing very good capturing the expenses. What he recommends is looking to the future and project for the next 5 years. You can take that information and estimate the cost of maintenance and repair, this is how you can determine a reasonable water rate.

B. CAPITAL PROJECTS REVIEW

- We are on track with Well 4. Planned project to rehabilitate the Well. Construction is in progress and should be finished by the end of July beginning of August. A sizable change order made us have to replace the shaft. All mechanical rehab has been done. The last pieces of pipe will go into the ground, then disinfection and complete construction process.
- Caltrans Pipe Relocation, Caltrans is relocating our pipeline, and we will reimburse them since our pipe is in their way.
- Upgrade existing pump station 571, 60% complete with the Design then it will go into construction.

C. O&M UPDATE

- Up to the month of May the Water Efficiency is rising as the weather gets warmer.
- Well 2 is our number 1 producer. It was rebuilt about 5 years ago and had a mechanical booster failure. We are going to coat the equipment to make sure we don't have abrasive material ruining the pump booster. Lynette was looking forward to hearing what had happened to Well 2, since they spent so much money 5 years ago, we spent millions of dollars replacing the parts. She was Chair of the CAC at the time, and she was thrilled when it was completed. It is costing us double the water cost now. It's disappointing but we're on top of it. It is going to be devastating to the bottom line this year. If there is any way in the future to monitor the condition of these wells. Sounds like everyone is as surprised as we are. I would like to have an estimate of when this Well will be back on-line. Homer said, we are waiting on the pump manufacture to ship us the other two parts. The pump shop will put it back together and send it to us. End of August is our projection. We will see if we can elevate it to the manufacture. We want a good pump too. We are working on it. Lynette is concerned because it is the source of revenue for WWD19. Buying Calleguas is 5x more expensive than using our resources. As farmers, we are having a hard time breaking even using Calleguas water. We are not an urban district, we are zoned for agriculture, and we are small farmers. If there is any way you can accelerate the project, we would all be very appreciative. Homer said Well 4 should be online at the end of July and should be able to give more relief.
- Pumped vs. unpumped Allocation is about 50% Well and 50% Calleguas for 2024/5. Debra is asking about the excess allocation. She wants to know why we can't sell the excess. Fox Canyon is still under adjudication. Once the adjudication is over, we might be able to address the sale of excess.
- Water quality and complaints. 3 odor and 3 pressure complaints. When we get a customer complaint we need to research and most of these complaints were on the private owner's side.
- Mainline leaks we had 4 on the western side of Somis. Patches needed to be done. We have a very old system out there. Ideally, we want to replace those pipes down the road. Reddy wants to know if we track water leaks. Do we have a system to track it. AMI will warn us.
- AMI is trending up, so more customers are signing up for the system.

5. DIRECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Art Aseo let everyone know that we hired a Director for Water & Sanitation over a month ago and he left June 27. He was with us for 5 weeks. He followed greener pastures in Goleta.

Israel asked what the name of the new Watershed Protection Director was, Earthea Nance.

Art said we will be getting a new Superintendent for Wastewater Sanitation

We will be changing our email address extension to venturacounty.gov.

A. LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER

- Adjudication appeal is still underway. Waiting to see what will be happening in the next few months. Did approve for a hydro geologist for the modeling of the ground water basin.

B. CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT/ METROPOLITAN WATER

- Calleguas rates passed vote. Information was sent to all customers.

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

- 8/12/2025 Consumer Confidence Report, Receive and file report for WWD19
The annual report link has been sent out to the customers. Michael Mishler asked Maryann to send him the report.
- 8/12/2025 Well No. 4 Rehab Change Order

D. AVENUES OF PUBLIC OUTREACH

- We sent out information on a Fire-wise landscaping class to all customers. Put on by Ventura County Master Gardeners and Calleguas. It was virtual training.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Debra wanted to look at water market sales and if we have excess water, can we sell that water? That is Keith Huss's concern too. Can we get Fox Canyon off their hands and take some steps forward to establish a water market? I have heard farmers are selling some of their allocations. Debra said if we are carrying that much excess allocation, it would be a good money stream. Reddy said his suggestion is that we approach GMA Watermaster. There is a process for it. Art said we would reach out to Fox Canyon to see what opportunities are out there. Homer said, when they started this adjudication, they were creating this water market for, was that you could sell excess water. Reddy said, the challenge your facing, GMA is also facing their challenges. This should be brought up with them. Israel said welcome Deb. If we don't use the allocation, are we in danger of losing that allocation? Homer said, we aren't in danger of losing the allocation, we would lose the roll over amount. You never lose your allocation. Debra said, from what I understand you can only keep it 5 years.
- Michael Mischler wanted to mention we did a Waterworks tour on May 6th. I enjoyed it. Did we have any other feedback? Art said it was received positively. Michael said he would like to do it again and modify it if needed, if anyone else was interested. Israel said Thank you for putting that together, we did get some good feedback. Having one more for the broader public would be well worth it. Michael said we can do it again before the next meeting, because the next meeting will be a budget meeting. Israel said he would like to introduce some of the new directors and have someone from WWD19 to give a brief report. We would like to start by highlighting some of what your doing. Michael said if we were going to do a field trip we can do it before Oct 9th? Kei

Keith said he would show up at the next Somis Meeting and give a brief about a field trip and find out about any interest.

- Michael asked about what is going on with David Hutter's position in the CAC. They have instated background checks now and Israel said he will check into Dave Hutter position. He was sure they were speaking with someone else. Israel is going to follow up.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned at 4:58 PM

The next meeting is October 9, 2025.