

VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2024
4105 W. Gonzalez Road, Oxnard, California

Chair Newman, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

1. Roll Call: The Clerk of the Board called the roll. The following Board Members were present:

Bert Perello, City of Oxnard
Martha McQueen-Legohn, City of Port Hueneme
David Newman, City of Thousand Oaks
Christina Villaseñor, City of Fillmore
Carlos Juarez, City of Santa Paula
Kevin Kildee, City of Camarillo

Absent: Andrew Whitman, City of Ojai, Doug Halter, City of Ventura

Staff Present: Chris Theisen, General Manager; Robert Kwong, Legal Counsel, Richard Jones, Director of Operations, Tina Rivera, Director of Finance and Mayra Rodriguez Clerk of the Board.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge was led by Director Juarez.

3. Agenda Review:

No changes were made.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director McQueen-Legohn, to approve the Agenda Review. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 6-0 (FOR: Kildee, McQueen-Legohn, Juarez, Perello, Villaseñor and Newman.)

4. Public Comment:

None.

PRESENTATION (Item 5 only)

5. Receive and File PFM Asset Management, LLC – 3rd Quarter Review of VRSD Investment Portfolio

Robert Montoya and Kyle Sinaca from PFM Asset Management, gave the presentation.

It was moved by Director Perello, seconded by Director Villaseñor, to receive and file the report. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 6-0 (FOR: Kildee, McQueen-Legohn, Juarez, Perello, Villaseñor and Newman.)

CONSENT AGENDA (Item 6 only) Matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine, non-controversial, and are normally approved by one motion without discussion. If discussion is requested by a member of the Board on any Consent Agenda item, or if a member of the public wishes to comment on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate action.

6. Approval of Minutes: October 3, 2024 Regular Meeting, October 24, 2024 Special Meeting.

It was moved by Director Villaseñor, seconded by Director Juarez, to approve the Agenda as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 6-0 (FOR: Kildee, McQueen-Legohn, Juarez, Perello, Villaseñor and Newman.)

REGULAR AGENDA (Items 7 and 8)

7. VRSD Holiday Facility Closures for Calendar Year 2025

Chris Theisen, General Manager, provided the report and answered questions.

It was moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Villaseñor, to Receive and file the list of VRSD facility closures for calendar year 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 6-0 (FOR: Kildee, McQueen-Legohn, Juarez, Perello, Villaseñor and Newman.)

8. Ratification Of Payment Of \$12,707.50 To Nossaman LLP For Legal Services Rendered By General Counsel Robert Kwong Prior To The May 16, 2024 Approval Of The May 9, 2024 Engagement Letter

Chris Theisen, General Manager, provided the report and answered questions.

It was moved by Director McQueen-Legohn, seconded by Director Perello, to ratify payment to Nossaman LLP in the amount of \$12,707.50 for legal services rendered to VRSD prior to the Board of Directors' approval of the May 9, 2024, Engagement Letter between VRSD and Nossaman LLP on May 16, 2024. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 6-0 (FOR: Kildee, McQueen-Legohn, Juarez, Perello, Villaseñor and Newman.)

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 9 through 12)

It is recommended that the Board receive and file the following:

9. Disbursement Report: September/October 2024
10. Investment Report: September/October 2024
11. Future Meetings, Seminars and Conferences
♦ Dec 2, 2024, 10 a.m. – Special District Meeting, Ojai

- ♦ Dec 3, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – P&F Committee Meeting, District Office
- ♦ Dec 5, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – Regular Board Meeting, District Office

- ♦ Dec 19, 2023, 8:30 a.m. – Regular Board Meeting, District Office

12. A. Obituary of former VRSD Board member Robert Nast.

B. October 24, 2024, The Signal Santa Clarita Valley, “State of Emergency request over Chiquita denied”.

It was *moved by Director Kildee, seconded by Director Perello*, to receive and file Information Items. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 6-0 (FOR: Kildee, McQueen-Legohn, Juarez, Perello, Villaseñor and Newman.)

ORAL REPORTS (Items 13 through 16)

It is recommended that the Board receive and file the following:

13. Regulatory Compliance Report:

Richard Jones, Director of Operations, reported that on October 30, 2024, representatives from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Air Resources Board, and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District conducted a surprise inspection of the Toland Road Landfill. As a result of this inspection, VRSD received thirteen (13) violations mainly dealing with methane gas emissions from the landfill and landfill gas collection system. The District has already corrected most of these violations prior to the follow up inspection and is waiting to receive final compliance findings and penalty assessment.

14. Committee Reports:

Chris Theisen, General Manager, and David Newman, Chairperson, provided an update on the two Executive Committee meetings held on October 14 and 29, 2024. The Committee has decided to determine and establish the next General Manager's salary in association with the Classification and Compensation studies that has been budgeted for all District positions. This will cause a minor delay to the commencement of the General Manager recruitment process. After an executive search firm has been selected and GM candidates identified for interview, the full Board will be interviewing the candidates.

Board Member Comments and Future Agenda Items

Director Perello noted he serves on the Ventura County Airport Authority for the Camarillo and Oxnard Airport. There was a construction project done at the Oxnard Airport, and there was some contaminated soil found on the east side of Ventura Road. There was a determination made that the soil was going to be taken to Chiquita Landfill or, as a backup, Simi Valley Landfill. Director Perello was not sure if they would approach VRSD.

Richard Jones, Director of Operations advised the Toland Road Landfill, as a Class IV Municipal Solid Waste facility, cannot take contaminated soil.

Chair Newman noted he was at the Annual Meeting of National League Of Cities, where he serves on the Energy Environment and Natural Resource Committee. The Committee adopted a policy that is calling for two things. First, shielding from liability for local agencies such that when PFAS chemicals are found, the liability would go to the generators. Secondly, due to the recent EPA changes about the thresholds for PFASs, agencies might be required to procure new equipment, and the Committee is requiring for the EPA to provide additional funds. Additionally, the EPA was looking for a Southern California Agency representative for their Advisory Committee. Chairperson Newman applied for the position and is currently waiting to hear from them.

Director McQueen-Legohn, noted she is currently the Vice-Chair and was recently appointed as the Chair for the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District.

Director Villasenor, noted she is still waiting to hear the results for her election as Council Member at the City of Fillmore.

16. General Manager Comments

None to Report.

It was *moved by Director Perello, seconded by Director McQueen-Legohn,* to receive and file Oral Reports. ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion carried 6-0 (FOR: Kildee, McQueen-Legohn, Juarez, Perello, Villaseñor and Newman.)

CLOSED SESSION (Item 17 only)

At 9:46am., Legal Counsel Robert Kwong announced that it was the intention of the Ventura Regional Sanitation District Board of Directors to meet in closed session to consider the following items:

- 17 **CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION** ((Government Code §54956.9(a))
OPV Coalition, et al. v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, et al.
(Defendants); *Marathon Land, Inc.; United Water Conservation District, and City of Oxnard* (Intervenors), Superior Court of the State of California, County of Santa Barbara, Case No. VENCI00555357

The Board convened in closed session at 9:46 am and reconvened in Open Session at 10:24 am., with no reportable action taken on any closed session matter.

ADJOURNMENT: Adjourn to Regular Meeting to be held December 5, 2024, 8:30 a.m. at the Ventura Regional Sanitation District office.

Prepared by:

Approved:

Mayra Rodriguez
Clerk of the Board

David Newman, Chairperson
Ventura Regional Sanitation District

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