

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

October 23, 2024

An Adjourned Meeting of the Board of Directors of Vista Irrigation District was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Vásquez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Directors present: Miller, Vásquez, Kuchinsky, Sanchez, and MacKenzie.

Directors absent: None.

Staff present: Brett Hodgkiss, General Manager; Ramae Ogilvie, Secretary of the Board; Lesley Dobalian, Director of Water Resources; Randy Whitmann, Director of Engineering; Frank Wolinski, Director of Operations and Field Services; and Shallako Goodrick, Director of Administration. General Counsel Elizabeth Mitchell of Burke, Williams & Sorensen was also present. Cynthia Perez, Safety and Risk Administrator, was present for agenda item 16 – Closed Session.

Other attendees: LaVonne Peck of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority (SLRIWA) was present and Stephanie Zehren of the SLRIWA was present via the teleconference line.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

General Manager Brett Hodgkiss requested that agenda item 16 - Closed Session with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation be moved to trail agenda item 9 – 2025 Board Meeting Dates. The Board took the following action:

24-10-111	<i>Upon motion by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director MacKenzie and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Kuchinsky, Sanchez, MacKenzie, and Vásquez), the Board of Directors approved moving agenda item 16 - Closed Session with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation to trail agenda item 9 - 2025 Board Meeting Dates.</i>
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**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No public comments were presented on items not appearing on the agenda.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

24-10-112 *Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by Director Kuchinsky and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Kuchinsky, Sanchez, MacKenzie, and Vásquez), the Board of Directors approved the Consent Calendar, including Resolution No. 2024-33 approving disbursements.*

A. Minutes of the Fiscal Policy Committee meeting on September 23, 2024

The minutes of the September 23, 2024 meeting were noted and filed.

B. Minutes of Board of Directors meeting on October 2, 2024.

The minutes of October 2, 2024 were approved as presented.

C. Resolution ratifying check disbursements

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-33**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Vista Irrigation District does hereby approve checks numbered 75754 through 75950 drawn on US Bank totaling \$1,762,662.70.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors does hereby authorize the execution of the checks by the appropriate officers of the District.**

**PASSED AND ADOPTED unanimously by a roll call vote of the Board of Directors of Vista Irrigation District this 23rd day of October 2024.**

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**7. DISTRICT FEES AND CHARGES OTHER THAN WATER RATES**

See staff report attached hereto.

President Vásquez opened the public hearing at 9:03 a.m. It was noted that there were no members of the public present physically or telephonically to provide comments and no comments were received in writing.

Director of Administration Shallako Goodrick stated that each year the District reviews its fees and charges other than water rates to ensure that they accurately reflect the costs associated with providing services. She said the proposed increases to fees and charges are necessary due to inflationary factors affecting the cost of labor, materials and outside services. Ms. Goodrick noted that the proposed changes would increase revenues and expenses to the District by approximately \$124,000, if the number and type of transactions remained similar to those in the past.

Ms. Goodrick stated that every five years the material and service burdens are recalculated; this year's recalculations resulted in the material burden decreasing from 25 percent to 20 percent and the service burden decreasing from eight percent to five percent. It was noted that parts/materials and services costs have risen at a greater rate than labor costs causing the burden percentage on materials and services to decrease. She highlighted various fees that displayed greater percentage increases compared to other fees and provided clarification on the proposed changes to capacity and annexation fees.

Mr. Hodgkiss stated that staff had notified interested parties, including the Building Industry Association, of the public hearing on the proposed changes to fees and charges other than water rates.

President Vásquez and Director Sanchez commented that the Fiscal Policy Committee reviewed the fees and charges other than water rates at its meeting on September 23, 2024 and recommended that the Board conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed fees and charges as presented.

Noting that there were no comments received, President Vásquez closed the public hearing at 9:19 a.m. and the Board took the following action:

24-10-113 *Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director Kuchinsky, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution 2024-34 revising the Rules and Regulations of Vista Irrigation District to incorporate increases to the fees and charges other than water rates, by the following roll call vote:*

*AYES: Kuchinsky, Sanchez, Miller, MacKenzie, and Vásquez*  
*NOES: None*  
*ABSTAIN: None*  
*ABSENT: None*

*A copy of Resolution 2024-34 is on file in the official Resolution Book of the District.*

## 8. COMPREHENSIVE COST OF SERVICE/WATER RATE STUDY

See staff report attached hereto.

Ms. Goodrick stated that in previous years staff had prepared the cost of service/water rate study (study); however, with the District incorporating debt financing into this study, staff determined that it would be best to use a consulting firm that has experience in integrating financing instruments into water rate models to prepare the study. She said that the District solicited proposals from 10 consulting firms to prepare a study and provide associated public outreach services; the request for proposal (RFP) was also posted on the California Special Districts Association's (CSDA) RFP Clearinghouse webpage and the District's website. The District received proposals from two firms, Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. (Raftelis) and NBS Government Finance Group; staff reviewed and ranked each firm's proposal, including references, and recommends entering into an agreement with Raftelis to prepare a study. Ms. Goodrick noted that Fiscal Year 2025 Budget included \$50,000 for a comprehensive cost of service/water rate study and \$100,000 for public relations services and that a portion of the funds budgeted for public relations services will cover public outreach services associated with the study.

The Board discussed the proposed fees and schedule outlined by Raftelis and concurred with the approach of using a single firm for the study and associated public outreach services.

24-10-114 *Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director MacKenzie and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Kuchinsky, Sanchez, MacKenzie, and Vásquez), the Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. to prepare a comprehensive cost of service/water rate study and provide associated public outreach services in an amount not to exceed \$91,716.*

**9. 2025 BOARD MEETING DATES**

See staff report attached hereto.

Mr. Hodgkiss reviewed the suggested schedule for the 2025 Board meeting dates noting the adjustments to resolve known conflicts as follows: move the Board meeting dates in January to the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, January 8 and January 22, 2025, respectively; schedule one Board meeting in May on May 7, 2025; and schedule one meeting in December on December 10, 2025. Director Miller requested moving the Board meeting dates in July to the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, July 9 and July 23, 2025, respectively. After a brief discussion the Board set the 2025 Board meeting dates as noted.

24-10-115 *Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by Director Miller and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Kuchinsky, Sanchez, MacKenzie, and Vásquez), the Board of Directors established its 2025 Board meeting dates, making a few adjustments to resolve known conflicts: shifted the Board meeting dates in January to the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, January 8 and January 22, 2025, respectively; scheduled one Board meeting in May on May 7, 2025; shifted the Board meeting dates in July to the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, July 9 and July 23, 2025, respectively; and scheduled one meeting in December on December 10, 2025. All Board meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m.*

**16. CLOSED SESSION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

At 9:50 a.m. President Vásquez announced that the Board was going into Closed Session to discuss significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2). Number of cases: 4

At 10:10 a.m. the Board resumed in open session. General Counsel Elizabeth Mitchell stated that Director Sanchez had recused himself from the discussion on one of the cases due to a conflict and left the Board room at 9:50 a.m.; he returned to closed session at 9:52 for the remainder of Closed Session. Ms. Mitchell said that there was no reportable action on any of the cases.

**10. MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

See staff report attached hereto.

Director Miller reported that the next meeting of the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) Board of Directors would be held on October 24, 2024. He said that the Water Authority’s Imported Water Committee would be receiving a presentation on the State Water Project and Delta Conveyance Project Cost Estimate and Benefit Cost Analysis from the California Department of Water Resources. Mr. Miller said that Water Authority committee appointments would take place after the first of the year.

**11. MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

See staff report attached hereto.

Director MacKenzie reported on her attendance at an Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) City and County Nexis Subcommittee meeting in which they discussed creating standards for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs); it was strongly suggested that water agencies collaborate with the cities on ADU requirements.

Director Miller reported that he hosted the State Water Project and Bay-Delta Tour on October 17-18, 2024 and said that he would be attending an upcoming dinner for Metropolitan Water District (MWD) on October 28, 2024.

Director Sanchez reported on his attendance of the CSDA Professional Development Committee meeting where they reviewed various CSDA workshops and educational webinars.

Director Kuchinsky reported on his attendance of a Vista Chamber Government Affairs meeting where he heard a presentation by Joe Green, Vista City Councilmember, detailing many of his accomplishments during his eight years on the Vista City Council. Director Kuchinsky reported that he participated in the Water Authority's Citizens Water Academy on October 16, 17 and 19, 2024 which provided tours of facilities, educational presentations and discussions related to the regional water supply system.

President Vásquez and Director Kuchinsky reported on their attendance at the ACWA Region 10 Event hosted by the Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) on October 15, 2024 where they heard a presentation by Paul Rochelle, Water Quality Section Manager at MWD on emerging contaminants and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They also heard a joint presentation on "PFAS Impacts on Local Agency Operations" presented by John Kennedy, General Manager (GM) of Orange County Water District, Mark Toy, GM of YLWD, and Carlos Quintero, GM of Sweetwater Authority. President Vásquez said that it was reported that more than 100 wells in the Orange County service area are impacted by the PFAS and it was reported by Sweetwater Authority that PFAS treatment costs have a direct impact on water rates; \$1 million in treatment costs equals two percent increase in water rates. President Vásquez reported that Chuck Gibson, ACWA Region 10 Board Chair, was honored for his upcoming retirement.

## **12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR PRESS RELEASES**

See staff report attached hereto.

No changes or additions were suggested.

## **13. COMMENTS BY DIRECTORS**

Director Miller advised the Board that he would not be attending the November 6, 2024 Board meeting.

Director Sanchez commented on a recent issue of the CSDA Magazine, noting that staff was recognized for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Excellence in Financial Reporting Award and that Director MacKenzie was recognized for her reelection to the CSDA Board of Directors for the Southern Network.

President Vásquez also commented on an article in a recent issue of the CSDA magazine that recognized Olivenhain Municipal Water District for receiving the CSDA 2024 Exceptional Public Outreach & Advocacy award for its 4-C's of Success program.

## **14. COMMENTS BY GENERAL COUNSEL**

Ms. Mitchell updated the Board on Senate Bill (SB) 1211, which increases the current restriction on the number of ADUs on multifamily property that can be detached, from two to up to eight, depending on the existing number of multifamily units on the site; SB1211 will be effective January 1, 2025.

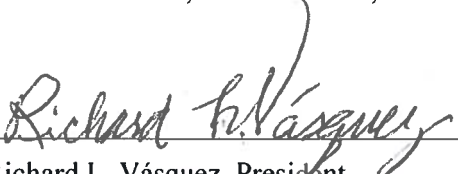
**15. COMMENTS BY GENERAL MANAGER**

Mr. Hodgkiss informed the Board about a main leak that District crews were currently repairing on Sycamore Avenue. He said the pavement had lifted because of the leak and a significant amount of asphalt would need to be replaced. Mr. Hodgkiss advised the Board that he would be signing a contract for an amount above his purchasing threshold for emergency paving services to expedite road repairs.


Mr. Hodgkiss wished Director Kuchinsky an early happy birthday.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 10:45 a.m., President Vásquez adjourned the meeting.

  
Richard L. Vásquez, President

ATTEST:

  
Ranae Ogilvie, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT