

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, OCTOBER 10, 2024.

A regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was held Thursday, August 28, 2024, at 6450 West Avenue N, Palmdale, CA 93551, at 2856 Owens Way, Rosamond, CA 93560, and via teleconference. Chair Mac Laren-Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1) Pledge of Allegiance.

At the request of Chair Mac Laren-Gomez, Commissioner Hogan led the pledge of allegiance.

2) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair
Don Wilson, Secretary
Leo Thibault, Treasurer
Robert Parris, Commissioner
Barbara Hogan, Commissioner
Keith Dyas, Commissioner

Others Present:

Peter Thompson, General Manager
Dennis Hoffmeyer, Controller
Pamala Lee, Legal Counsel
Matthew Knudson, AVEK General Manager
James Chaisson, LCID General Manager
Scott Kellerman, PWD Board Director
Audrey Miller, AVEK Board Director
Drew Mercy, AVEK Board Director
Tom Barnes, AVEK
Pam Clark, AVEK
Angel Fitzpatrick, AVEK
Dan Jacobs, AV Fair, and Event Center
John Yarbrough, DWR
Lenny Grimaldo, DWR
Molly White, DWR
0 members of the public

EXCUSED ABSENCE~ None

3) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Parris, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to adopt the agenda as written:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Parris – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye

4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments.

5) Consideration and possible action on meeting minutes for the regular meeting held on August 8, 2024, and the special meeting held on August 28, 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve the meeting minutes of the regular meeting held on August 8, 2024, and the special meeting held August 28, 2024, as written:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Parris – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye

6) A review of the 2024 fish protections presentation: Lessons learned for the new 2024 Incidental Take Permit. (John Yarbrough, SWP Deputy Director, DWR, Lenny Grimaldo, SWP Environmental Director, DWR, and Molly White, Assistant O&M Division Manager, Water Management, DWR)

The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the lessons learned regarding the new Incidental Take Permit and Biological Opinion. It focused on the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations during Water Year 2024, which were impacted by winter-run salmon and steelhead. Key points included the record number of steelhead salvaged at the SWP and CVP pumps, the reduced pumping rates during February and March, the results of new scientific tools, and details on the proposed adaptive management strategies.

The presentation also included an update on the SWP operations and planning, detailing water supply conditions, building for the water year 2024, climate predictions, and planning for the water year 2025.

7) Presentation on the Resilience Center at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. (Dan Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer, Antelope Valley Fair & Event Center)

Dan Jacobs provided a detailed presentation of the project details, an update on the project milestones and design through construction closeout, and the partnership and support received.

8) Payment of Bills.

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve payment and ratification of payment of the bills received from AVEK in the amount of \$3,223.51 for staff services of Tom Barnes, Pam Clark, and Angel Fitzpatrick for the periods of August 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, from Helix Environment Planning in the amount of \$1,445.00 for professional services through July 21, 2024, and \$2,630.00 for professional services through August 18, 2024, for the environmental consulting for the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project, from Woodard and Curran in the amount of \$6,503.75 for professional services for the period ending June 30, 2024, associated with the 2019 AVIRWM Plan update and funding and from the Antelope Valley Watermaster in the amount of \$38,310.00 for the Association's and the Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group's share of the 2024/2025 USGS Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Parris – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye

9) Update on the Littlerock Creek Project. (Tom Barnes, AVEK)

Tom Barnes provided an update on the Littlerock Creek Project. The updates included the status of the CEQA Environmental Work including the completion of the Initial Study for the project.

10) Consideration and possible action on acceptance of the draft Initial Study for the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project. (Tom Barnes, AVEK)

Tom Barnes provided an overview of the Initial Study for the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project, after which it was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Parris, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to accept the draft Initial Study for the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Parris – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye

11) Report on Water Resources and Activities. (Pam Clark, AVEK)

1) Grant Programs for the Culverts Projects.

Pam Clark with AVEK provided the following updates on the grant programs to fund the construction of the culverts for the Upper Amargosa Creek, Littlerock Creek, and Big Rock Creek Recharge Projects:

Staff is collaborating with Los Angeles County Waterworks and their consultants. AVSWCA has submitted a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Program for the Antelope Valley Groundwater Recharge and Roadway Creek Passage Project, also known as the Culverts Project. The SAM registration for this grant application was submitted by AVEK on behalf of the Association.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$9,094,590. The program provides funding of up to \$3 million for drought resiliency projects and requires a 50% cost share. The Bureau of Reclamation expects to notify unsuccessful applicants in Spring 2025 and will distribute award notices in September 2025.

The next steps involve continuing discussions with potential project partners to establish contingent cost-sharing agreements and exploring additional grant opportunities.

12) Report of Controller.

a) Update on Revenue, Expenses, and Change in Net Position.

Controller Hoffmeyer provided an overview of the Association's revenue, expenses, and change in net position for the month ending September 30, 2024.

13) Report of General Manager.

a) Status Updates:

1) Antelope Valley Watermaster Meetings.

General Manager Thompson II reported that the Watermaster had interviewed Provost & Pritchard and Regional Government Services for the administrative services of the Watermaster position. The selection of the administrator will take place at the meeting in October. Additionally, Todd Groundwater's basin model is nearing completion, and a workshop will be scheduled to review it in the coming months. The Watermaster Engineer also presented on the Antelope Valley Adjudication at a recent Western Groundwater Congress Conference.

2) Future Agenda Items.

He stated that future agenda items would include the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project, an update on grant applications for the Culverts Project, a potential grant application for capturing stream gauge data in the Antelope Valley watersheds, and an overview of upcoming State Water Project (SWP) topics for 2025. These topics would cover subsidence, permits, operations, storage programs, and other relevant issues.

Additionally, he mentioned that the staff is planning to reorganize the Antelope Valley State Water Contractor Association (AVSWCA) staff to include more individuals from the other member agencies.

14) Reports of Commissioners.

Commissioner Thibault thanked AVEK staff for putting together the tour of the member agencies and the local water banks.

15) Report of Attorney.

General Counsel Lee reported that the Governor signed AB460, which increases fines for violating specific State Water Resource Control Board orders. She also noted that the Governor signed AB2257, making it difficult for individuals to challenge an agency's proposed increase in water rates.

16) Commission Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

No future agenda items were requested.

17) Consideration and Possible Action on Scheduling the Next Association Meeting on December 12, 2024.

After a discussion among the Commissioners, it was agreed that the next meeting would be held on its regular date and time of December 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

18) Adjournment.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the regular meeting of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association Commissioners was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.

Don Wilson, AVSWCA Secretary