



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the Rowland Water District**
July 9, 2024 – 6:03 p.m.
3021 Fullerton Road
Rowland Heights, CA 91748

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

President Szu Pei Lu-Yang
Vice President John Bellah
Director Vanessa Hsu
Director Robert W. Lewis
Director Anthony J. Lima

ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joseph Byrne, Legal Counsel, Best Best & Krieger
Anaya Kwan, Best Best & Krieger
Joshua Versellas, Summer Intern, Best Best & Krieger
Jody Roberto, TVMWD
Mike Ti, TVMWD
Sylvie Lee, TVMWD
Erin LaCombe, CV Strategies
Tara Bravo-Mullaly, CV Strategies

ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT STAFF

Tom Coleman, General Manager
Dusty Moisio, Assistant General Manager
Allen Davidson, Director of Operations
Myra Malner, Director of Finance
Gabriela Palomares, Executive Services Manager
Elisabeth Mendez, Compliance & Safety Manager
Brittnie Gildea, Education & Community Outreach Coordinator
Robert Leamy, Water Systems Supervisor

ADDITION(S) TO THE AGENDA – The Board added, by unanimous vote, an item (see under Closed Session) to Closed Session that was not previously agendized. This addition was due to the urgency of the subject matter and it came to the attention of the District after the posting of the meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion by Director Lima, seconded by Director Hsu, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved as follows:

- 1.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held on June 11, 2024
- 1.2 Demands on General Fund Account for May 2024
- 1.3 Investment Report for May 2024
- 1.4 Water Purchases for May 2024
- 1.5 California Reservoir Conditions

2. ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Review and Approve Directors’ Meeting Reimbursements for May 2024

Upon motion by Director Lima, seconded by Director Lewis, the Board unanimously approved the Directors’ Meeting Reimbursement Report as presented. (Motion passed 5-0)

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

3.1 Communications Outreach (CV Strategies)

Ms. Erin LaCombe reported that CV Strategies, on behalf of the District, issued press releases celebrating the successful completion of the District’s Mini Solar Challenge and Water Awareness Poster Contest, Director Lewis’ 30-year milestone of service, a RWD presentation during a senior resource fair to the Senior Pathfinder’s Group, and on the District’s advocacy in support of SB 1330 (Archuleta). Ms. LaCombe then reported on the PWAG Conservation and Education Team’s (CET) H2KnowItAlls podcast production, providing a listing of interviews completed by podcast hosts Joey Yersky (Valley County Water District) and Brittne Gildea (Rowland Water District).

3.2 Education Update

In addition to the activities listed in the Community & Education Outreach Update included in the Board packet, Mrs. Brittne Gildea, Education & Community Outreach Coordinator, reported that the water-related books donated by the District to the Los Angeles County Library (Rowland Heights branch) have been featured in a prominent area in the library. She then advised that District employees launched an employee-sponsored community charity program “Caring for our Neighbors,” an initiative to increase volunteerism and raise funds for those in need in hopes of making a positive impact in the community. Lastly, Mrs. Gildea noted that LifeStream Blood Blank will host a blood drive at RWD’s headquarters on Wednesday, July 24.

4. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, OR EVENTS (INCLUDING ITEMS THAT MAY HAVE ARISEN AFTER THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA)

4.1 Board members were informed of the ACWA/JPIA Fall Conference scheduled for December 2-5, 2024, in Palm Desert as a matter of possible interest.

- Director Lewis requested that the CSDA September 9-12, 2024, Annual Conference be listed on the next Board meeting agenda as a matter of possible Board interest.

5. LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION – General Manager Tom Coleman reported on the following legislative matters of interest to the District:

- SB 108 (Wiener) - Budget Act of 2024 includes nearly \$500 million to support the Voluntary Agreements, which are now referred to as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program.
- SB 867 (Wiener) - a \$10 billion climate resilience bond aimed at funding various initiatives to enhance climate resilience. If approved, this measure would appear on the November 5 ballot.
- SB 1255 (Dorazo) - a bill aimed to amend existing legislation and address provisions to water rate assistance program.
- AB 2257, sponsored by Wilson and endorsed by ACWA, mandates that litigants must present and address specific objections prior to a Proposition 218 public hearing. This legislative measure aims to facilitate dispute resolution and potentially prevent the need for litigation.
- Sites Reservoir has secured an initial allocation of \$46.75 million in early funding from the state and is eligible for \$875.4 million of Proposition 1 funding.

6. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE -

- General Manager Coleman reported that the District received a ‘thank you’ letter from the Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council (RHCC). The letter expressed appreciation for the District’s sponsorship for their Annual Barbecue event held on June 29, 2024, at Pathfinder Park.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Joint Powers Insurance Authority – Board President Lu-Yang and General Manager Coleman reported on their participation in ACWA/JPIA Executive and Property Committee meetings, respectively.

7.2 Three Valleys Municipal Water District – Board members Bellah and Lima reported on business meeting matters discussed during the June 19, 2024, TVMWD Board meeting.

7.3 Association of California Water Agencies – Director Lewis advised that ACWA Region 8 will hold a meeting on August 21, 2024, to discuss Leadership in Times of Climate Uncertainty.

7.4 Puente Basin Water Agency (PBWA) – None.

7.5 Project Ad-Hoc Committee – None

7.6 Regional Chamber of Commerce – None.

7.7 P-W-R Joint Waterline Commission – None.

7.8 Sheriff’s Community Advisory Council – None.

7.9 Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council (RHCCC) – None.

7.10 Local Agency Formation Commission – None.

8. OTHER REPORTS, INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMENTS

8.1 Finance Report

Director of Finance, Myra Malner, presented a year-to-date Financial Dashboard containing comparative graphs of Revenue and Expense by Category and Consumption by Class through May 2024. Following her report, she answered questions posed by Board members.

8.2 Operations Report

The Board was provided with the field operations tasks completed during June 2024 (as listed below):

- Water Samples - 191
- Site Inspections – 65
- Service Orders Completed - 353
- Meters Replaced - 1
- Modules Replaced - 19
- Dig Alerts - 271
- Service Lines Replaced - 1
- System Valves Replaced - 0
- Air Releases Inspections - 33
- Recycled Water Inspections – 7

8.3 Projects Update – Assistant General Manager Dusty Moisio provided an update on the District’s Arenth Water Main relocation project.

8.4 Personnel Report – None.

9. **ATTORNEY’S REPORT** – Legal Counsel Joseph Byrne took a moment to introduce Mr. Joseph Versellas, participant of Best, Best & Krieger’s summer internship program.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – 7:18 p.m.

Legal Counsel Joseph Byrne adjourned the meeting to closed session at 7:22 p.m. and announced that the purpose of the closed session and the provisions of the Brown Act authorizing the closed session were listed in the agenda as indicated below:

a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of §54956.9

Name of Case: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation, Master Docket No.: 2:18-mn-2873-RMG; City of Camden, et al. v. Tyco Fire Products LP, Civil Action No.: 2:24-cv-02321-RMG

b. Conference with Real Property Negotiator - [§54956.8]

Property: Portion of Property Located at
Anaheim & Puente Road
City of Industry

District Negotiator: Tom Coleman, General Manager

Negotiating Parties: City of Industry

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation [added to the agenda]

Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

Name of Case: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Product Liability Litigation, Master Docket No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG; City of Camden, et al. v. BASF Corporation, Civil Action No.: 2:24-cv-03174-RMG

11. Reconvene/Report on Closed Session – 7:51 p.m.

Closed Session Announcements – It was reported by Legal Counsel that the Board was briefed on the facts and circumstances of the matters and regarding closed session items 10-a and 10-c, the Board unanimously approved opting out as a class member from the Class Action Settlement Agreements related to:

- (1) Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation, Master Docket No.: 2:18-mn-2873-RMG; City of Camden, et al. v. Tyco Fire Products LP, Civil Action No.: 2:24-cv-02321-RMG; and
- (2) Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Product Liability Litigation, Master Docket No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG; City of Camden, et al. v. BASF Corporation, Civil Action No.: 2:24-cv-03174-RMG

Legal Counsel was instructed to submit requests for opting out on behalf of the District. (Items 10-a and 10-c)

General Manager’s and Directors’ Comments – None.

Future Agenda Item(s) – None.

Late Business – None.

A motion was made by Director Hsu to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

SZU PEI LU-YANG
Board President

Attest: _____
TOM COLEMAN
Board Secretary