



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the Rowland Water District**
August 13, 2024 – 6:00 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 (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)
Director Robert W. Lewis
Director Anthony J. Lima

ABSENT:

Director Vanessa Hsu

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joseph Byrne, Legal Counsel, Best Best & Krieger
Jody Roberto, TVMWD
Mike Ti, TVMWD
Kirk Howie, TVMWD
Erin LaCombe, CV Strategies
Tara Bravo-Mullaly, CV Strategies

ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT STAFF

Tom Coleman, General Manager
Dusty Moio, Assistant General Manager
Myra Malner, Director of Finance
Gabriela Palomares, Executive Services Manager
Elisabeth Mendez, Compliance & Safety Manager
Brittanie Gildea, Education & Community Outreach Coordinator

ADDITION(S) TO THE AGENDA – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held on July 9, 2024

- 1.2 Approval of Minutes of Minutes of Special Board Meeting held on July 25, 2024
- 1.3 Demands on General Fund Account for July 2024
- 1.4 Investment Report for June 2024
- 1.5 Water Purchases for June 2024
- 1.6 California Reservoir Conditions

2. ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Review and Approve Directors' Meeting Reimbursements for June 2024

Upon motion by Director Lima, seconded by Director Lewis, the Board unanimously approved the Directors' Meeting Reimbursement Report as presented. (Motion passed 3-0)

(Director Bellah arrived at this moment – 6:03 p.m.)

2.2 Adopt RWD Resolution No. 8-2024, Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract Between the Board of Administration California Public Employees Retirement System and the Board of Directors Rowland Water District

Board members were asked to consider adoption of the Resolution of Intention included in the Board packet. This resolution provides notice of the District's intent to amend the CalPERS Contract to include §20903, which offers two years of additional service credit as an optional retirement benefit for eligible employees when the District undergoes changes in service delivery methods. General Manager Tom Coleman explained that this benefit is commonly referred to as the "Golden Handshake." He advised that there is no cost to amending the contract. However, if the District opts to utilize this benefit in the future the costs to exercise this option will be calculated at that time and would be offset by reduction in payroll savings.

Following discussion, upon motion by Director Lewis, seconded by Director Lima, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 8-2024, a Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to the Contract Between the Board of Administration California Public Employees Retirement System and the Board of Directors of Rowland Water District, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Bellah, Lewis, Lima, Lu-Yang
Noes: None
Absent: Hsu
Abstain: None

(Motion passed 4-0)

2.2 Review and Approve Updated Ethics Guidelines for Directors

General Manager Tom Coleman reported that, in response to a request from a Board member at a prior Board meeting, staff and Legal Counsel have reviewed the Board Ethics Guidelines for Directors. Amendments are being recommended to the section on gifts and honoraria limitations to ensure compliance with Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) regulations. Additional administrative revisions are also proposed for Section 12, which covers Directors' Compensation and Expense Reimbursement.

Upon motion by Director Lewis, seconded by Director Bellah, the Board unanimously approved the amendments to the Ethics Guidelines for Directors. (Motion passed 4-0)

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

3.1 Communications Outreach (CV Strategies)

Ms. Erin LaCombe reported that CV Strategies, on behalf of the District, issued press releases covering various District happenings, such as, District’s landscape workshops, RWD’s presentation to the Senior Pathfinder’s Group, the District’s advocacy in support of SB 1330 (Archuleta), and release of the Water Quality Report.

Additionally, Ms. LaCombe noted that the PWAG Conservation and Education Team’s (CET) "H2KnowItAlls" podcasts have been finalized and have been released on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Podcast Index.

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 LifeStream blood drive held at the District headquarters on July 24 was highly successful, resulting in 25 donations.

She then highlighted the employee “Caring for our Neighbors” initiative, noting that since the last Board meeting, employees concluded their first drive that resulted in \$1,000 in cash donations plus supplies, raised for the purpose of filling backpacks and donating them to schools within the District’s service area to be raffled to children. On a separate occasion, District staff volunteered at the RUSD Family Resource Center (FRC) ‘Fresh Start’ event where they assisted FRC staff in distributing school supplies to children.

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

4.1 CSDA Annual Conference, September 9-12, 2024, Indian Wells

Director Lewis advised of his interest in attending the conference.

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

- SB 1330 (Archuleta) – As of August 7, 2024, the bill was set for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee (Committee). There are concerns from the Committee Consultant on the costs associated with the Bill and the current financial position of the State. The District’s lobbyist was actively working with the Consultant on amendments to SB 1330 that would keep it from being placed in suspense by the Committee.
- SB 366 (Caballero) – The bill is currently awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- AB 2449 (Rubio) – This Bill, was sponsored by Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD), amended the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow local agencies until January 1, 2026, to use teleconferencing during non-emergencies without noticing their teleconference locations and making them publicly accessible under certain conditions. TVMWD is seeking in the next legislative cycle to have this Bill amended to take away the sunset date of January 1, 2026, and make this amendment permanent.

6. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Assistant General Manager Dusty Moision noted that the District was a recipient of an Occupational Excellence Achievement Award by the National Safety Council for its exemplary safety standards and zero occupational injuries in 2023. Board members then took a moment to

acknowledge staff on this accomplishment and received the award.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Joint Powers Insurance Authority – Board President Lu-Yang reported on her participation in ACWA/JPIA Executive and Employee Benefits Committee meetings, respectively.

7.2 Three Valleys Municipal Water District – None.

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) – Directors Lewis and Lima reported on the PBWA meeting held on August 1, 2024.

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 Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council (RHCCC) – None.

7.9 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 June 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 July 2024 (as listed below):

- Water Samples - 170
- Site Inspections – 82
- Service Orders Completed - 436
- Meters Replaced - 2
- Modules Replaced - 32
- Dig Alerts - 348
- Service Lines Replaced - 2
- System Valves Replaced - 0
- Air Releases Inspections - 0
- Recycled Water Inspections – 13

8.3 Projects Update – None

8.4 Personnel Report – General Manager Coleman reported on the District’s internship program noting that all four interns have received job offers from local water utility agencies.

9. ATTORNEY’S REPORT – None.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Legal Counsel Joseph Byrne adjourned the meeting to closed session at 7:10 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 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

b. Public Employment

Title: PWAG Administrative Assistant

11. Reconvene/Report on Closed Session – 7:27 p.m.

Closed Session Announcements – It was reported by Legal Counsel that the Board was briefed on the facts and circumstances of the matters regarding closed session item (b), and no reportable action was taken on the matter.

General Manager’s and Directors’ Comments – None.

Future Agenda Item(s) – None.

Late Business – None.

A motion was made by Director Lima to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

SZU PEI LU-YANG
Board President

Attest: _____
TOM COLEMAN
Board Secretary