

**PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDERS ISSUED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM,
ONE OR MORE BOARD MEMBERS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

AGENDA FOR A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021, AT 5:00 P.M.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Due to the evolving situation with the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus, so long as state or local public health officials have imposed or recommended social distancing measures Vallecitos Water District will hold future meetings via teleconferencing and allow members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically. During this period of time, Vallecitos Water District will not be making any physical location available for members of the public to observe the meeting and offer public comment. The public is encouraged to watch and participate in the meeting from the safety of their homes. The meeting can be viewed on the agenda page located on the main page of the District's website. Public comments or questions can be submitted to the following email address: PublicComment@vwd.org. All written comments that are received at least 90 minutes before the meeting will be provided to the Board, and a record of the receipt of comment will be noted during the meeting. Members of the public viewing the meeting via the Zoom videoconferencing platform can express their desire to provide input at the appropriate time by utilizing the "Raise Hand" function. Additional instructions for online participation will be posted on the District's website. www.vwd.org/meetings

CALL TO ORDER – PRESIDENT SANNELLA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

In the case of an emergency, items may be added to the Agenda by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. An emergency is defined as a work stoppage; a crippling disaster; or other activity which severely imperils public health, safety, or both. Also, items which arise after the posting of the Agenda may be added by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

ADOPT AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons wishing to address a matter not on the Agenda may be heard at this time; however, no action will be taken until the matter is placed on a future agenda in accordance with Board policy. Public comments are limited to three minutes. A Request to Speak form is required to be submitted to the Executive Secretary prior to the start of the meeting, if possible. Alternatively, persons wishing to address the Board at this time may utilize the "Raise Hand" feature of the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Public comment should start by stating name, address and topic. The Board is not permitted during this time to enter into a dialogue with the speaker.

PRESENTATION

Sandra Kerl, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) General Manager, will present an update on pending lawsuits between the SDCWA and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar will be voted upon by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items, unless a Board member or member of the public requests that a particular item(s) be removed from the Consent Calendar, in which case it will be considered separately under Action Items.

1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES (pp. 5-8)

- A. CLOSED SESSION BOARD MEETING – MARCH 17, 2021
- B. REGULAR BOARD MEETING – MARCH 17, 2021
- C. FINANCE/INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – MARCH 22, 2021

Approved minutes become a permanent public record of the District.

Recommendation: Approve Minutes

1.2 WARRANT LIST THROUGH APRIL 7, 2021 - \$1,286,813.40 (pp. 20-21)

Recommendation: Approve Warrant List

1.3 AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE POTABLE WATER – ARC FLASH ANALYSIS PROJECT (pp. 22-25)

This project will complete a National Fire Protection Association compliant Arc Flash Hazard Analysis for the District.

Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract with Southern Contracting Company in the Amount of \$138,600.00

1.4 AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE SOUTH LAKE PUMP STATION FENCE PROJECT (pp. 26-28)

A fence is needed to deter trespassers and protect District property.

Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract with Vista Fence Company, Inc. in the Amount of 56,974.00

*****END OF CONSENT CALENDAR*****

ACTION ITEM(S)

- 2.1 INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 AND FISCAL YEAR 2021/22 (pp. 29-30)

The District is required to have an annual audit per California Government Code Section 26909.

Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a two-year agreement with DavisFarr, LLP Certified Public Accountants for audit services

- 2.2 REFUNDED PROCEEDS FROM THE RESOLUTION OF THE LAWSUITS BETWEEN THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (pp. 31-34)

The San Diego County Water Authority has filed numerous lawsuits against Metropolitan Water District (MWD) regarding MWD's rate setting process.

Recommendation: For Board discussion and direction

- 2.3 COVID FINANCIAL REPORTING PRESENTATION (pp. 35)

In preparing the FY 2021 budget, staff developed a series of assumptions to estimate the financial impact COVID may have on the District.

Recommendation: Receive presentation and provide direction

*****END OF ACTION ITEMS*****

REPORTS

- 3.1 GENERAL MANAGER
- 3.2 DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL
- 3.3 SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
- 3.4 ENCINA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
- Capital Improvement Committee
- Policy and Finance Committee
- 3.5 STANDING COMMITTEES
- 3.6 DIRECTORS REPORTS ON MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED

*****END OF REPORTS*****

OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 MEETINGS

Association of California Water Agencies Virtual Spring Conference
May 12-13, 2021

*******END OF OTHER BUSINESS*******

5.1 DIRECTORS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

*******END OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS*******

6.1 ADJOURNMENT

*******END OF AGENDA *******

If you have any disability which would require accommodation in order to enable you to participate in this meeting, please call the Executive Secretary at 760.744.0460 ext. 264 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Audio and video recordings of all Board meetings are available to the public at the District website www.vwd.org

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Diane Posvar, Executive Secretary of the Vallecitos Water District, hereby certify that I caused the posting of this Agenda in the outside display case at the District office, 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos, California by 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 2, 2021.

Diane Posvar

MINUTES OF A CLOSED SESSION MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021, AT 4:00 PM, VIA TELECONFERENCE

President Sannella called the Closed Session meeting to order at the hour of 4:00 p.m.

Present: Director Boyd-Hodgson
Director Elitharp
Director Hernandez
Director Pennock
Director Sannella

Staff Present: General Manager Pruim
Legal Counsel Gilpin
Administrative Services Manager Emmanuel
Risk Management Supervisor Woolslayer
Executive Secretary Posvar

ADOPT AGENDA FOR THE CLOSED SESSION MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2021

21-03-07 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Boyd-Hodgson, and carried unanimously, to adopt the agenda for the Closed Session Meeting of March 17, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – PENDING LITIGATION

Per Government Code Section 54956.9(a) – Vallecitos Water District vs. San Diego County Water Authority Case No. 37-2020-00034563-CU-BC-NC

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – Significant Exposure to Litigation

Per Government Code Section 54956.9(c) – Seventeen (17) Potential Claims

21-03-08 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Pennock, and carried unanimously, to move into Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(a) and 54956.9(c).

REPORT AFTER CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 4:56 p.m. There was no reportable action from the Closed Session Meeting.

The Board reconvened to Closed Session at 7:04 p.m. following the adjournment of the Regular Board meeting at 7:03 p.m.

21-03-19 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Pennock, and carried unanimously, to reconvene into Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(a) and 54956.9(c).

REPORT AFTER CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 7:28 p.m. There was no reportable action from the Closed Session Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, President Sannella adjourned the Closed Session Meeting of the Board of Directors at the hour of 7:29 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Vallecitos Water District Board of Directors has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Michael A. Sannella, President
Board of Directors
Vallecitos Water District

ATTEST:

Glenn Pruum, Secretary
Board of Directors
Vallecitos Water District

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021, AT 5:00 PM, VIA TELECONFERENCE

President Sannella called the Regular meeting to order at the hour of 5:00 p.m.

Director Hernandez led the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Director Boyd-Hodgson
Director Elitharp
Director Hernandez
Director Pennock
Director Sannella

Staff Present: General Manager Pruim
Legal Counsel Gilpin
Administrative Services Manager Emmanuel
District Engineer Gumpel
Finance Manager Owen
Operations & Maintenance Manager Pedrazzi
Capital Facilities Senior Engineer Morgan
Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins
Principal Financial Analyst Arthur
Systems Administrator Drummond
Executive Secretary Posvar

ADOPT AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2021

21-03-09 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Boyd-Hodgson, seconded by Director Elitharp, and carried unanimously, to adopt the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of March 17, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

General Manager Pruim stated written comments were received by Gayle Martin, Tomme Arthur, Patrice Thompson, and Dennis Walsh, members of the public. President Sannella stated he believes it is inappropriate for staff to read written public comments aloud during meetings as that has not been the Board's past practice prior to the COVID-19 pandemic which necessitated virtual meetings. Director Boyd-Hodgson did not concur with President Sannella, stating that if the Board wants to discontinue the reading of written public comments, the notice to the public regarding public comments should be updated, and that the 5:00 p.m. start time for Board meetings may be difficult for some who wish to attend.

Dennis Walsh, member of the public, offered to read the letter he submitted on behalf of Healthbreads, Inc./Oasis Breads. President Sannella suggested the topic of Mr. Walsh's letter be placed on a future Board agenda for discussion as it is a highly complex issue and is related to the letter submitted by Tomme Arthur. Mr. Walsh agreed to this and did not read his written comments aloud. General Manager Pruim stated the topic of Mr. Walsh's and Mr. Arthur's letters would be placed on the agenda for the April 7 Board meeting.

Gayle Martin, member of the public, inquired about the nature of Mr. Walsh's and Mr. Arthur's letters. General Manager Pruim stated they relate to capacity for their businesses. Ms. Martin read aloud her written comments regarding the District's 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and strongly encouraged the Board to consider issuing immediate credits to customers from the lawsuit settlement proceeds (Action Item 2.3). She expressed her opinion that public comments should be read aloud during Board meetings.

CONSENT CALENDAR

21-03-10 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Boyd-Hodgson, and carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

1.1 Approval of Minutes

- A. Closed Session Board Meeting (Revised) – February 24, 2021
- B. Public Awareness/Personnel/Policy Committee Meeting – March 1, 2021
- C. Closed Session Board Meeting – March 3, 2021
- D. Regular Board Meeting – March 3, 2021
- E. Engineering/Equipment Committee Meeting – March 8, 2021

1.2 Warrant List through March 17, 2021 - \$3,683,769.60

1.3 Financial Reports

- A. Water Meter Count – February 28, 2021
- B. Water Production/Sales Report – 2020/2021
- C. Per Capita Water Consumption – February 28, 2021
- D. Water Revenue and Expense Report – February 28, 2021
- E. Sewer Revenue and Expense Report – February 28, 2021
- F. Reserve Funds Activity – February 28, 2021
- G. Investment Report – February 28, 2021
- H. Legal Fees Summary – February 28, 2021

1.4 COVID-19 Testing of Employees During an Outbreak

1.5 Position Reclassification of Engineering Technician I/II to Engineering Services Assistant

1.6 2020 Year In Review

ACTION ITEM(S)

DESIGN ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AWARD FOR THE
16-INCH EMERGENCY BYPASS PIPELINE REHABILITATION

Capital Facilities Senior Engineer Morgan stated the existing 16-inch diameter Emergency Bypass Sewer (Bypass) pipeline was installed in 1969, consists of Techite pipe, and spans 4,000 feet between Rancho Santa Fe Road and Melrose Drive. The Bypass pipeline is considered a critical infrastructure asset, serving as a relief sewer in the District's system; however, it is currently considered inoperable due to the risk of failures and regulatory issues associated with sanitary sewer overflows. There have been four failures over the past five years. This project is an operational priority for the District in the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. A feasibility study initiated in the summer of 2020 identified a significant potential savings opportunity to the District by expanding the scope of the project to include the parallel 12-inch diameter Meadowlark Failsafe Outfall (Failsafe) pipeline into the project improvements. The ductile iron Failsafe pipeline, installed in the early 1980's, conveys secondary effluent or tertiary-treated recycled water from the Meadowlark Reclamation Facility to the Ocean Outfall at the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility. The Failsafe pipeline is located five feet offset of the Bypass pipeline in a common trench within the District easement throughout most of the project corridor. Many of the construction costs for both projects such as mobilization, survey, excavation, and contractor overhead could be shared if the projects were constructed concurrently.

Capital Facilities Senior Engineer Morgan further stated the District finalized the feasibility study in January 2021 and used it as a basis of design in developing the Request for Proposals (RFP) for final design engineering services which includes a scope of work for the rehabilitation of both the Bypass pipeline and the Failsafe Outfall. The District submitted an RFP to three as-needed engineering firms on February 15 and received proposals from two firms. Upon review of the proposals, staff determined Infrastructure Engineering Corporation (IEC) is the most responsive and qualified consultant with a total fee of \$149,370 for design and bid phase engineering services.

Staff recommended the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into a task order authorization under the as-needed professional services agreement with IEC in the amount of \$149,370 for project design and bid phase engineering services.

General discussion took place regarding the project budget.

21-03-11 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Pennock, and carried unanimously, to authorize the General Manager to enter into a task order authorization under the as-needed professional services agreement with IEC in the amount of \$149,370 for project design and bid phase engineering services.

ACWA/JPIA REFUND CHECK

General Manager Pruim stated the District is a member agency of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) which provides insurance to

the District. The ACWA/JPIA reviews individual member agencies' accounts annually to determine if an agency is eligible for a refund if claims are less than projected. For the fourth year in a row, the District will be receiving a refund due to its low workers compensation and liability claims history. The amount of the refund is \$149,764.

General Manager Pruum provided information on how previous ACWA/JPIA refunds have been used. In 2018, the Board designated a portion of the \$145,176 refund to provide \$1,000 bonuses to all eligible employees to reward their efforts in keeping claims low. In 2019, the Board directed staff to apply the bulk of the \$165,806 refund toward the CalPERS retirement unfunded accrued liability and to set aside \$5,000 for an Employee Appreciation Event which was planned for 2020 but delayed due to COVID-19. That event will be scheduled when the District reopens. In 2020, the \$95,247 refund was split between the water and wastewater reserve accounts due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 impacts.

Staff recommended the Board use the \$149,764 refund to pay for the unexpected COVID-19 testing costs in the amount of \$92,050 (Item 1.4 of the Consent Calendar approved earlier in the meeting), leaving a balance of \$57,714 to be used at the Board's discretion.

21-03-12 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by President Sannella, to use \$92,050 of the refund to pay for the COVID-19 testing and divide the balance to provide a bonus to all employees excluding the Board.

General discussion took place.

21-03-13 AMENDED MOTION WAS MADE by President Sannella, to use \$92,050 of the refund to pay for the COVID-19 testing and divide the balance to provide a \$500 (gross) bonus to all employees excluding the Board and senior management.

General discussion took place. Director Hernandez was agreeable to President Sannella's amendment of his motion. Director Boyd-Hodgson suggested senior management be included in the bonus. General Manager Pruum stated he would exclude himself from receiving a bonus. Legal Counsel Gilpin suggested Director Hernandez's motion be withdrawn and the amended motion be restated for clarity.

21-03-14 AMENDED MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by President Sannella, and carried unanimously, to use \$92,050 of the refund to pay for the COVID-19 testing and divide the balance to provide a \$500 bonus to all employees excluding the Board of Directors and the General Manager.

REFUNDED PROCEEDS FROM THE RESOLUTION OF THE LAWSUITS BETWEEN SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

General Manager Pruum stated the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) have been involved in litigation for quite some time regarding how MWD sets its rates. Numerous lawsuits filed by SDCWA span

the years 2011 through 2020. MWD prepares biannual budgets and rate settings. The first two lawsuits filed by SDCWA covered the first two two-year rate setting cycles from 2011 through 2014. In January 2021, the San Francisco Superior Court ruled that MWD must pay \$44.4 million in damages to SDCWA, and that SDCWA is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and costs in those cases. The determination of attorneys' fees is still to be determined; however, the \$44.4 million damage award has been paid to SDCWA. The SDCWA Board of Directors voted to return the \$44.4 million to its member agencies, allocated based on the water purchases made by member agencies during the 2011 through 2014 time period. The SDCWA wire transferred the District's share of the award, \$1,590,623.74, to the District on March 4, 2021. The funds were placed in the District's Water Replacement Reserves.

General Manager Pruim further stated staff was seeking Board direction on how the settlement funds should be used. As the funds were paid by rate payers for water, they cannot be used for wastewater or capacity. Allowable uses for the funds include operating costs such as personnel, electricity, materials and supplies; to defray the cost of water purchases; water replacement capital projects; District fleet needs; or to pay down the CalPERS unfunded accrued liability. Another option is to reimburse customers, but this could be very problematic administratively to try to determine who should be reimbursed and to what extent.

21-03-15 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Boyd-Hodgson, to divide the \$1,590,623.74 settlement proceeds equally among water service customers and issue them a check or a credit on their bill.

Director Boyd-Hodgson suggested business owners be included in the allocation of funds and that this item be tabled to the next Board agenda for consideration after the Board has heard from the business owners who submitted comments for this meeting.

21-03-16 AMENDED MOTION WAS MADE by Director Boyd-Hodgson, to amend Director Hernandez's original motion to table this item to the next Board agenda.

President Sannella clarified that Director Hernandez meant all water service customers, not just residential customers. He suggested staff be allowed to take the necessary time to research the best way to disburse the settlement funds to customers and present options for the Board to consider at a future Board meeting.

Directors Pennock and Elitharp suggested the Board further discuss options and have the Finance/Investment Committee also consider it through the budget process. General Manager Pruim stated this item could be included on the agenda for the March 22 Finance/Investment Committee meeting.

General Manager Pruim asked for clarification as to whether refunds or credits would be issued to all current customers or just customers during the lawsuit settlement years from 2011-2014. He also asked the Board to consider that credits issued to customer bills could be applied to balances in arrears. The \$1.6 million divided by the actual number of meters would result in a credit of \$72.50 for all water customers. Another option would be to use meter equivalents. Using this method, the average residential customer would receive \$55.16

and customers with larger meters that use more water would receive more than the \$72.50 in the first option. Legal Counsel Gilpin stated whatever method the Board chooses must comply with Proposition 218 as this is a refund of rate funds.

General discussion took place.

21-03-17 SUBSTITUTE MOTION WAS MADE by Director Elitharp, seconded by President Sannella, and carried 4 – 1, with Director Hernandez voting no, to table this item and send it to the Finance/Investment Committee for further discussion.

Gayle Martin, member of the public, asked the Board how rate payers will be informed that the discussion on what to do with the settlement funds will be on the Finance/Investment Committee agenda and also a Board meeting agenda.

General Manager Pruim stated the agendas for the Finance/Investment Committee and Board meetings will be posted as usual to provide notice. He noted that the Finance/Investment Committee cannot take action on the item.

CSDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SEAT A

General Manager Pruim stated the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), of which the District is a member, is seeking nominations to fill Seat A on their Board. Director Jo MacKenzie of the Vista Irrigation District currently occupies Seat A and has requested the Vallecitos Water District Board support her nomination.

Director Boyd-Hodgson stated her interest in serving on the CSDA Board.

General discussion took place.

Jo MacKenzie, Director for Vista Irrigation District, addressed the Board, providing background information on the CSDA and her service to the CSDA.

General discussion took place during which Director Boyd-Hodgson stated she will inform General Manager Pruim of her final decision as to her interest in the CSDA Board position. If she seeks the nomination, a Special Board meeting will be scheduled before the March 29 nomination deadline for the Board to adopt a resolution of support on her behalf.

The Board took no action on this item.

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO)

General Manager Pruim stated the LAFCO is seeking nominations for a vacant, unexpired term as alternate special district member on the LAFCO. The seat will expire on May 1, 2023. To be considered for the position, a nomination form signed by the Board President accompanied by a resume must be submitted to the LAFCO by Friday, April 23.

The Board took no action on this item.

RETIREE HEALTH PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT PLAN FOR THE POSITION OF GENERAL MANAGER

Legal Counsel Gilpin stated this item is a continuation of a compensation item the previous Board approved on December 2, 2020 regarding a one-time lump sum contribution of \$12,000 to a retiree health premium reimbursement plan. He asked the Board to consider the adoption of a resolution to approve the establishment of the account so that the funds can be placed in the plan.

General discussion took place during which Legal Counsel Gilpin explained details of the retiree health premium reimbursement plan. This type of plan is a commonly used element in executive compensation. After conducting an annual performance evaluation for General Manager Pruim in 2020, the Board proposed the contribution to a retiree health premium reimbursement plan in lieu of a discretionary merit increase in salary.

21-03-18 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Elitharp, seconded by Director Hernandez, and carried 4 – 0, with Director Boyd-Hodgson abstaining, to adopt the resolution approving the adoption of the retiree health premium reimbursement plan.

REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager Pruim reported the following:

- Water supply conditions statewide are not encouraging. Rain and snow fall are significantly below average. The state has set the initial State Water Project Table “A” Allocation at 10%.
- Plans are being made to begin returning administrative staff to the office as there have been no new COVID-19 cases. San Diego County recently moved into the red tier. The County established guidance that office workers should telecommute in the purple and red tiers and encourages telecommuting in the orange and yellow tiers. Administrative staff will be brought back to the office in phases every two weeks, starting April 5 with most employees back by early May.
- The San Marcos Promise will be hosting a virtual Future Fair March 22 – 26 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. District staff will be participating in the event to provide high schools students information about water district jobs and the industry.

DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL

Legal Counsel Gilpin stated he will be working with staff regarding email retention policies to ensure compliance. He suggested the Notice to the Public on agendas regarding written

comments be revised for clarity and encouraged the Board to contact him if they have legal questions concerning agenda items in advance of a meeting.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Director Elitharp stated the SDCWA Board has not met since the last District Board meeting. The next SDCWA Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 25.

ENCINA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

General Manager Pruum reported on his attendance to the Capital Improvement Committee meeting this morning at which the Committee received updates on the Capital Improvements Projects Status Report, Facilities Rehabilitation Projects final acceptance, and the climate control rehabilitation of the cogeneration building.

President Sannella reported on his attendance to the Policy and Finance Committee meeting last week at which discussion took place regarding EWA's budget process.

STANDING COMMITTEES

President Sannella stated the Finance/Investment Committee will meet on March 22.

Director Elitharp reported on the March 8 Engineering/Equipment Committee meeting. The Committee received updates on the Sage Canyon Tank, Emergency Bypass and the Failsafe (Buena Reach), and a presentation on enhancing GIS and maintenance management for field staff.

DIRECTORS REPORTS ON TRAVEL/CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ATTENDED

Director Hernandez reported on his attendance to an ACWA Groundwater Subcommittee meeting on March 4.

Director Boyd-Hodgson reported on her attendance to the EWA orientation for new Board members and the Women in Water Symposium.

President Sannella reported on his attendance to the EWA orientation for new Board members.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Boyd-Hodgson requested an agenda item regarding cyber security. General Manager Pruim stated that the Board, in Closed Session, decided not to discuss this in an open meeting, and instead, staff provided information to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, President Sannella adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at the hour of 7:03 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Vallecitos Board of Directors has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Michael A. Sannella, President
Board of Directors
Vallecitos Water District

ATTEST:

Glenn Pruim, Secretary
Board of Directors
Vallecitos Water District

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
FINANCE/INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

Director Sannella called the meeting to order at the hour of 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

Present: Director Boyd-Hodgson
Director Sannella
General Manager Pruim
District Engineer Gumpel
Finance Manager Owen
Operations & Maintenance Manager Pedrazzi
Accounting Supervisor Rathsam
Meter Services Supervisor Tapia
Principal Financial Analyst Arthur
Executive Secretary Posvar
Administrative Secretary Johnson

ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION

OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

Finance Manager Owen provided an overview of the budget process to date. Budget requests have been received from all departments and have been compiled into the operating budget. Current fiscal year projections are complete. Personnel/payroll estimates and the debt service forecast should be completed by the end of March.

Finance Manager Owen reviewed the draft operating budget for water and sewer budget-to-budget rather than budget-to-actual as it is too early with four months left in the current fiscal year. All numbers presented are very preliminary and subject to change.

Water operating expenses are projected to increase by \$453,000 or 3.54%, subject to changes in staffing and labor allocations. The most significant changes budget-to-budget are Pumping decreasing \$105,000, Transmission & Distribution increasing \$141,000, Meters increasing \$163,000, Customer Accounts decreasing \$136,000, Engineering increasing \$105,000, and General & Admin increasing \$117,000.

Sewer operating expenses are projected to decrease by \$36,000 or -0.3%, subject to changes in staffing and labor allocations. Significant changes budget-to-budget are Collections & Conveyance decreasing \$188,000 and Engineering increasing \$123,000.

Staff provided details regarding the projected variances.

General discussion took place regarding an energy management study, staffing levels, and Board expenses.

Finance Manager Owen reviewed the tentative budget calendar as follows:

- April 12 (Committee Meeting) – Payroll estimates and staffing; review of capital budget requests – there may be a scheduling conflict on this date
- April 26 (Committee Meeting) – Tentative Cost of Service Study update; discuss Board requested items
- May 3 (Committee Meeting) – Review draft proposed budget; discuss Board requested items
- May 19 (Board Workshop) – First review of proposed budget
- June 2 (Board Meeting) – Approval of recommended budget

AUDITOR AGREEMENT

Finance Manager Owen stated California Government Code Section 26909 requires the District to have an annual audit performed by an independent auditor. The District selects an audit firm through the competitive bid process every three to five years. In 2018, of the seven firms that submitted proposals, DavisFarr was selected as they were highly recommended by all references and also the lowest bidder. The District saved \$12,200 over the past three years as compared to the previous audit firm. The current agreement with DavisFarr has an option to extend the agreement two additional years.

Finance Manager Owen further stated the Government Finance Officers Association's best practices regarding audit procurement states that governmental agencies should enter into multiyear agreements of at least five years in duration when obtaining the services of independent auditors. Assembly Bill 1345 limits existing audit partners to a maximum of six years; however, rotation of audit partners is allowed. The current agreement with DavisFarr stipulates that if the agreement is extended, their fees would increase by a nominal 2% per year which would still be very low compared to the fees of other firms quoted in 2018. Staff recommended extending the auditor agreement with DavisFarr.

The Committee supports staff's recommendation of extending the agreement with DavisFarr for two more years. This item will go to the Board for their consideration.

CWA/MWD LAWSUIT REFUND

Director Sannella acknowledged for the record that written comments regarding this item were received from Gayle Martin, member of the public, and Latham & Watkins, the law firm representing Golden Door Properties, LLC. General Manager Pruim stated both comments expressed the opinion that the funds from the lawsuit settlement should be used to offset future water costs. Neither party expressed an opinion about refunding the funds to current or past customers.

Gayle Martin addressed the Committee stating she encourages the entire Board to consider a lower rate increase to rate payers. She also had questions about meter parts, inventory and testing discussed during the budget presentation, to which staff responded.

General Manager Pruim stated that at the March 17 Board meeting, the Board requested this item be presented to the Finance/Investment Committee for further discussion; however, staff has not had time to do an in-depth analysis on this. The courts ruled that Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) overcharged the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) in the years 2011 through 2014 and awarded damages in the amount of \$44.4 million to SDCWA. Based on SDCWA member agencies' water purchases during that time period, the District's share of the lawsuit settlement is \$1,590,623.74. The District has received the funds and placed them in the water replacement reserves. There is no urgency in determining what to do with the funds. The Board may want to consider this in conjunction with the budget process. The SDCWA will likely also be receiving approximately \$13 million in attorneys' fees; however, they have not decided what to do with those funds yet. In addition, there are pending legal challenges for years 2014 through 2018 which will likely bring in another \$30 million.

General Manager Pruim further stated the funds may be used at the District's discretion; however, they cannot be used for wastewater purposes or capacity fund projects. Allowable uses include reducing the revenue requirement. Some examples of how this could be done would be by offsetting future water purchase costs (rate stabilization fund); water replacement capital improvement projects; operating expenses including salaries and benefits; CalPERS unfunded accrued liability; materials, supplies and services for water replacement; and the District's fleet. Another option is to provide refunds or credits to customers which raises the following issues to be considered:

- Which customers – former customers during 2011-2014 or current customers?
- Calculation of how to allocate the funds among customers.
- It would be very difficult to track down former customers.
- There would be considerable administrative costs associated with the analysis of who to credit or refund, how much, and locating former customers. Estimated cost could be \$200,000.
- Apply the credit to customer bills (would address overdue balances) or issue a cash refund to customers?

General Manager Pruim stated staff's preliminary analysis indicates that if the Board chooses to apply the settlement proceeds toward future water supply costs to keep rates low, the result would be a 26 cent per-unit credit. The average single family customer would receive a benefit of approximately \$40.92 over a one-year period. If the settlement funds were split equally among all customers regardless of meter size, they would receive a credit or refund of \$72.50. If meter size were considered, the average single family customer would receive a credit of \$55.16. There are many legal issues associated with the credit/refund approach, primarily identifying who would receive a refund and what amount. This could be costly and would reduce the amount of benefit to the customer. Per the District's legal counsel, the settlement funds cannot be used to benefit a specific class of customers such as those experiencing financial difficulty; for example, a COVID relief fund. A more in-depth legal analysis is necessary before this issue can go back to the Board so that they consider only legal options.

General discussion took place regarding the options of using the settlement funds to offset future water costs or to provide direct credits or refunds to current customers.

The consensus of the Committee was to direct staff to provide options for the Board's consideration to give the settlement money back to the customers rather than applying the funds to offset future water costs. Director Boyd-Hodgson recommended information identifying the credit or refund be included in the customer water bills. Finance Manager Owen noted that issuing a credit would be preferable to issuing checks. The cost to write a check is approximately \$8 to \$9 per check which would decrease the amount of the refund.

The Committee indicated they do not need to discuss this issue further before it is presented to the Board for their consideration.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at the hour of 3:46 p.m.

VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
WARRANTS LIST
April 7, 2021

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHECK#	AMOUNT
CHECKS			
ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance	Medical Insurance - Mar	121064	223,315.33
AT&T	Internet Svc - Mar	121065	90.24
AT&T	Phone Svc - Feb	121066	2,756.08
Home Depot Credit Services	Hardware Supplies - Feb	121067	1,628.13
Staples Advantage	Office Supplies	121068	815.49
Union Bank	Meetings & Travel - Feb	121069	2,243.61
Union Bank	Meetings & Travel - Feb	121070	1,118.92
Union Bank	Meetings & Travel - Feb	121071	1,030.45
Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone Svc - Feb	121072	2,542.65
ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance	Medical Insurance - Mar	121073	224,537.36
Adobe Lock & Safe	Storage Room Door Locks (2) & Labor	121074	995.45
Advanced Imaging Solutions, Inc.	Copier Lease - Mar	121075	2,451.32
Air Pollution Control District	Permit & Emission Fees - 4	121076	4,283.00
Airgas USA LLC	Cylinder Rental	121077	165.31
Ambius	Plant Maintenance - Mar	121078	263.00
Aqua-Metric Sales Co	Meters - 141; MXUs - 60	121079	52,989.41
Richard Arballo	Ops Crew Meal Reimbursement	121080	24.14
ASAP Holding Co	Water Heater Svc & Plumbing Repairs - MRF, Plumbing Repairs - Bldg B	121081	1,910.00
AT&T	SCADA Phone Svc - Feb	121082	529.94
James D Austin	CWEA Membership & Cert Renewal	121083	298.00
Backflow Solutions, Inc.	Backflow Testing Feb - Qty 296	121084	4,920.20
Biotechnical Services Inc	Lab Equipment & Preventative Maintenance 2021	121085	1,145.00
Boncor Water Systems	Soft Water & Drinking Water - Mar	121086	1,887.50
Boot Barn	Safety Boots - 2 Pairs	121087	290.60
Breakout Capital Holdings, Inc.	Fuel Island Maintenance - Mar	121088	174.50
Core Logic Information Solutions Inc	Real Quest Engineering Map Svcs - Feb	121089	218.55
County of San Diego	Facility Permit - 7202 Rancho Santa Fe Rd	121090	484.00
DirecTV Inc	Satellite Svc - Mar	121091	81.99
Diversified Waterscapes Inc	Compressor - Mahr	121092	3,277.27
EDCO Waste & Recycling Serv	Trash Svc - Feb	121093	985.10
Electrical Sales Inc	Aeration System Supplies - MRF	121094	825.41
Employment Screening Services Inc	Employment Screening Svcs	121095	136.50
Fleet Pride	Utility Lamp Veh 294	121096	120.90
Freeway Trailer Sales	Hardware Supplies	121097	346.31
G & W Truck Accessories	Toolboxes 2 Veh 294	121098	1,244.68
Golden State Graphics	Between The Pipes Newsletter Prj 20211-39	121099	4,291.80
Grangetto's Farm Garden Supply	Landscaping Supplies	121100	149.33
Corey Harrell	CWEA Cert Renewal	121101	101.00
Harrington Industrial	Analyzer Sump Pump	121102	445.95
Harris	GEMS Annual License FY 21-22	121103	38,246.05
Idexx Distribution Corp.	Sample Vessels & Reagent	121104	4,816.10
Infosend Inc	Support, Postage, & Printing - Feb	121105	5,487.54
Interstate Batteries	Vehicle Batteries - 3	121106	448.92
JWC Environmental Inc.	Refurbish Head Works Grinder - MRF	121107	33,198.19
Knight Security & Fire Systems	Monitoring, Patrol, & Answering Svcs - Mar	121108	656.69
Lawnmowers Plus Inc	Trimmer Blade & Hardware Supplies	121109	792.21
Lloyd Pest Control	Pest Control Svcs - Mar	121110	210.00
Matheson Tri-Gas Inc	Cylinder Rental	121111	293.53
Mitchell Repair Information Co LLC	Repair Manuals Subscription Renewal FY 21-22	121112	2,400.00
Morton Salt, Inc.	Industrial Salt	121113	4,344.04
North County Auto Parts	Fleet Supplies - Feb	121114	1,954.83
NV5, Inc.	MRF Failsafe Rehab Prj 20201-5 & Tres Amigos Waterline Prj 20201-3	121115	26,070.75
Olivenhain MWD	Treated Water - Feb	121116	26,734.60
Pacific Pipeline Supply	Pressure Regulators - 4, Brass Couplings - 2	121117	300.09
Pell Mell Supply Inc	Brass Nuts & Bolts Stock - 800	121118	2,154.97
Pencco, Inc.	Calcium Nitrate	121119	8,092.10
Pres-Tech Manufacturers	Vacuum Filter	121120	351.33
R.S. Hughes Co., Inc.	Nitrile Gloves	121121	926.86
Rick Post Welding	District Wide Valve Replacement Prj 20211-11	121122	620.00
SDG&E	Power - Feb	121123	7,033.17
Schmidt Fire Protection Co Inc	Quarterly Sprinkler Maintenance	121124	335.00
Shields, Harper & Co	Fuel Masterkits 3, Prj 20211-29, 30 & 32	121125	1,089.19

VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT
WARRANTS LIST
April 7, 2021

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHECK#	AMOUNT
Southern Counties Lubricants, LLC	Unleaded & Diesel Fuel	121126	18,052.48
Staples Advantage	Office Supplies	121127	168.18
Streamline Auto Body Inc.	Body Damage Repair - Veh 260	121128	1,467.42
Terra Verde Energy LLC	District Wide Solar Prj 20201-14	121129	3,213.00
Total Resource Mgt Inc	Maximo Support - Feb	121130	3,315.00
Unitis, Inc.	Water Softening Salt	121131	1,635.29
Univar USA Inc	Caustic Soda	121132	4,124.58
UPS	Shipping Svcs - Feb	121133	18.40
City of Vista	Sewer Flow 7-1-19 to 6-30-20	121134	71,107.64
VWR International	Hardware Supplies	121135	84.76
Waxie Sanitary Supply	Cleaning Supplies	121136	852.83
Garnishments	Payroll Garnishments 121137 through	121138	-
Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc.	School House Pump Station - Lighting	121139	2,456.70
Grainger Inc	Sodium Bisulfite, Eye Wash Bottles, & Hardware Supplies	121140	1,977.80
Hach Company	Annual Service Contract	121141	5,059.00
J W D' Angelo Co Inc	Air Vacs - 4 & Water Testing Stations - 3	121142	2,992.69
Jan-Pro of San Diego	Disinfecting Svcs HQ & MRF Prj 20211-850, Cleaning Svcs HQ & MRF - Mar	121143	5,483.00
JCI Jones Chemicals Inc	Chlorine	121144	2,061.81
Rusty Wallis Inc	Soft Water Tank Svc - Mar	121145	220.00
T.S. Industrial Supply	Pipe Wrenches - 5	121146	251.87
Unifirst Corporation	Uniform Delivery	121147	1,757.50
Total Disbursements (82 Checks)			<u>837,970.53</u>
WIRES			
Public Employees Retirement System	Retirement Contribution - March 23, 2021 Payroll	Wire	75,728.39
PAYROLL			
Total direct deposits		Wire	228,773.31
VWD Employee Association		121137	542.00
Payroll & Garnishments		121138	438.45
IRS	Federal payroll tax deposits	Wire	93,273.42
Employment Development Department	California payroll tax deposit	Wire	18,565.12
CalPERS	Deferred compensation withheld	Wire	22,757.08
VOYA	Deferred compensation withheld	Wire	8,765.10
Total March 23, 2021 Payroll Disbursements			<u>373,114.48</u>
 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			 <u><u>1,286,813.40</u></u>

DATE: APRIL 7, 2021
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE POTABLE WATER – ARC FLASH ANALYSIS PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this project is to complete a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliant Arc Flash Hazard Analysis for the District in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal electrical safety requirements. Eleven potable water facilities are included in this project.

The contactor shall complete the following four phases of work:

- Phase 1: Data Collection/Field Work
- Phase 2: Electrical System Modeling
- Phase 3: Data Analysis
- Phase 4: Project Completion and Deliverables

The following tasks will be completed at each site:

- Analyze the existing electrical distribution system to complete an arc flash analysis of the electrical distribution system.
- Provide an electronic file which contains all arc flash labels for electrical switchboards, panel boards, motor control centers, transformers, disconnect switches and distribution equipment within.
- Provide labor for physical review of electrical infrastructure for conformation per single line drawing. Identify any electrical equipment not indicated on the electrical single line drawing and include in the arc flash analysis.
- Provide “Identification of Category ARC Flash PPE” labels per current NFPA 70E standards.
- Install “Identification of Category ARC Flash PPE” labels on electrical switchboards, panel boards, motor control centers, transformers, disconnect switches and distribution equipment as required per current NFPA 70E standards.

DISCUSSION:

District staff requested bids from three local electrical contractors for the Potable Water – Arc Flash Analysis Project. Only two of the contractors submitted a bid. The bid results are as follows:

Potable Water – Arc Flash Analysis Project

Bidders

Baker Electric, Inc.	\$163,871.00
Southern Contracting Company	\$138,600.00

Staff completed the evaluation of qualifications and determined that Southern Contracting Company was the lowest, most responsive qualified bidder for the Potable Water – Arc Flash Analysis Project. Project management will be performed by District staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

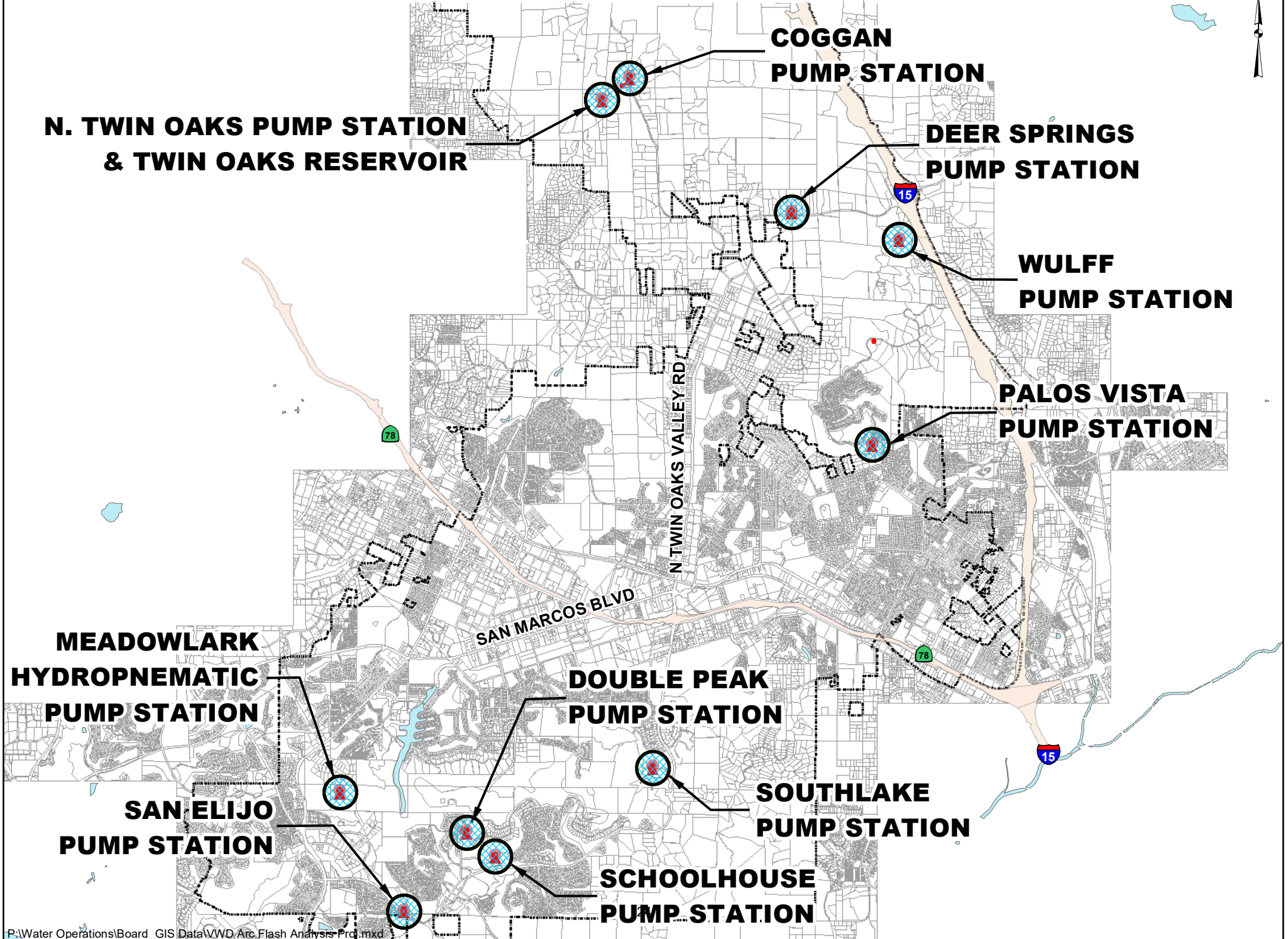
Funds are included in the 2020/21 Materials & Services Budget for each of the potable water sites. The estimated cost summary is as follows:

Schoolhouse Pump Station	\$ 11,975.00
Double Peak Pump Station	\$ 11,975.00
San Elijo Pump Station	\$ 13,350.00
Wulff Pump Station	\$ 11,975.00
Deer Springs Pump Station	\$ 11,975.00
Coggan Pump Station	\$ 13,350.00
North Twin Oaks Pump Station	\$ 13,350.00
Twin Oaks Reservoir Pump Station	\$ 13,350.00
Palos Vista Pump Station	\$ 13,350.00
South Lake Pump Station	\$ 11,975.00
<u>Meadowlark Hydropneumatic Pump Station</u>	<u>\$ 11,975.00</u>
Total	\$138,600.00

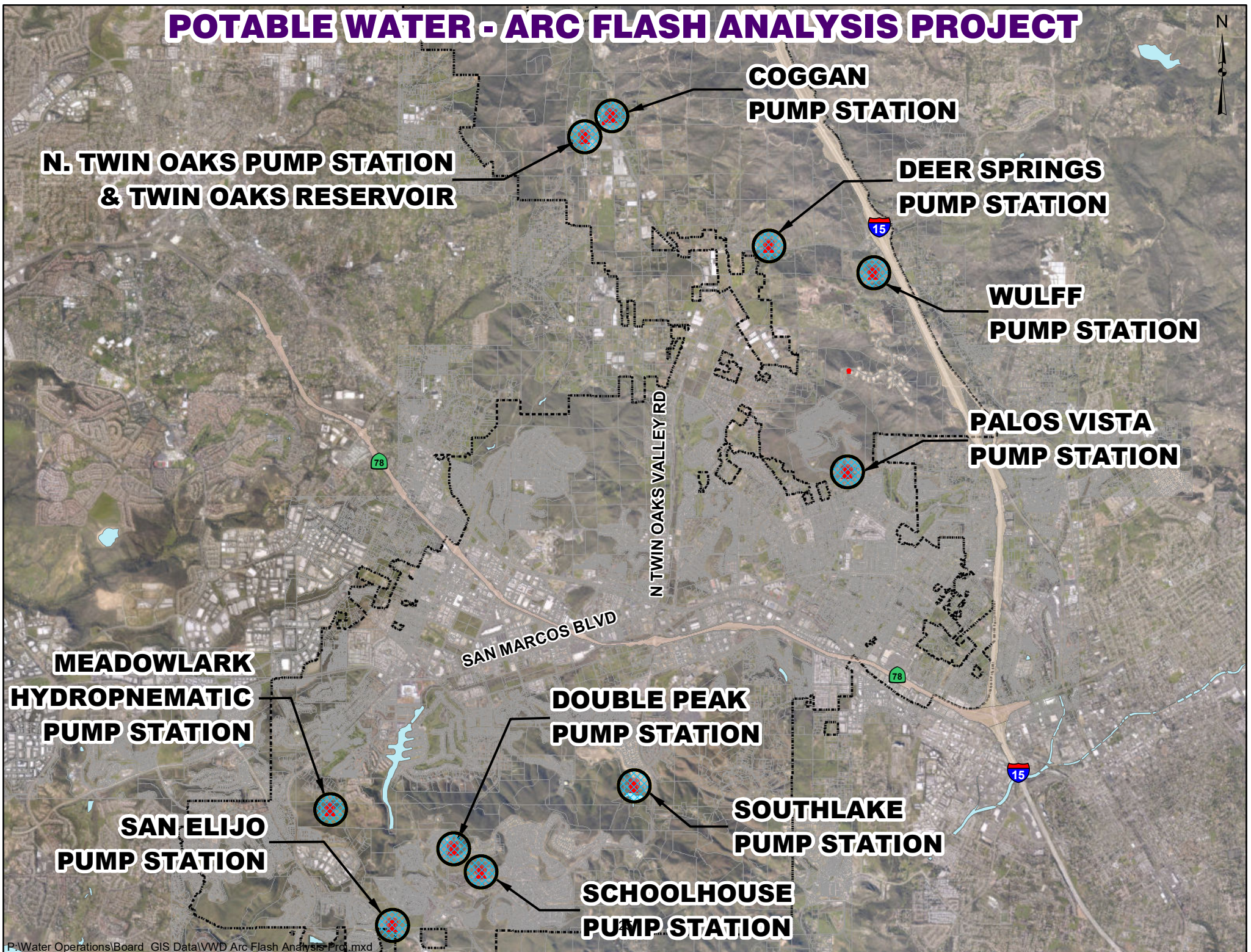
RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Southern Contracting Company for a total of \$138,600.00, subject to provisions of the contracts.

POTABLE WATER - ARC FLASH ANALYSIS PROJECT



POTABLE WATER - ARC FLASH ANALYSIS PROJECT



SOUTH LAKE PUMP STATION FENCE PROJECT

FENCE PROJECT

**SOUTH LAKE
PUMP STATION**

PS

DAM

SOUTH LAKE



SOUTH LAKE PUMP STATION FENCE PROJECT

FENCE PROJECT

SOUTH LAKE PUMP STATION

DAM

SOUTH LAKE



DATE: APRIL 7, 2021
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 AND FISCAL YEAR 2021/22

BACKGROUND:

On April 18, 2018, the Board of Directors entered into an agreement for audit services with Davis Farr, LLP Certified Public Accountants. The term of the contract was for the three fiscal years of 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 with the option to extend two additional years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

DISCUSSION:

The District is required to have an annual audit per California Government Code Section 26909. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) best practice recommends:

“Governmental entities should enter into multiyear agreements of at least five years in duration when obtaining the services of independent auditors. Such multiyear agreements can take a variety of different forms (e.g., a series of single-year contracts), consistent with applicable legal requirements. Such agreements allow for greater continuity and help to minimize the potential for disruption in connection with the independent audit. Multiyear agreements can also help to reduce audit costs by allowing auditors to recover certain “startup” costs over several years, rather than over a single year.”

Davis Farr, LLP has performed professionally and reliably and has provided a high quality of work during the last three fiscal years. They also assisted the District in transforming the basic financial statements to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for which the District was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA.

The total fees for audit services to Davis Farr, LLP over the last three fiscal years have been \$72,650 which was an approximate savings of \$12,200 over the previous auditors of the District. The contract extension states that the fixed audit fees for the next two years will increase by a nominal 2% per year for a total of \$51,390 as detailed below.

DESCRIPTION	AUDIT FEE		
	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	Total
Audit of Financial Statements	\$25,440	\$25,950	\$51,390

Staff met with the Finance and Investment Committee (Committee) on March 22, 2021, and based on the information provided above, requested that the Committee recommend the Board of Directors consider approving a contract extension with DavisFarr Certified Public Accountants to provide audit services over the next two fiscal years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Fiscal Impact will be \$51,390 over two years which is approximately \$6,300 lower than the previous auditors of the District. Staff budgets for audit fees in each year's operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff and the Finance and Investment Committee recommend executing the two 1-year options with DavisFarr Certified Public Accountants to the full Board of Directors and request that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into a two-year agreement to extend the contract with DavisFarr Certified Public Accountants for audit services.

DATE: APRIL 7, 2021
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
**SUBJECT: REFUNDED PROCEEDS FROM THE RESOLUTION OF THE LAWSUITS
BETWEEN SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

BACKGROUND:

The San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) has filed numerous lawsuits against Metropolitan Water District (MWD) regarding the legality of MWD's rate setting process. The illegal rate setting alleged by CWA spans many years and involves several facets of rate setting. The primary component of the lawsuits is that CWA believes MWD did not have the legal authority to charge its Water Stewardship Rate (WSR) on CWA's independent Colorado River water supplies being transported by MWD. The WSR is a charge MWD places on water supply costs to fund programs that provide incentives for MWD member agencies to develop local water supplies.

The lawsuits filed by CWA span the years 2011 through 2020. MWD prepares biannual budgets and rate settings. The first two lawsuits by CWA covered the first two two-year rate setting cycles, covering the time period from 2011 through 2014. The lawsuits that cover the years 2015 through 2020 have been stayed by the courts and have yet to be tried.

In January 2021, the San Francisco Superior Court ruled the San Diego County Water Authority is the prevailing party in the agency's first two lawsuits. The order entitles the Water Authority to recover its attorneys' fees and costs in those cases, in addition to a \$44.4 million damage and interest award. The determination of attorney's fees is still to be determined, but the \$44.4M damage award has been paid to CWA.

At its February 2021 Board meeting, the CWA Board voted to return the \$44.4M to its Member Agencies. The funds were directed to be allocated based on the water purchases made by the Member Agencies during the 2011 through 2014 time period. Vallecitos' share of the award was determined to be \$1,590,623.74. CWA wire transferred the funds to Vallecitos on Thursday, March 4, 2021.

At the March 17, 2021 meeting, the Vallecitos Board heard a presentation on this matter from staff. In addition to the background detailed above, the Board was presented with options on how the funds could be used. After significant discussion, the Board directed staff to place an item on the March 22, 2021, Finance Committee agenda to allow the committee members to discuss the issue and provide recommendations.

The item was presented at the Finance Committee meeting on March 22. Staff summarized the background on the project and discussed possible ways to utilize the refunded amount. Staff also provided estimates for amounts to be refunded to customers, should the District select that option. The Finance Committee's recommendation was to refund the entire amount to current customers as a credit on the customers' bills, with a

note on the bill clearly stating that the credit is a result of the refund from the CWA/MWD lawsuits.

DISCUSSION:

The transferred funds have been placed in the District's Water Replacement Reserves. In general, the returned money would need to be used in a manner that would benefit the fund which paid the money to MWD. One of CWA's largest budget items is water supply costs. Those costs, which include the costs from MWD, are factored into the water rates CWA charges its Member Agencies. Similarly, the rates charged by CWA become one of Vallecitos' largest costs, which are recovered by the water rates Vallecitos charges its customers. The costs for water supply from CWA are paid from the Water Replacement Fund.

Most costs paid from the Water Replacement Fund would be allowable uses for the returned funds. These costs include, but are not limited to:

- Operating costs, including personnel, electricity, materials, supplies, etc.
- Water purchase costs
- Water replacement capital projects
- District fleet needs
- PERS Unfunded Accrued Liability payments

The funds could not be used to pay for any wastewater-related costs or for costs associated with the Water Capacity Fund. That account is funded by developer fees, which were not used to purchase the water which led to the lawsuit.

The most straightforward way to use the funds would be to offset the CWA water supply costs in the coming budget cycle. In this manner, the revenue requirement could be reduced by the amount of the funds received from CWA. This would have the benefit of mitigating future water rate increases. Using the returned money in this fashion would benefit the group that provided the revenue in the first place.

At the Finance Committee meeting, staff presented an option that would benefit current customers but would not result in an immediate refund/credit. If the refund was used to defray future water purchase costs from CWA, then each customer would realize a benefit on future water bills from the reduction in water purchase costs. The District anticipates purchasing approximately 6.1 million units of water from CWA this year. If the refund amount of \$1,590,623.74 were spread over all those units equally, then the purchase price of each unit of water could be reduced by approximately \$0.26/unit. A typical single family home uses 13 units of water per month. Over the course of one year, a typical customer would realize \$40.68 in reduced costs. Higher water users would receive greater refunds. This could show up on the bill as a temporary credit per unit of water which would expire at the end of one year. The total amount of money that would be used to defray future water costs would depend upon the amount of water sold over the next year.

The Board can also consider providing refunds or rebates directly to customers. This approach proves to be very complicated because the District would need to determine which customers are eligible for refunds and in what amounts.

Consistent with the recommendation from the Finance Committee, there are several methods to provide refunds to current District customers:

Method 1: Split the refund proceeds evenly amongst all current District customers. The District currently has 21,937 active meters. Splitting the refunded amount of \$1,590,623.74 evenly across those meters would result in an estimated refund of \$72.51 per account. This would be a one-time refund. Because this does not represent a proportional allocation of the refund based on customer usage, staff does not support this method.

Method 2: Split the refund proceeds amongst all current District customers in a manner that generally reflects each customers' contribution to District revenue, based on the size of the meter assigned to the account. Each customer has a meter that was sized to deliver the expected demands that customer would place on the system. Customers with similar sized meters would be expected to have similar water demands and would be expected to have similar water bills. The District uses a method called Meter Equivalents to compare larger meters to the standard residential meters. A typical single-family home would have a meter equivalence of one. Larger meters would have meter equivalents of greater than one. Figure 1 below includes a table showing standard meter sizes and their associated meter equivalents. Multiplying the meter equivalent by the number of meters of that size across all meter sizes gives an overall Meter Equivalent number of 28,832. The Board will note that the total Meter Equivalent number is significantly greater than the total number of meters. Using the Meter Equivalents number in the calculation results in an estimated refund of \$55.16 per Meter Equivalent. Figure 1 below shows the estimated amount of refund by meter size.

FIGURE 1 – METER EQUIVALENTS

Meter Size	5/8" & 3/4"	1"	1 1/2"	2"	3"	4"	6"	10"
Meter Equivalent	1	1.5	4	6.5	10	15	30	70
# Meters by Size	19,480	1,077	766	548	32	18	15	1
Total MEs	19,480	1,616	3,064	3,562	320	270	450	70
Refund/account	\$ 55.16	\$82.74	\$220.64	\$358.54	\$551.60	\$827.40	\$1,654.80	\$3,861.20

Method 3: Split the refund proceeds amongst all current District customers in a manner that reflects their actual financial contribution over a specified time period. For example, each current customers' account can be analyzed to determine how much in water revenue they have contributed over the past year. Each customer would then get a refund in proportion to the percentage of their overall contribution. This method would require a significant amount of staff time. Some customers would not have twelve months of data. Additionally, the Board would need to determine if customers were eligible for refunds

based on amounts billed or amounts paid. Due to the administrative complexities associated with this method, it is not recommended by staff.

Any of the three methods described above could result in either direct payments to the customers or in credits to the customer accounts. Issuing direct payments to customers would require the issuance of individual checks. Processing costs for each check are approximately eight dollars. Given the number of customer accounts, it would cost approximately \$175,000 to issue refund checks. Providing the refunds to customers as a credit on their next bill would be much easier and less costly, allowing more of the refunded amount to be distributed to the customers. If the Board opts to provide refunds to the customers, staff recommends that it be done as a credit on the account, with accompanying information clearly describing the reason for the credit and the Board's decision to refund the amounts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The CWA-provided refund of \$1,590,623.74 was not anticipated in the current budget cycle. As staff prepares the FY 21/22 budget, these funds could directly reduce the amount of money needed in the budget. Refunding/crediting the proceeds to existing customers would have no net impact on the current or proposed budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Finance Committee recommends providing a one-time credit toward all current customers in a manner to be determined by the Board. Staff recommends the Board discuss the CWA refund and provide staff direction.

DATE: APRIL 7, 2021
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUBJECT: COVID FINANCIAL REPORTING PRESENTATION

BACKGROUND:

The COVID pandemic has had far reaching impacts on society and has resulted in significant changes in how businesses and citizens act. Of particular interest to Vallecitos is how those societal changes may affect District operations and finances. In preparing the FY2021 budget, staff developed a series of assumptions to estimate the financial impact that COVID may have on the District.

Several discussions have taken place with the Finance Committee and the Board in conjunction with the budget development regarding metrics that could be developed and tracked to determine the accuracy of the assumptions made in the preparation of the budget. Staff committed to providing updates of the financial tracking metrics to the Board.

DISCUSSION:

Staff will be providing an update on the financial tracking metrics at the April 7, 2021, Board meeting. The information provided will reflect conditions up to March 31, 2021. This is the ninth month in which information can be compared to the assumptions developed for the FY2021 budget. Because it is the ninth month of the Fiscal Year, we are beginning to identify trending patterns in the data and those trends indicate no need for any budget-related course corrections. Subsequent months will continue to determine the direction in which certain metrics are trending and enable the Board and staff to utilize those trends in preparing the upcoming budget for FY2022.

It is important to note that several of the indicators/metrics have a built-in time lag, meaning the data presented does not necessarily reflect the results for the month in which the data is presented. For example, when staff reports in March on water sales, the data will be for February billings, which reflect January usage. This time lag is important when the District is trying to correlate the data it compiles with how society is reacting to COVID-related restrictions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with receiving the staff presentation. The information provided will enable the District to determine how well the data compares to the estimates upon which the Fiscal Year 2021 budget was prepared.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the staff presentation and provide direction as appropriate.

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER

MAY 12 - 13



MAY 12 - 13

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER



With the theme, *“Navigating a New Future Together,”* we encourage you to join us for **ACWA’s 2021 Spring Virtual Conference & Exhibition** to hear the latest developments on local, statewide and federal water issues during these unique times.

As with all ACWA conferences, this event also strengthens ACWA’s role as the leading voice in California water issues for more than a century, a historic role that depends on the knowledge, expertise and collaboration between our member agencies.

Keynote speakers and expert panelists will deliver insights into our industry that you cannot find anywhere else. Meanwhile, a virtual Exhibit Hall will showcase innovative products and services that may offer your organization the solution that you’ve been seeking. Additionally, continuing education credits will be available for legal, energy, financial and drinking water operator professionals. Virtual Networking Lounges will also allow you to meet your colleagues in a live Zoom space and hear from fellow water professionals throughout California.

If ACWA stands for anything, it stands for collaboration. This quality drives our success at coalition building, which will again prove essential in 2021. At the heart of ACWA’s success is the fundamental commitment to working together as a vast and diverse membership of local water agencies to find creative solutions to the challenges of the day.

I am very optimistic that this will be our last virtual conference, with our first in-person conference since late 2019 planned for Pasadena. However, with another consequential year ahead of us in California water, I strongly encourage you to join me and your colleagues at **ACWA’s 2021 Spring Virtual Conference & Exhibition, May 12-13**, to connect, learn and engage.

Register TODAY at www.acwa.com!

Steve LaMar
ACWA Board President

CYBER SECURITY EXPERT TO KEYNOTE ON WEDNESDAY



BOB FLORES
Founder & President
Applicology Inc.

Among the impressive lineup of California water leaders that have been invited to provide keynote presentations, Cyber Security Expert Bob Flores will be joining us on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Flores is the Founder and President of Applicology Incorporated and an advisor to several early-stage technology companies. Prior to starting Applicology, Mr. Flores spent 31 years at the Central Intelligence Agency where he held various positions including Directorate of Intelligence, Support and Operations as well as the CIA's first enterprise Chief Technology Officer. He is an independent consultant specializing in informatics and cyber security issues.

You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to hear first-hand experience from a cyber security expert!

Check the ACWA website for updated conference information.
WWW.ACWA.COM

"The health and safety of our members and employees is our highest priority. There is no such thing as a tolerable level of risk in this area. At the same time, we can approach planning a third virtual conference with a high degree of confidence in our ability to deliver an invaluable experience for attendees."

Dave Eggerton
ACWA Executive Director

WEDNESDAY - MAY 12 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Programs are subject to change without notice.

10:00 AM

Attorneys Program

Developments in Proposition 218 and the Law of Water Rates

Water rates are under continuing legal attack throughout the state. Retail water suppliers must collect and fairly allocate the costs of service among their ratepayers, and even well-designed plans may come under attack from disgruntled users and their often entrepreneurial attorneys – who take the cases on contingency and bet on being able to collect their fees from the retailer. A class action case filed against 81 water retailers last year brought the threat of these suits and their financial impact into sharp focus. And recent case law proves to be a mixed bag for water agencies. This program will examine the impact of recent legal decisions, the threats posed by certain current cases, recent and proposed legislation affecting rate setting and collections, and propose some practical steps retailers might consider to reduce the risks of Prop. 218 challenges.



This program has been approved by the State Bar of California for attorneys to receive general MCLE credits.

Federal Issues Forum

Navigate changing drought and water supply conditions, climate change, and the implementation of infrastructure legislation with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Federal Issues Forum will dive into the new Biden Administration's priorities, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA), and other important items.

Finance / Local Government Forum

Addressing Financial Impacts of COVID-19 on Disadvantaged Communities

Everything from facilitating in-person cash payments to addressing unpaid utility bills has drastically changed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn from the experts around the state what strategies you might be able to implement for your ratepayers and how to address their unique challenges. This discussion will also cover latest information on COVID-19 emergency relief funding to help with financial impacts related to water service.



CPAs may receive continuing education credit by attending this program.

1:30 PM

Communications Program

Applying 2020 Lessons Learned to Future Communication Strategies

As the state emerges from the COVID-19 shutdown, learn how communicators are adapting to what's becoming a hybrid world and continuing to utilize video production, video conferencing and web resources to engage with customers. Hear how the lessons learned during 2020 have permanently altered how we keep customers informed and discover what public agency communications could look like in the future.

Human Resources Forum

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Why It Matters for Leaders

This interactive session presents the foundational understanding and importance of diversity, equity and inclusion. Leaders will explore unconscious bias and how it impacts their environment and work relationships with colleagues and staff. They will discover how their own values, culture and experiences affect interactions with colleagues, attitudes about work, and understanding of workplace values. Leaders will gain a deeper understanding of their role in promoting a diverse and inclusive work environment.

Statewide Issue Forum

California's Forest and Wildfire Resilience Plan

Wildfires have become more frequent and severe as our climate has changed, and urgent action is needed to address the state's undermanaged forested lands. Last year was the most destructive fire year on record in California; over four million acres were burned and countless structures and homes were lost. As a state, we cannot continue to delay investments in forest health while we wait for the next catastrophic wildfire.

Last year, California signed an agreement with the federal government for shared stewardship of California's forest and rangelands, in which each party has committed to a goal of reducing wildfire risks on 500,000 acres of forest land per year. This year, the Governor's Forest Management Task Force released a comprehensive Forest and Wildfire Resilience Action Plan that will serve as a roadmap for implementing that agreement. In this discussion, hear from those responsible for the implementation of this ambitious plan.

WEDNESDAY - MAY 12 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Contact Hours may be available for qualifying programs.

3:00 PM

Region Issue Forum

Collaboration and Regional Planning: How to Achieve Large-Scale Water Projects on a Small-Scale Budget

Presented by ACWA Region 1

This program explores the work of the North Coast Resource Partnership, a long-term water management coalition of Northern California Tribes, counties and diverse stakeholders working together on a variety of integrated projects to enhance water security, water system infrastructure, watershed and forest health, and local economies in California's north coast region. Learn about the North Coast Resource Partnership's background and its work to ensure clean and reliable drinking water supplies, energy independence, climate adaptation and economic strength in the region. Panelists will discuss the collaborative process needed to achieve the partnership's work, as well its successes and lessons learned.

Statewide Issue Forum

Water Rights and Preparing for the Next Drought

Due to another dry winter, drought and the possibility of curtailments are on water managers' minds. Hear from the State Water Resources Control Board on how they are approaching drought this year and what the water community can expect.



This program has been approved by the State Bar of California for attorneys to receive general MCLE credits.

Water Industry Trends

PFAS Standards: Federal and State Outlook

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination threatens safe drinking water everywhere. PFAS are a group of manmade chemicals that do not break down and accumulate over time in both the environment and the human body – gaining them the nickname “forever chemicals.” Exposure to high levels of PFAS can lead to adverse health effects. Efforts to combat these contaminants is taking place on both the federal and state level with California on the frontline. Hear from federal and state speakers on how they are working to address PFAS in our drinking water and what to expect in the future.

VIRTUAL

ACWA REGION MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

MAY 5 - 6, 2021

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

to receive updates on the latest Region activities, ACWA Committees, as well as hear from ACWA Leadership on statewide priorities. You can also provide your feedback and input on regional and statewide topics and help guide the region activities for the coming year.

All programs are subject to change without notice.

Lookout for registration information in your email.

THURSDAY - MAY 13 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Contact Hours may be available for qualifying programs.

9:00 AM

Region Issue Forum

Wildfire Recovery and Managing Public Expectations

Presented by ACWA Region 4

ACWA Region 4 will host a region issue forum that will highlight the significant impact the LNU Lightning Complex Wildfire had on five of the Solano Irrigation District's public water systems. The panel will also take a closer look at the public's expectations of a rural irrigation system built in 1960 that turned into a public water system in 2020.

Statewide Issue Forum

Achieving the Voluntary Agreements

Public water agencies across California embrace the Voluntary Agreements as the best approach to improving the California Bay-Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability. Since the California Natural Resources Agency and Environmental Protection Agency presented a framework for potential Voluntary Agreements in early 2020, stakeholders continue to work to overcoming some of the remaining obstacles. With the potential to achieve meaningful solutions for one of the state's most complex water management challenges, this panel will explore the path to success and what lies ahead.

Water Industry Trends / Energy

CARB Advanced Clean Fleet Rule Implications for Water Agencies

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is developing a medium and heavy-duty (greater than 8500 lbs) zero-emission fleet rule with the goal of maximizing zero-emission trucks and buses in California by 2045 everywhere feasible. California has

long held ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and views the transportation sector as a frontier for emissions reductions because it is the largest emitter. Public fleets, including water agency fleets, are included in this rule and will likely be subject to purchase requirements on new fleet vehicles as early as 2024. Tune into this very timely panel discussion to hear about the development of this rule and how it will impact purchase decisions for water agencies.



This program may count toward the Certified Energy Manager (CEM) continuing education credit.

10:30 AM

Region Issue Forum

Regional Collaboration Works: MWD's Regional Recycled Water Program

Presented by ACWA Region 8

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are working together on a large-scale program to develop recycled water as a new, much-needed potable source to the region. With planning in the works since 2009, an undertaking as extensive as the Regional Recycled Water Program involves equally extensive regional coordination and evaluation. Beyond providing an additional water source for Southern California, the program will ensure reliability, sustainability, and flexibility in future expansion of the water supply through raw water augmentation for many throughout the Los Angeles region.

For updated information, check:

WWW.ACWA.COM

Finance Forum

Utility Operational Reviews: Why Do One and What to Expect?

This presentation will look at utility operational reviews and delve into the common reasons that boards and executive leadership choose to do them, such as developing solid information before launching a strategic planning effort; reassuring ratepayers that the utility is run efficiently; or wanting to compare with peer agencies. The discussion will include common areas typically analyzed during operational reviews, such as organizational structure; financial metrics; complexity of operations; quality of preventative maintenance systems; capital budgeting; rate setting policies; debt ratios; customer satisfaction; internal and external communications; and meter to cash systems. The panel will also examine typical areas in which utilities do well and areas that need improvement.

The presentation will include a specific case study of a recent operational audit conducted for the City of Corona Water, Wastewater and Electric Utilities. The panel will include representatives of the City of Corona as well as members of the consultant project team.



CPAs may receive continuing education credit by attending this program.

Statewide Issue Forum

Reconciling the Regulatory Overlap of Groundwater Programs

SGMA, CV SALTS, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, and more: While these groundwater programs were developed over time to address various issues, some of their requirements have begun to look similar, and they sometimes impose overlapping requirements. Join us for this panel to learn how agencies are reconciling this complex web of requirements.



This program has been approved by the State Bar of California for attorneys to receive general MCLE credits.

MAY 12 - 13

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER



Wednesday - May 12, 2021



The programs qualify for continuing education credit.

CONFERENCE OPENING

9:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Steve LaMar, ACWA President
Dave Eggerton, ACWA Executive Director

Sponsor Remarks

2021 ACWA Awards

Clair Hill, Excellence in Water Leadership,
Undergraduate Scholarship

ACWA JPIA Presentation

Opening Keynote

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:00 AM



Attorney Forum

Developments in
Proposition 218 and the
Law of Water Rates

Federal Issue Forum



Finance/Local Government Forum

Addressing Financial
Impacts of COVID-19
on Disadvantaged
Communities

11:00 AM

NETWORKING LOUNGE

11:30 AM

CHAT ROOMS



"Get to Know H2O" Trivia
Gen Jam
Drought Messaging



VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

Learn about innovative
products and services!

EXHIBITOR PRESENTATIONS

12:00 PM

Demo 1
TBA

Demo 2
TBA

Demo 3
TBA

12:30 PM

Demo 4
TBA

Demo 5
TBA

Demo 6
TBA

MAY 12 - 13

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER



Wednesday - May 12, 2021 (CONTINUED)



The programs qualify for continuing education credit.

1:00 PM

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

Bob Flores, CEO, Applicology Inc.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:30 PM

Communications Forum

Applying 2020 Lessons Learned to Future Communication Strategies

Human Resources Forum

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Why It Matters for Leaders

Statewide Issue Forum

California's Forest and Wildfire Resilience Plan

2:30 PM



NETWORKING LOUNGE

Connect with friends, peers and industry leaders!



VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

Learn about innovative products and services!

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:00 PM

Region Issue Forum

Collaboration and Regional Planning: How to Achieve Large-Scale Water Projects on a Small-Scale Budget
Presented by Region 1



Statewide Issue Forum

Water Rights and Preparing for the Next Drought

Water Industry Trends

PFAS Standards: Federal and State Outlook

4:00 PM



Under the Sea with ACWA

A private behind-the-scenes virtual tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium

MAY 12 - 13

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER



Thursday - May 13, 2021



The programs qualify for continuing education credit.

8:30 AM



SIP + STRETCH Sponsored by waterTALENT

Start your morning with wellness and a cup of coffee! Join us for a guided stretch session and if you register now, the first 500 paid conference registrants will receive a Starbucks gift card.

9:00 AM

DAY 2 OPENING

Opening Remarks

Pam Tobin, ACWA Vice President

Keynote

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:30 AM

Region Issue Forum

Wildfire Recovery and Managing Public Expectations

Presented by Region 4

Statewide Issue Forum

Achieving the Voluntary Agreements



Water Industry Trends / Energy

CARB Advanced Clean Fleet Rule Implications for Water Agencies

10:30 AM



Finance Forum

Utility Operational Reviews - Why Do One and What to Expect?

Region Issue Forum

Regional Collaboration Works: MWD's Regional Recycled Water Program

Presented by Region 8



Statewide Issue Forum

Reconciling the Regulatory Overlap of Groundwater Programs

11:30 AM

CONFERENCE CLOSING

Closing Keynote

Closing Remarks

Steve LaMar, ACWA President

VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

REACH DECISION MAKERS IN THE WATER COMMUNITY!

ACWA's successful virtual conference includes a virtual Exhibit Hall and virtual networking opportunities!

What's Happening in the Hall...



Dedicated Exhibit Hall Time

Visit vendors from around the U.S. whose products and services may offer you just the right solutions for your agency.



One-on-One Time with Exhibitors

While visiting a virtual booth, you can chat directly with an exhibitor and/or schedule meetings for a more in-depth conversation.



Exhibitor Demonstrations

Check out the virtual exhibitor demos! Join select exhibitors for a 30-minute demonstration to learn about their products and services. Check the conference agenda for details on times and the topics of discussion.



WIN PRIZES!!

The virtual Exhibit Hall offers multiple ways for attendees to win prizes!

Exhibitor Passport Stamps

Visit participating virtual booths and answer questions to obtain stamps in a virtual exhibit hall passport. Earn stamps in your virtual Exhibit Hall passport for a chance to win prizes!

Schedule Virtual Meetings with Exhibitors

Meet with participating exhibitors for chances to win!

Watch Exhibitor Demos

Watch the Exhibitor Demonstrations from start to finish for a chance to win.

Fill out the polling questions.

Answer the most polling questions in the booths to win a prize.



VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

Learn about innovative products and services!

PREMIUM Virtual Booth Elements & Specifications:

Video Streaming Playback:
Format: Provide up to 5 mp4 files and a Title for each

Video Background Image:
Format: 1920px by 878px
File Type: jpeg, png
Best Practice: Landscape, simple graphic to complement the video over it. It can also be a background color.

Exhibitor Logo:
Format: 250px by 250px minimum
File Type: png, jpg, eps
Best Practice: Provide a transparent logo

Company Description:
Word Limit: No word limit but keep it to a couple of paragraphs long

Downloadable Files & Links to Company Content:
Provide url links and PDF files and what you want to name each file. Up to 5 files.

Company Contact Info & Social Media Links

Passport Game:
Provide a Question and 4 answer choices and correct Answer

Photo Gallery/Slideshow:
Format: 800px by 450px
File Type: png, jpg, eps
Landscape and up to 10 images

Booth Staff Contact Info & Social Media Links

Chat/Interactive Tool:
Provide information to Virtual Event Producer (surveys, questions, etc.), 1-3 polling questions.

One-on-One Scheduled Video/Audio Appointments:
Provide available day and time

Exhibit Gamification

Passport Game drives booth visitation usually tied to drawings or giveaways.





NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Networking Lounge

Connect with friends, peers, and industry leaders through the Networking Lounge - a chat room with the ability to invite up to 10 people into video conference all without ever leaving the conference site.

Chat Rooms

Join your colleagues in one of these topic-themed chat rooms!

- **"Get to Know H2O" Trivia**

Want to have some fun? Put on your water thinking caps and join ACWA's Stacey Siqueiros for a fun game of ACWA Trivia. Topics will delve deep into your ACWA and water knowledge so come prepared to show how well you know H2O! Winner will win a \$50 Amazon gift card.

- **Gen Jam**

Whether you're an established leader, or next generation water professional; this chat session is your opportunity to make new connections and learn about leadership program opportunities, designed to strengthen the next generation of water professionals. We hope you can join us!

- **Drought Messaging**

As California heads into its second consecutive dry year, local water suppliers are sharing information with customers about local investments in drought resiliency while promoting long-term water efficiency and, in some cases, communicating about mandatory conservation. Agencies know that water supplies can vary significantly throughout the state, making communications complicated. Tia Lebherz with California Water Efficiency Partnership and Mike Wade with California Farm Water Coalition share their advice on how urban and agricultural agencies can best communicate drought messaging.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

EXCLUSIVE PARTNER

ACWA JPIA

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Black & Veatch Corporation

CDM Smith

Citrus Heights Water District

Eastern Municipal Water District

Irvine Ranch Water District

Jacobs

J. Mack Enterprises, Inc.

Mesa Water District

Provost & Pritchard
Consulting Group

SCV Water Agency

Stantec

United Water
Conservation District

waterTALENT LLC

West Basin
Municipal Water District

Yuba Water Agency

*For more information
about sponsorship,
contact Stacey Siqueiros
at StaceyS@acwa.com*

Sponsors listed as of 3/25/2021



Under the Sea with ACWA

A private behind-the-scenes virtual tour
of the Monterey Bay Aquarium

Join us **LIVE!**

Wednesday, May 12

4:00 PM