



# Ventura County Special Districts Association

## VCSDA MEETING MINUTES

Approved  
Approved:  
Date:  
Motion: \_\_\_  
Second: \_\_\_

### Tuesday, August 2, 2022 In-Person/Videoconference Via Zoom

#### VENTURA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS

##### MEMBERS

- Bell Canyon Community Services
- Calleguas Municipal Water
- Camarillo Health Care  
Camrosa Water
- Casitas Municipal Water
- Conejo Recreation & Park
- Hidden Valley Municipal Water
- Ojai Valley Sanitary
- Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor
- Pleasant Valley County Water
- Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks
- Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks
- Saticoy Sanitary
- Triunfo Water and Sanitation District
- United Water Conservation
- Ventura County Resource Conservation
- Ventura Regional Sanitation
- Ventura River Water
- Ventura Port

The August 2, 2022 meeting of the Ventura County Special District Association was held in person at United Water Conservation District in Oxnard and via Zoom videoconference.

#### 1. and 2. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35p.m. President Dandy asked Vice President Fox to lead the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL: President Dandy

President Dandy welcomed everyone to the meeting and then called roll: Members in attendance included: (12 of 20 Districts participating)

**Bell Canyon Community Services:** Geoff Abedee, Richard Levy, Dennis Zine

**Calleguas Municipal Water:** Andreas Santamaria, Raul Avila, Kara Wade

**Camarillo Health Care:** Kara Ralston, Sonia Amezcua, Brandie Thomas

**Camrosa Water:** Al and Cindy Fox, Ian Pritchard

**Casitas Municipal Water:** Rebekah Viera

**Conejo Recreation and Park:** Charles Huffer, Nellie Kerr/Cusworth, George Lange

**Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor:** Mary Anne Rooney

**Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks:** Elaine Magner, Mark Malloy, Mary Otten

**Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks:** Dan Paranick, Elaine Freeman, Katie O'Brien

**United Water Conservation District:** Bruce Dandy, Daniel Naumann, Zachary Plummer, Kris Sofley

**Ventura Port District:** Brian Pendleton

#### Members of the Public participating in the meeting included:

Charlotte Holifield, CSDA

Jacqui McMillan, Metropolitan Water District

Bob Nast, Channel Islands Beach Community Services District

#### 4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of June 7 2022

VCSDA Secretary Kris Sofley advised the President of two minor corrections to the minutes, correcting the abbreviation of Education Relief Assistance Fund from ERAP to ERAF and correcting Mike Malloy to Mark Malloy as presenter of the County oversight plan.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the June 7, 2022 membership meeting with corrections, Brian Pendleton; Second, Elaine Magner. Voice vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion carries unanimously.

Continues...

President—Bruce Dandy

Vice President—Al Fox

Treasurer—

Secretary to the Board—Kris Sofley

## 5. District Update - Camrosa Water District

Camrosa Water District's Assistant General Manager Ian Pritchard provided a comprehensive overview of Camrosa Water District, focusing on current drought conditions and the Governor's Executive Order to conserve water. He expressed the need to transmute fear into curiosity in an effort to devise solutions to climate change and sustained periods of drought and pointed to the tenacity of Special Districts in seeking solutions. Mr. Pritchard addressed the current reductions required in residential and commercial water use, steps to take in building self-reliance, and also discussed a number of various projects that need to be built fast and begin operating.

Mark Malloy recommended that everyone attend a tour of Camrosa Water District. President Dandy expressed his appreciation for Mr. Pritchard's update.

6. Guest Speaker Assistant County Clerk-Recorder and Ventura county Clerk-Recorder Elect Michelle Ascencion had to cancel her presentation due to illness.

President Dandy introduced United Water Conservation District's General Counsel David Boyer, a partner at Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo. Mr. Boyer said he was asking for support letters from the various districts to the California Supreme Court regarding UWCD's Petition for Review in the City of San Buenaventura v. UWCD lawsuit. He provided an overview of the case and ruling that cited sections of California's Water Code as unconstitutional and how this ruling adversely impacts all Special Districts by conflating Prop 218 and Prop 26 reasonable relationship and precise proportionality. He added that ACWA, CSDA, Metropolitan Water District, Pleasant Valley County Water District, and the CA School Board Association have all provided letters supporting UWCD's Petition for Review.

Motion to provide a letter of support for UWCD and encourage the CA Supreme Court to review the ruling in the City of San Buenaventura v UWCD case, Elaine Freeman; Second, Al Fox. President Dandy recused himself from the vote, but would be a co-signer of the letter with VP Al Fox. Roll call vote: Bell Canyon CSD aye; Calleguas MWD aye; Camarillo Health Care—abstain (no Board members present to vote); Casitas MWD—abstain (no board members present to vote); Channel Island Beach CSD aye; Conejo Recreation and Park aye; Oxnard Harbor aye; Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park aye; Rancho Simi Recreation and Park aye; UWCD abstain; Ventura Port aye. Nine (9) in favor of support letter; none against; three abstaining. Motion carries 9/0/3.

## 7. Treasurer's Report—Brian Pendleton

Mr. Pendleton reported that the June and July balance sheets were distributed to the membership (and copies were available at the meeting). He also reported the VCSDA's 2021 tax return has been filed.

## 8. Reports and Announcements

- **CSDA Report** - Director Magner (Coastal Network Board Member) reported on various meetings and updates on CSDA activities and reminded all of the annual conference in Palm Desert August 22-25, and drew attention to the event's mascot, Frankie Flamingo. She added that she and President Dandy would be attending the special Chapter Roundtable and would have more to report about the event at the next meeting.

- **CSDA Update** - Charlotte Holifield

Ms. Holifield reminded members that the CSDA offers scholarships to attend the annual conference. The CSDA is also accepting ideas for future legislative proposals and you can learn more on the CSDA website as well as read the mid-year legislative report. She also congratulated Mr. Pendleton of Ventura Port District for earning the CSDA Certificate of Transparency. She also announced that Hugh Rafferty of Santa Maria Airport District steps in as the new board member for the Coastal Network, and takes office January 24.

Continues....

- **Legislative Update**- Director Freeman reminded members that all bills will be out of the legislature on August 31 and the Governor has one month to sign, veto or let the bills languish. There will be no policy meetings between August 15 and 31 as the two year session wraps up before the last day of the session on August 31. She then provided updates on some of the bills that CSDA was advocating for and against.

- **LAFCo Update**- Director Feeman reported the July 20 meeting including a public hearing on LAFCo's Conflict of Interest code and Executive Director Kai Luoma discussed achievement award applications and public records act requests. The September meeting was canceled and the next meeting will be in October.

George Lange asked about the continuing discussion on the public records act and Commissioner Mary Anne Rooney stated that the Board directed staff to add section to the LAFCo handbook indicating that LAFCo staff would handle public records requests and that LAFCo would adopt the County's policy and procedures, but that it was all very confusing.

Elaine Freeman's term of office is expiring and the LAFCo Special District Board seat, which is an alternate Director, is up for re-election.

- **County Oversight Update**—Director Mark Malloy reported there was no meeting of the County Oversight to report on.

- **Other Announcements**— President Dandy announced that there would be an accounting of the 2022-23 Unpaid Dues at the October meeting.

**9. Associate Membership Dues— Motion Treasurer** Brian Pendleton and President Bruce Dandy asked for a motion to approve Associate Member dues of \$150 per year and reminded the membership that there has been one request for an Associate Membership rate. Mr. Pendleton summarized the VCSDA Bylaws which provide for an Associate membership but leave the question of the rate for that membership open. He added that Associate members cannot vote and cannot hold office. Commissioner Rooney stated that the suggested Associate Membership provides benefits from being able to network with Special Districts and the rate should be higher because of the access membership provides. She encouraged a higher dues rate for associate memberships. Motion to establish an Associate Membership (whether for individual or organization) dues rate of double the regular membership dues or \$300 per year; Second, Elaine Freeman. President Dandy clarified that the Associate Membership doesn't address any individual, so the Associate Membership would be applicable to either a corporation or an individual. Roll call vote: Bell Canyon CSD aye; Calleguas MWD aye; Camarillo Health Care—abstain (no Board members present to vote); Casitas MWD—abstain (no board members present to vote); Channel Island Beach CSD aye; Conejo Recreation and Park aye; Oxnard Harbor aye; Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park aye; Rancho Simi Recreation and Park aye; UWCD aye; Ventura Port aye. Ten (10) in favor of \$300 Associate Membership annual dues rate; none against; two abstaining. Motion carries 10/0/2.

**10. New Business/ Member Announcements** George Lange announced that Conejo Recreation and Park District would be celebrating its 60th anniversary. Vice President Fox announced that as of August 18 he would be resigning from the Camrosa Water District Board and that the VCSDA will need to find a new Vice President. Director Magner announced that the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park Foundation was hosting a fundraising event on August 19 and that she would send the Clerk information to be forwarded to all of the members.

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President Dandy stated that he was looking for volunteers to host the October 4 Membership meeting. He added that at the October meeting, he would be looking for form a Committee for recruiting future Board candidates, with an election in December and installation in February 2023. He will also be naming the Awards Committee for the February 2023 GM of the Year and District of the Year award presentations. President Dandy then adjourned the meeting at 7:25p.m. to the next VCSDA meeting **on October 4, 2022.**

**Respectfully submitted**

*Kris Sofley*

Kris Sofley, Secretary to VCSDA