

**BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

February 24, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Bella Vista Water District was held at the District Office Boardroom on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Any member of the public may speak during Public Comment or may email public comments to csartori@bvwd.org and comments will be read from each member of the public. The District will use best efforts to swiftly resolve requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations with individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and resolving any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

Board Members Present:

- President - Bob Nash
- Director - Frank Schabarum
- Director - Jim Smith
- Director - Ted Bambino
- Director - Guy Walters

Board Members Absent:

None

Officers and Staff Present:

- General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer - David Coxey
- Finance and Administration Manager - Christy Sartori
- Project Manager - Tom Zaharris
- District’s Legal Counsel - John Kenny

Public:

None

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 5:35 pm to discuss the following item(s):

13. Closed Session - The Board will meet with Legal Counsel in a closed session pursuant to the Government Code sections noted to discuss the following:

- 1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of litigation (Pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code section 54956.9 (d) (4)) – two potential cases

We are an equal opportunity employer and provider.

14. Reconvene to Open Session, Announce Any Action Taken in Closed Session, Adjourn

President Nash reconvened to open session at 6:22 pm and announced that direction had been provided to the General Manager and Legal Counsel.

1. Public Comment

None

2. Consent Calendar:

2-1 Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2025, Regular Meeting

2-2 Financial Reports for Month Ending January 2025

M/S: [Schabarum/Walters] The Board approved and accepted the consent calendar as amended.

AYE: Nash, Schabarum, Smith, Bambino, Walters **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

Old Business

None

New Business

3. Authorize a Freeze of Health Insurance Cap Exceedance Payroll Deductions from Represented (IBEW-1245) Employees and Non-Represented Employees Through December 2025.

The General Manager explained that he believes neither the District, the Union, nor the employees anticipated the significant double-digit increases in healthcare costs year after year. Recent experience the District has had with recruiting employees and evaluating the benefits packages offered by other public water agencies suggest that fully implementing the increased health costs would be unwise, particularly given the current staffing levels and the need for succession planning. As a result, the District's management proposes to "freeze" employee out-of-pocket expenses at the December 2023 rates, with an effective implementation date of February 1, 2025, continuing through December 31, 2025. During this period, we will explore options and alternatives for health insurance coverage that provide the best benefits and value.

M/S: [Schabarum/Smith] Authorize a freeze of health insurance cap exceedance payroll Deductions from represented (IBEW-1245) employees and non-represented employees from February 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, in accordance with the Letter Agreement attached.

AYE: Nash, Schabarum, Smith, Bambino, Walters **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

4. Authorize Contract Number 24-LC-20-3311 USBR Long-Term License Agreement for 3 MG Tank Providing Permission to Construct, Operate and Maintain a 3 MG Concrete Tank on a Portion of Reclamation Right-of-Way.

The General Manager gave a brief summary of the License as outlined in the item. A brief discussion ensued.

M/S: [Walters/Schabarum] Authorize the General Manager to execute Contract Number 24-LC-20-3311 USBR Long-Term License Agreement for 3 MG Tank Providing Permission to Construct, Operate and Maintain a 3 MG Concrete Tank on a Portion of Reclamation Right-of-Way.

AYE: Nash, Schabarum, Smith, Bambino, Walters **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

5. Annual Landowner Voting

The General Manager summarized the information in the item, indicating that the assessable area within the District that is designated for residential, industrial, or non-agricultural commercial use, or any combination of these, is currently less than 50 percent.

Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

6. Authorize Proposal from HydroCorp to Update Cross Connection Control Plan and to Provide Plan Implementation Services Including Hazard Assessments and Public Education

The General Manger explained that on December 19, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH), effective July 1, 2024. This new policy replaces previous regulations in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations and requires the District to have an approved compliant program by July 1, 2025.

Key requirements include hazard assessments, public outreach, and education. Hazard assessments consist of onsite inspections to identify and mitigate potential cross-connection hazards. This process is challenging as it necessitates customer communication, coordination and entry onto private property, which is in conflict with the District's standard practices.

The District has received two proposals from HYDROCOPR. The first is to draft a revised plan for submittal to and approval by the Division of Drinking Water. The second is to perform plan implementation beginning in the next fiscal year to perform hazard assessments, public outreach, and education and related implementation activities in coordination with the District. This proposal for five years assumes performing hazard assessments for 50% of all current Residential, Rural and Agricultural Customers and assumes the remaining assessments will occur over the following five years under a successor agreement.

M/S: [Bambino/Smith] Authorize the General Manager to accept both proposals execute both service agreements with HYDROCORP.

AYE: Nash, Schabarum, Smith, Bambino, Walters **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

7. Travel Request – ACWA JPIA Membership Summit and ACWA Spring Conference and Exposition

The General Manager stated that the Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) and the

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference and spring conference will be held May 12, 2025, to May 15, 2024, in Monterey. ACWA Conferences provide excellent and relevant information on California water issues and networking opportunities. The District's ACWA/JPIA representative, Director James Smith intends to attend at least the JPIA Membership Summit and Board of Directors meeting.

M/S: [Schabarum/Bambino] Authorize Director James Smith and any other Directors to attend the spring conference and exposition.

AYE: Nash, Schabarum, Smith, Bambino, Walters **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

8. Adoption of Resolution 25-01 Concurring in the Nomination of Melody Henriques-McDonald to the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee

The General Manager summarized the details outlined in the item and stated that the District's JPIA Representative, Director James Smith, is familiar with Ms. Henriques-McDonald and supports this request.

M/S: [Schabarum/Smith] Adopt Resolution 25-01 Concurring in the Nomination of Melody Henriques-McDonald to the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee.

AYE: Nash, Schabarum, Smith, Bambino, Walters **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

Reports and Communications

9. Water Supply and Production Update

The General Manager summarized hydrologic conditions and information related to water supply along with a graph reflecting cumulative water deliveries for the past five years. A good 2025 CVP Water Allocation is expected any day.

Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

10. Projects and Developments Report

Project Manager Tom Zaharris provided an overview of the projects and development status, and activities as outlined in the item.

Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

11. Manager's Report

The General Manager provided a report that included details regarding operations, staffing, key projects and activities, regulatory matters, calendar, and general informational items.

The General Manager informed the Board that the District's State Revolving Fund (SRF) Water Treatment Improvement Project Loan Agreement has a requirement for the District to maintain a

restricted reserve minimum balance of \$639,756 which represents two semiannual payments. In order to ensure the District continually meets this ongoing requirement, the District will make a one-time transfer of \$319,877 which represents one semiannual payment from the Contingency Fund to the Water Treatment Fund. This amount will be reimbursed to the Contingency Fund once the debt service reserve requirement for the loan is satisfied.

Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

12. Board Members' Comments and Reports

Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

