

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT
MINUTES NO. 2022 – 04**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022, via teleconference at the District office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, California.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Melissa Ramoso, *City of Artesia*
Ali Saleh, *City of Bell*
Pedro Aceituno, *City of Bell Gardens*
Sonny Santa Ines, *City of Bellflower*
Dr. Jeff Wassem, *City of Burbank*
Jim Dear, *City of Carson*
Mark Bollman, *City of Cerritos*
Leonard Mendoza, *City of Commerce*
Baru Sanchez, *City of Cudahy*
Ruth Low, *City of Diamond Bar*
Paulette Francis, *City of Gardena*
Luis Roa, *City of Hawaiian Gardens*
Leonard Pieroni, *City of La Cañada Flintridge*
Catherine Houwen, *City of La Habra Heights*
John Lewis, *City of La Mirada*
Steve Croft, *City of Lakewood*
Emily Holman, *President - City of Long Beach*
Steve Appleton, *City of Los Angeles*
Steven Goldsworthy, *Los Angeles County*
Jorge Casanova, *City of Lynwood*
Jessica Torres, *City of Maywood*
Avik Cordeiro, *City of Montebello*
Ana Valencia, *City of Norwalk*
Isabel Aguayo, *City of Paramount*
Raul Elias, *City of Pico Rivera*
Jesse H. Avila, *City of San Fernando*
Scott Kwong, *Vice President - City of San Marino*
Heidi Heinrich, *City of Santa Clarita*
Joe Angel Zamora, *City of Santa Fe Springs*
Robert Copeland, *City of Signal Hill*
Hector Delgado, *City of South El Monte*
Denise Diaz, *City of South Gate*
Jessica Martinez, *City of Whittier*

TRUSTEES ABSENT (EXCUSED)

Marylin Sanabria, *Secretary/Treasurer - City of Huntington Park*

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Robert Keifer, *City of Downey*
Vrej Agajanian, *City of Glendale*
Leticia Lopez, *City of Vernon*

OTHERS PRESENT

Susanne Klueh, *General Manager*
Steve Vetrone, *Acting Director of Scientific-Technical Services*
Mark Daniel, *Director of Operations*
Mary-Joy Coburn, *Director of Communications*
Carolyn Weeks, *Director of Fiscal Operations*
Allison Costa, *Director of Human Resources*
Anais Medina Diaz, *Public Information Officer*
Quinn Barrow, *General Counsel*

** Denotes time of late arrival (vote tallies on agenda items reflect actual Trustees present at time of vote)*

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Holman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The meeting was held via teleconference, in compliance with AB 361 in the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing.

2. QUORUM (ROLL) CALL

Following roll call, it was recorded that 33 Trustees were present and four were absent.

3. INVOCATION

President Holman asked for a moment of silence to allow those wishing to conduct an invocation/moment of prayer to do so.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Holman.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

6. INTRODUCTIONS

(Introductions requested by staff or Trustees of persons attending the meeting are made at this time).

General Manager Klueh introduced Bob Callanan from Clifton Larson Allen, LLP who will be presenting on the District's Audit Report.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

(This time is reserved for members of the public to address the Board relative to matters of business on and off the agenda. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person).

NONE

8. CONSENT AGENDA (8.1 – 8.4)

(VOTE REQUIRED)

8.1 Consideration of **Minutes 2022-03** of regular Board Meeting held on March 10th, 2022. ***(EXHIBIT A)***

8.2 Consideration of **Resolution 2022-06** Authorizing Payment of Attached Requisition March 1st through March 31st, 2022. ***(EXHIBIT B)***

8.3 Compliance with AB 361 to facilitate remote Trustee attendance at meeting during the Covid-19 pandemic ***(EXHIBIT C)***

Summary: Board reconsideration of the circumstances of the declared COVID-19 emergency to determine whether the Board should continue to hold remote meetings pursuant to AB 361's special teleconferencing requirements.

8.4 Consideration of District's FY 21/22 Goals Status Report for the third quarter.
(EXHIBIT D)

Summary: Upon adoption of the District's FY 21/22 Budget, the Board of Trustees requested a quarterly update on the status of departmental goals enumerated in the budget document.

Trustee Dear (Carson) made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Avila (San Fernando) and approved unanimously.

Yes: Artesia, Bell, Bellflower, Bell Gardens, Burbank, Carson, Cerritos, Commerce, Cudahy, Diamond Bar, Gardena, Hawaiian Gardens, La Canada Flintridge, La Habra Heights, Lakewood, La Mirada, Long Beach, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, San Fernando, San Marino, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South El Monte, South Gate, Whittier

No: NONE

Absent: Downey, Glendale, Huntington Park, Vernon

Abstain for 8.1: Santa Clarita

Yes on 8.2 – 8.4: Santa Clarita

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Audit Committee

Baru Sanchez, Chair

Presentation from auditors at Clifton Larson Allen, LLP regarding finding from District audit of FY 2020/2021 financials. **(EXHIBIT E)**

(DOCUMENTS MAY BE SENT UNDER SEPARATE COVER) (RECEIVE AND FILE)

Trustee Sanchez introduced Bob Callanan from the District's audit firm Clifton Larson Allen, LLP. Mr. Callanan provided an overview of the District's audit report. He shared the firm's opinion, which states, "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial positions of the governmental activities and each major fund of the District as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." The firm is providing a clean opinion, the highest possible rating.

There were no new changes or introductions of new accounting policies to report. The firm reported no unusual transactions and did not have any issues interacting with management through the course of the audit. The audit firm did have audit adjustments, but none were material or significant.

The audit firm reported that the District ended the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year with a fund balance of 1.7 million dollars; its OPEB liability is 75 percent funded. The OPEB liability has continued to improve since the District began funding in 2014. CLA did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and did not come across any non-compliance issues.

Trustee Sanchez shared that the committee discussed the current contract with Clifton Larson Allen, LLP because the three-year contract ended with the fiscal year 2020 - 2021. The audit committee recommended negotiating an extension of the contract. The one-year extension will come before the entire board at the next month's meeting.

10. CONSIDERATION OF RETURN TO INPERSON MEETING

(VOTE OPTIONAL)

General Manager Klueh reported that District staff are exploring ways to move the board meetings to a hybrid approach and provided examples of how that set up would look like for in-person and online attendees. General Manager Klueh shared that this approach would only be feasible if most trustees attended in person.

President Holman inquired what the latest regulations stipulated regarding holding board meetings in person. General counsel reported that the state is allowing the continuation of virtual or hybrid board meetings, and most municipalities and districts are providing a hybrid approach.

Trustee Bollman asked for a straw poll to be conducted to gauge how board members feel. Trustee Francis recommended that the District continue its board meetings virtual for as long as the state is under an emergency order. Trustee Cordeiro asked counsel what the current state status was, and Counsel Barrow answered that California is still currently under a state of emergency which allows boards like the District's to continue meeting virtually.

Trustee Dear stated that he favored a hybrid approach, if feasible. Trustee Appleton asked that the straw poll be conducted to see if half or a majority of the board favored to return to in-person meetings. If so, staff should continue with providing a hybrid option for trustees and residents.

Trustee Santa Ines inquired if it was required to post the locations of trustees who tuned in remotely under the current regulations. Counsel Barrow responded that it was not required because of Resolution AB 361, which was approved again earlier in the meeting.

President Hollman requested that a straw poll be conducted before the next board meeting so that results could be shared and be a part of the discussion.

Trustee Appleton (Los Angeles City) made a motion to table the item to the May meeting and resume virtual board meeting until then. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dear (Carson) and approved unanimously.

Yes: Artesia, Bell, Bellflower, Bell Gardens, Burbank, Carson, Cerritos, Commerce, Cudahy, Diamond Bar, Gardena, Hawaiian Gardens, La Canada Flintridge, La Habra Heights, Lakewood, La Mirada, Long Beach, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, San Fernando, San Marino, Santa Clarita, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South El Monte, South Gate, Whittier

No: NONE

Absent: Downey, Glendale, Huntington Park, Vernon

11. STAFF PROGRAM REPORTS: MARCH 2022

11.1 Manager's Report

S. Kluh, General Manager

General Manager Kluh highlighted that staff would be conducting a new trustee orientation during the month of April. The orientation is open to both new and seasoned trustees. A recording will be provided for trustees who are interested in a refresher but not able to attend the live orientation.

11.2 Scientific-Technical: (Staff Report A)

S. Vetrone, Acting Sci.-Tech Services Dir.

Acting Director Vetrone highlighted Assistant Vector Ecologist Faiza Haider who joined the District in 2016 and transitioned into the Scientific-Technical Services Department in 2018. Asst. Vector Ecologist Haider contributes to the department's general surveillance, insectary maintenance, black fly surveillance, and field trials.

Trustee Dr. Wassem followed up a question regarding sterile insect technique and the recent news coverage around Oxitec. Acting Director Vetrone mentioned that there is currently only one vector control district in California working with the Oxitec technology. The District considered and is still evaluating this type of technology; however, the District is currently exploring the irradiation method.

Trustee Francis mentioned a recent Los Angeles Times article regarding sterile insect techniques and asked for additional information.

11.3 Operations (Staff Report B)

M. Daniel, Operations Dir.

Director Daniel did not have anything to add to his report.

11.4 Community Affairs (Staff Report C)

M.J. Coburn, Communications Dir.

Director Coburn highlighted the District's 70th Anniversary Celebration and Open House taking place at the District's headquarters on Saturday, April 16th. She also listed the cities and elected officials' offices who will be presenting the District with a proclamation or certificate at the event. Additionally, she shared a video highlighting the District's work over the past 70 years, which will be shown at the open house.

11.5 Fiscal (Staff Report D)

C. Weeks, Finance Director

Director Weeks shared that she was happy the audit has been completed. She did not have anything else to add to her report.

11.6 Human Resources (Staff Report E)

A. Costa, Human Resources Dir.

Director Costa shared that she would be going on a leave beginning June 1st, and that current Acting Benefits Specialist Cindy Reyes would be stepping in as Acting Director of Human Resources. Director Costa highlighted some of Ms. Reyes' contributions to the department and District.

Ms. Reyes was given a few moments to address the Board and expressed looking forward to this new opportunity and stepping in during Director Costa's absence.

11.7 General Counsel Report

Q. Barrow, General Counsel

No report.

12. OTHER

The Board may consider items not on the agenda provided that the Board complies with the Government Code (Brown Act) §54954.2(b).

Item 12.1 was removed from the agenda.

General Manager Klueh requested for a moment of silence in memory of Alberta Rochelle "Abby" Loy who worked at the District for 42 years. Ms. Loy began with the district in 1959 as an office aide and retired in 2001. She passed away on April 4, 2022 at the age of 83.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Holman requested for a moment of silence and adjourned the meeting in memory of Alberta Rochelle "Abby" Loy at 8:14 pm. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, May 12th, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the District's headquarters at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs.