

GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

MINUTES NO. 2010-08

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2010, at the District office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, California.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Sally Flowers, President, *(City of Artesia)*
Pedro Aceituno, *(City of Bell Gardens)*
Dr. Jeff D. Wassem, *(City of Burbank)*
Harold Williams, *(City of Carson)*
Nikki Noushkam, *(City of Cerritos)*
Tina Baca Del Rio, *(City of Commerce)*
Mison Levi, *(City of Cudahy)*
Steve Tye, *(City of Diamond Bar)*
Meredith Perkins, *(City of Downey)*
Barry Bruce, *(City of Hawaiian Gardens)*
Rachel C. Johnson, *(City of Gardena)*
Elba Romo, *(City of Huntington Park)*
Jim Remington, *(City of La Habra Heights)*
Joseph Esquivel, *(City of Lakewood)*
Dr. James Lawson, *(County of Los Angeles)*

Robert Campbell, Sec.-Treasurer *(City of Long Beach)*
Jim Morton, *(City of Lynwood)*
Christina Cortez, *(City of Montebello)*
Cheri Kelley, *(City of Norwalk)*
Tom Hansen, *(City of Paramount)*
Jeff Groseth, *(City of San Marino)*
Robert Newman, *(City of Santa Clarita)*
Michael Madrigal, *(City of Santa Fe Springs)*
Dr. Hazel Wallace, *(City of Signal Hill)*
Maria Davila, *(City of South Gate)*
Owen Newcomer, Vice President *(City of Whittier)*

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Victor Bello, *(City of Bell)*
Ray T. Smith, *(City of Bellflower)*
Gabe Garcia, *(City of La Mirada)*
Alma Martinez, *(City of Los Angeles)*
Armine Perian, *(City of Glendale)*
Ana Rosa Rizo, *(City of Maywood)*
Vacant, *(City of San Fernando)*
Joseph Gonzales, *(City of South El Monte)*

OTHERS PRESENT

Kenneth L. Bayless, *General Manager*
Mark Daniel, *Operations Director*
Susanne Kluh, *Sci-Tech Services Director*
Truc Dever, *Community Affairs Director*
Crystal Brown, *Public Information Officer*
Carolyn Weeks, *Director of Finance*
Robert Miller, *Director of Human Resources*
Luke DeNitto, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Quinn M. Barrow, *Legal Counsel*

TRUSTEES ABSENT (EXCUSED)

Bob Archuleta, *(City of Pico Rivera)*

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. QUORUM (ROLL) CALL

Following the roll call, it was recorded that 26 Trustees were present and 9 were absent.

3. INVOCATION

Trustee Bruce gave the invocation.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Wassem led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

6. **INTRODUCTIONS**

General Manager Kenneth L. Bayless introduced Drs. Bill Reisen and Jennifer Kwan from UC Davis, and Dr. Renji Hu from the California Department of Public Health. Ken also introduced former Trustee Henry Harkema.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Trustee Flowers introduced newly appointed representative Christina Cortez from the City of Montebello. Trustee Cortez currently serves on the Montebello City Council as well as on numerous community boards. Trustee Cortez briefly introduced herself and said she is excited to be amongst peers serving on this Board.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA (8.1-8.3)**

- 8.1 Consideration of **Minutes 2010-07** of regular Board Meeting held on July 8, 2010. (*EXHIBIT A*)
- 8.2 Consideration of **Resolution 2010-13** Authorizing Payment of Attached Requisition Schedule for July 1, 2010 through July 31, 2010 (*EXHIBIT B*)
- 8.3 Consideration of two (2) County of Los Angeles Joint Property Tax Resolutions (JPTR), *L 073-2008 and 116-01*. (*EXHIBIT C*)

Trustee Esquivel made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Levi seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention from Trustee Tye.

9. **PRESENTATION BY DR. JENNIFER KWAN FROM UC DAVIS SUMMARIZING RESULTS OF WEST NILE VIRUS RESEARCH STUDY & DISSERTATION MATERIALS**

The Director of Scientific-Technical Services Susanne Klueh introduced Dr. Bill Reisen and explained that the District significantly benefits from Dr. Reisen's research. Dr. Reisen thanked the Board and the staff on behalf of UC Davis for their hard work, support, and collaboration on West Nile virus and arbovirus research. Dr. Reisen proceeded to introduce Dr. Jennifer Kwan who, as he recounted, started her career in mosquito control working for the District as a lab seasonal. His highlights of her academic achievements included, most notably, the completion of her Ph.D. in Epidemiology in just three years.

Dr. Kwan greeted the Board and expressed her excitement in returning to the District to present her research. The title of her dissertation is "The Epidemiology and Ecology of West Nile Virus in Los Angeles." Research data was mostly obtained from the Greater Los Angeles County area and will be published in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Kwan explained that urban Los Angeles is an excellent location for West Nile virus research. The high population density increases the host to vector contact, which

increases the probability of spill over from bird infections to human cases. All aspects of the WNV surveillance program were evaluated. The dense population lends itself to a high probability of dead bird retrieval, increasing the relevance of this surveillance tool. Dr. Kwan summarized that high antibody seroprevalence in birds due to past year's infection may lead to lower West Nile virus activity in the following summer. She emphasized the importance of temperature, stating that higher temperatures lead to higher virus activity. Dr. Kwan also determined that seroconversion in sentinel chickens is a strong predictor of human cases in the area. Seroconversions seem to precede human cases by approximately two weeks. Finally, she addressed the California Risk Assessment Model and explained that the risk of human WNV infection is greatest when the Risk Assessment value reaches 2.6, presently deemed the "emergency planning" threshold, rather than, as might be expected, at current "epidemic" risk levels. She suggested that thresholds should be adjusted accordingly. Dr. Kwan concluded by again thanking the Board and the District for their continued support and data sharing.

The findings have been published in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* and in the proceedings of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California.

Dr. Kwan presented President Flowers with a bound copy of her dissertation that will remain at the District.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Budget & Finance Committee Robert Campbell, Chair

Secretary-Treasurer Campbell reported that the Committee met to review the District's Investment Policy. They suggested no changes except for the date on the policy. Trustee Campbell commented that the District continues to invest its funds very conservatively and the committee would like to maintain this policy. Trustee Campbell recommended to the Policy Committee that the policy not change.

10.2 Policy Committee Dr. Jeff Wasseem, Chair

Trustee Wasseem reported that the Committee also met to review the Investment Policy and is recommending approval of **Resolution 2010-14** with the correction of a typo on page 4.

Trustee Kelley made the motion to approve Resolutions 2010-14 and 2010-15. Trustee Levi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. STAFF PROGRAM REPORTS: JULY 2010

11.1 Manager's Report Kenneth L. Bayless, General Mgr.

Ken Bayless highlighted from his report that the District will host a group of Turkish pest control officials in September. Ken also announced that the grant for the SEED Program through Cal State Dominguez Hills and Georgetown University was approved. GLACVCD will conduct a vector education curriculum for a group of approximately 20 healthcare professionals from Central and South America in January and another group starting in July. They will be reimbursing the District for expenses incurred.

President Flowers asked if there would be an agenda for the Turkish visitors. Ken replied that their visit will be for one day, and that an agenda will be created at a later date.

11.2 Scientific-Technical: (Staff Report A) S. Klueh, Sci.-Tech Services Dir.

Director of Scientific-Technical Services Susanne Klueh informed the Board that virus activity is relatively low. Since submitting her written report, however, the District did confirm additional West Nile virus activity in Reseda, Rowland Heights, Granada Hills, Winnetka, Woodland Hills, Panorama City and Canyon Country. Human case counts are rising. There are 15 cases in California, but none in Los Angeles County. There are 85 reported human cases nationwide. Arizona has the highest number of reported human cases this year at 43 cases. Susanne expanded on Ken's report, adding that the District has hosted Turkish visitors in the past, who come to learn how to implement a vector control program in an urban area using our program as a model. It will be a relatively informal visit in which they shadow GLACVCD staff at the District and in the field.

Trustee Wasseem asked Susanne if GLACVCD will be conducting additional sentinel chicken testing based on Dr. Kwan's findings. Susanne responded that the District is continuing the sentinel chicken program; however, they have not yet decided to make adjustments to the current program. Her department will be assessing the testing procedures and making a recommendation to the Board for next season.

Trustee Wallace asked how many chickens were at each site and inquired about the blood sampling process. Susanne responded that there are ten chickens per site and that chicken blood sampling is a quick process.

11.3 Operations: (Staff Report B) M. Daniel, Operations Dir.

Director of Operations Mark Daniel reported that field staff have been busy "knocking on doors" as a result of recent aerial surveillance efforts which covered 236 square miles of the District and identified 600 empty pools that were added to the District's treatment database. Technicians are in the process of evaluating the condition of each pool.

President Flowers asked if GLACVCD hired a contractor to conduct the aerial surveillance and also asked who paid for the procedure. Mark responded that the District budgets for aerial surveillance and pays an outside vendor for the service. He added that taking an aerial photograph of a green pool and then showing the photo to the resident helps Vector Control Specialists gain access to homes and facilitates cooperative interactions with homeowners.

Trustee Wallace informed the Board that following a positive in Signal Hill, she met with Operations Supervisor Mark Hall in front of Signal Hill City Hall. Mark was already posting warning signs in the park and a Vector Control Specialist was already in the area when she arrived. Trustee Wallace commented that she appreciated the rapid response from staff.

11.4 Community Affairs: (Staff Report C) T. Dever, Community Affairs Dir.

Director of Community Affairs Truc Dever provided the Board with samples of magnets and bumper stickers utilizing the poster contest winning artwork. The second annual poster design contest will be announced in September. Truc also reported that her department is in the process of securing electronic billboard ads and encouraged Trustees to help the department identify available electronic billboards in their cities.

Trustee Madrigal asked if the District was running ads on the radio. Truc confirmed that ads are running as part of the joint awareness efforts by the Southern region districts. Public service announcements run during the traffic report on popular radio stations in the Southland.

11.5 Fiscal: (Staff Report D)

C. Weeks, Finance Director

Director of Finance Carolyn Weeks informed the Board that the District completed its audit this week.

Trustee Perkins asked if the Accounting Assistant position had been filled. Ken responded that the hiring process is underway and an employee should be hired soon.

11.6 Human Resources: (Staff Report E)

R. Miller, Human Resources Dir.

Director of Human Resources Robert Miller reported that the District is in the initial hiring stages for both an Accounting Assistant and a Vector Control Specialist position. In addition, Robert is focusing on compliance issues and stated that the Safety Committee is remaining active.

Trustee Romo asked if the Liability Waiver drafted for Community Affairs will be reviewed by Legal Counsel. Robert affirmed that is has been reviewed by Legal Counsel.

11.7 Legal Counsel Report

Q. Barrow, Legal Counsel

Legal counsel had nothing further to 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).

Trustee Kelley announced that the City of Norwalk is proud to host the Moving Vietnam Memorial Wall. It will be at the City Hall Civic Area Lawn at Norwalk Boulevard and Imperial Highway from Thursday, August 19th at 6:30 p.m. through Sunday, August 22nd. The Memorial is open 24 hours a day.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, September 9, 2010. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the District's headquarters office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.