

GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT MINUTES NO. 2009-01

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, January 8, 2009, at the District office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, California.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Sally Flowers, Sec.-Treasurer, *(City of Artesia)*
Victor Bello, *(City of Bell)*
Ray T. Smith, *(City of Bellflower)*
Dr. Jeff D. Wassem, *(City of Burbank)*
Harold Williams, *(City of Carson)*
Nikki Noushkam, *(City of Cerritos)*
Hugo Argumedo, *(City of Commerce)*
Mison Levi, President, *(City of Cudahy)*
Audrey Hamilton, *(City of Diamond Bar)*
Meredith Perkins, *(City of Downey)*
Rachel C. Johnson, *(City of Gardena)*
Armine Perian, *(City of Glendale)*
Jim Remington, *(City of La Habra Heights)*
Joseph Esquivel, *(City of Lakewood)*

Bob Chotiner, *(City of La Mirada)*
Robert Campbell, *(City of Long Beach)*
Alma Martinez, *(City of Los Angeles)*
Jim Morton, *(City of Lynwood)*
Cheri Kelley, Vice President, *(City of Norwalk)*
Tom Hansen, *(City of Paramount)*
Bob Archuleta, *(City of Pico Rivera)*
Dr. James Lawson, *(City of San Fernando)*
Dr. SeYao Hsu, *(City of San Marino)*
Michael Madrigal, *(City of Santa Fe Springs)*
Dr. Hazel Wallace, *(City of Signal Hill)*
Blanca Figueroa, *(City of South El Monte)*
Maria Davila, *(City of South Gate)*
Owen Newcomer, *(City of Whittier)*

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Pedro Aceituno, *(City of Bell Gardens)*
Victor Farfan, *(City of Hawaiian Gardens)*
Elba Romo, *(City of Huntington Park)*
Thomas Martin, *(City of Maywood)*
Robert Urteaga, *(City of Montebello)*
Vacant, *(City of Santa Clarita)*
Vacant, *(County of Los Angeles)*

OTHERS PRESENT

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. QUORUM (ROLL) CALL

Following the roll call, it is recorded that 28 Trustees were present and 7 were absent.

3. INVOCATION

Trustee Perkins gave the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

6. INTRODUCTIONS

NONE

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

8. RECOGNITION OF TRUSTEE REAPPOINTMENTS

President Levi congratulated all Trustees who were re-appointed to the Board of Trustees for another term by their respective cities.

9. RECOGNITION OF NEW TRUSTEES

President Levi recognized Mr. Tom Hansen as the new Trustee appointed to represent the City of Paramount.

10. ELECTION OF DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Nominations Committee chairperson, Trustee Perkins, announced that the committee had met prior to the Board meeting and nominated Trustees Newcomer and Lawson as candidates for District Secretary-Treasurer. Trustee Perkins inquired as to any other nominations and it was noted that no nominations were made from the floor. The candidates were asked to give a quick speech and were then excused from the room. **The Trustees voted and Trustee Lawson received 6 votes and Trustee Newcomer received 20 votes. Trustee Owen Newcomer from the City of Whittier was declared the winner of the seat for Secretary-Treasurer.**

11. INSTALLATION OF BOARD PRESIDENT CHERI KELLEY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Trustee Kelley was installed as the new Board President. A gavel plaque was presented to former President Levi in appreciation for his service.

12. INSTALLATION OF VICE PRESIDENT SALLY FLOWERS AND NEWLY ELECTED SECRETARY-TREASURER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Trustees Flowers and Newcomer were installed as Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively.

13. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES 2008-12 OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2008 (*Exhibit A*)

Trustee Archuleta made the motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Levi seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 Trustees abstaining.

14. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2009-01 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF ATTACHED REQUISITION SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008. (*Exhibit B*)

Trustee Hamilton made the motion to approve the District's expenditures. Trustee Noushkam seconded the motion. The motion passed with Trustee Williams abstaining.

15. CONSENT AGENDA (15.1-15.2)

- 15.1 Consideration of two County of Los Angeles Joint Property Tax Resolutions, *Parcel Map No. 63841 and L 064-2008. (Exhibit C)*
- 15.2 Consideration to transfer funds from Account 5030 A-22 to general ledger Account 5667 A-10 to cover cost of temporary clerical support for Operations Department. (Total fund transfer amount: \$19,000)

Trustee Smith made a motion to approve items 15.1 and 15.2. Trustee Levi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

16. CONSIDERATION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2009

President Kelley continued the agenda item to the next Board meeting. She commented that not all committees are full and that some have too many interested people. She asked for committee participation by all Board members.

17. CONSIDERATION TO RESCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2009 BOARD MEETING

Trustee Argumedo made a motion to accept staff's recommendation to move the February Board meeting to February 19th in light of the District holiday on February 12th. Trustee Levi seconded the motion. Per legal counsel, no vote was required on the matter; therefore, the meeting was set for February 19th. It was noted that Trustee Wallace will be at the 10-Year West Nile Virus conference in Savannah, Georgia and will not be able to attend the meeting.

18. STAFF PROGRAM REPORTS: DECEMBER 2008

18.1 Manager's Report

Kenneth L. Bayless, General Manager

Ken referred to his Manager's Report, which stated that tax payments for December 2008 were 7% short of what was originally expected. He clarified that in actuality, the reason for the shortage was the County assessor's office deducted its administrative fees. Therefore, the District received \$20,000 more than initially expected.

18.2 Operations: (Staff Report A)

M. Daniel, Operations Director

Mark Daniel referred to his staff report and said he had nothing further to report.

18.3 Scientific-Technical: (Staff Report B)

S. Kluh, Scientific-Tech Serv. Dir.

Susanne Kluh reported that the District continues to receive confirmation from the State regarding human West Nile virus cases. To date, L.A. County has confirmed 153 human WNV+ cases. There have been 429 human cases reported statewide. Trustee Wallace asked Susanne if the WNV positive chickens were from the same area as the mosquitoes. Susanne said they were not, and added that the chickens have worked well this year as an additional surveillance tool. Trustee Noushkam asked why the District does not focus on other vectors, for example the Red Imported Fire Ants. Susanne explained that the Board would need to assess the need for such a program, as they did with the Africanized Honeybee program. Susanne added that there have not been many reports of adverse affects from Red Imported Fire Ants and that Orange County VCD is working to eliminate its program. In Susanne's professional opinion, the ants are not a significant public health issue. Trustee Hamilton added that the Los Angeles County Agricultural Department does handle RIFA. Trustee Archuleta expressed concern over the high number of positive WNV activity in Pico Rivera and asked what could be done to bring the numbers down. Susanne explained that the Whittier Narrows often produces a high number of mosquitoes and the District has done a good job at controlling the population to keep the number of infections down. She recommended that city officials and Trustees work with the nature centers to keep the nature ponds dry, and thus, prevent mosquito breeding.

On a side note, Trustee Archuleta expressed concern over the regular absence of certain members of the Board. He suggested that staff send letters and make contact with those representatives who continually miss meetings. Trustee Remington recalled a policy regarding consecutive absences. **Trustee Flowers made a motion to send the policy to committee for review and discussion. Trustee Noushkam seconded the motion.**

18.4 Community Affairs: (*Staff Report C*)

T. Dever, Community Affairs Dir.

Truc Dever referred to her staff report and said she had nothing further to report.

18.5 Fiscal: (*Staff Report D*)

C. Weeks, Finance Director

Carolyn Weeks referred to her staff report and said she had nothing additional to report.

18.6 Human Resources: (*Staff Report E*)

R. Miller, Human Resources Dir.

Robert Miller referred to his staff report and said he had nothing further to report.

18.7 Legal Counsel Report

Quinn Barrow, Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel indicated that he nothing to report.

19. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

19.1 Personnel Committee Report

N. Noushkam (Chair)

- Consideration of **Resolution 2009-02**- “Resolution electing to establish a health benefit vesting requirement for future retirees under Public Employees’ Medical and Hospital Care Act.” (*Exhibit D*)
- Consideration of **Resolution 2009-03**- “Resolution for Employer Paid Member Contributions with Time-In-Grade Exceptions.” (*Exhibit E*)

Trustee Noushkam reported that the Committee met over several months regarding the Tier II Benefits Plan for Newly Hired Employees after February 1, 2009. She thanked the staff for all of their hard work and said the Committee recommends the plan to the Board in its entirety. She turned the floor over to Ken Bayless who gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the new plan.

Ken’s presentation reviewed current benefits, which will not change for existing employees and retirees, and then outlined the proposed benefits for employees hired on or after February 1, 2009. The new Tier II plan includes: the new employee paying the 7% Employee Contribution of the CalPERS Retirement Contribution for the first 5 years of employment; CalPERS Medical Insurance would be fully paid by the District, however, the Dental and Vision Insurance would be paid by the new employee if desired; and the 401(a) contribution by the District would be eliminated for all new hires. In regards to the Tier II Retiree’s Medical Insurance, the District would pay 50% of the medical insurance premium after 10 years of employment graduating up to 100% of the premium after 20 years employment. Ken assured the Board that in comparing the TIER II benefits package with other agencies and industries, the TIER II benefits package remains competitive enough to attract and retain quality employees, yet considerably reduces the District’s exposure to future employee benefit expenditures.

There was considerable discussion about the proposed benefits plan and presentation during and following Ken’s presentation. Trustee Argumedo asked if the new employees would still have the option to participate in the 401(a) plan. Ken replied that the District would eliminate this benefit completely for new hires. New employees would still have the opportunity to contribute to the District-sponsored 457 plan. Both Trustees Flowers and Figueroa expressed concern that vision and dental insurance would not be paid even after the employee put in a substantial number of service years. Trustee Martinez proposed that a stipend be offered to cover vision and dental after a certain number of service years. Trustee Hamilton commented that the Committee reviewed the

benefits plan for months and considered every option. Eliminating District paid dental and vision insurance was necessary for new employees to reduce the District's costs in the future because the agency cannot continue raising rates to taxpayers. Robert Miller added that the District is looking into a Section 125 Plan that would allow the employees to pay for dental and vision using pre-tax dollars. Trustee Perkins added that the Board should look at the entire package. Trustee Remington commented that he felt the package was very fair and competitive and suggested the Board adopt the new plan. Trustee Hsu agreed that the package was a very generous one.

Ken recommended, per the last slide of the presentation, that the Board adopt the new Tier II Benefits Plan as outlined, pass Resolutions 2009-02 and 2009-03, authorize the General Manager to implement an IRS Section 125 plan for District Employees, and raise the Medical Insurance Opt-Out rate from \$125 to \$250 for single coverage and \$450 for a plan with dependents.

Trustee Remington made a motion to adopt the plan as proposed. Trustee Esquivel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Levi made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-02. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Levi made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-03. Trustee Esquivel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

20. OTHER

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

NONE

21. ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the District Headquarters office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.