

GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

MINUTES NO. 2009-05

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, May 21, 2009, at the District office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, California.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Victor Bello, (*City of Bell*)
Pedro Aceituno, (*City of Bell Gardens*)
Dr. Jeff D. Wassem, (*City of Burbank*)
Harold Williams, (*City of Carson*)
Nikki Noushkam, (*City of Cerritos*)
Hugo Argumedo, (*City of Commerce*)
Mison Levi, (*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*)
Victor Farfan, (*City of Hawaiian Gardens*)
Elba Romo, (*City of Huntington Park*)
Jim Remington, (*City of La Habra Heights*)

Gabe Garcia, (*City of La Mirada*)
Robert Campbell, (*City of Long Beach*)
Alma Martinez, (*City of Los Angeles*)
Dr. James Lawson, (*County of Los Angeles*)
Jim Morton, (*City of Lynwood*)
Cheri Kelley, President, (*City of Norwalk*)
Tom Hansen, (*City of Paramount*)
Bob Archuleta, (*City of Pico Rivera*)
Dr. SeYao Hsu, (*City of San Marino*)
Robert Newman, (*City of Santa Clarita*)
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, Sec.-Treasurer (*City of Whittier*)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Sally Flowers, Vice President, (*City of Artesia*)
Ray T. Smith, (*City of Bellflower*)
Joseph Esquivel, (*City of Lakewood*)
Ana Rosa Rizo, (*City of Maywood*)
Robert Urteaga, (*City of Montebello*)
Vacant, (*City of San Fernando*)

OTHERS PRESENT

Kenneth L. Bayless, *General Manager*
Mark Daniel, *Operations Director*
Paul O' Connor, *Vector Ecologist*
Truc Dever, *Director of Community Affairs*
Carolyn Weeks, *Director of Finance*
Robert Miller, *Director of Human Resources*
Luke DeNitto, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Quinn M. Barrow, *Legal Counsel*

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. QUORUM (ROLL) CALL

Following the roll call, it is recorded that 29 Trustees were present and 6 were absent.

3. INVOCATION

Trustee Davila gave the invocation.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Hansen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

6. INTRODUCTIONS

President Kelley introduced the new Trustee from the City of Santa Clarita, Robert Newman, who is currently Director of Public Works for the city. President Kelley also noted that Dr. James Lawson, formerly Trustee from the City of San Fernando is now Trustee representative for Los Angeles County.

Community Affairs Director Truc Dever introduced the District's new Public Information Officer, Crystal Brown.

Operations Director Mark Daniel introduced the District's new Operation's Assistant, Becky Anderson.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES 2009-04 OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 9, 2009 (Exhibit A)

Trustee Argumedo made the motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Levi seconded the motion. The motion passed with Trustee Romo abstaining.

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2009-08 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF ATTACHED REQUISITION SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 1, 2009 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2009. (Exhibit B)

Trustee Levi made the motion to approve the District's expenditures. Trustee Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSENT AGENDA (10.1-10.2)

10.1 Consideration of one County of Los Angeles Joint Property Tax Resolution, *L 039-2008. (Exhibit C)*

10.2 Consideration of request to transfer funds between FY 2008-2009 Budget Accounts for purchase of District equipment and hiring of a seasonal Laboratory Field Assistant. *(Exhibit D)*

Trustee Levi made a motion to approve items 10.1 and 10.2. Trustee Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. STAFF PROGRAM REPORTS: APRIL 2009

11.1 Manager's Report

K. Bayless, General Manager

Ken Bayless reported that Operations Director Mark Daniel has completed and filed the NPDES permit. Ken also reported that District staff will be meeting with local legislators during the MVCAC-designated Legislative Day at the District for May 29th. Appointments are being scheduled at local district offices to discuss some of the current issues related to budget and pesticide regulations. Districts statewide will be asking for an exemption from the Governor's possible suspension of Prop 1A (2004). Ken encouraged any Trustees who are available that day or who may have connections in Sacramento to assist with the efforts.

Trustee Wassem requested clarification about the NPDES permit and how it impacted the application of adulticides. Ken clarified that although the permit does not cover adulticides, the District can still use adulticides if necessary, pending a final decision from the 6th Circuit Court. Trustee Wassem asked about the prevalence of adulticiding procedures in the district operations. Ken answered that the District has not conducted any aerial adulticiding and the majority of chemical control is carried out through larviciding.

11.2 Operations: (Staff Report A)

M. Daniel, Operations Director

Mark Daniel referred the Board of Trustees to Staff Report A for a correction. He stated that the cost of the chemical Vectorex WDG used for Underground Mosquito Control for the month of April was \$2,784.60. Mark also reported that service requests last month totaled 500. Some factors contributing to this increase in requests were the April press releases and an unusual crane fly bloom this year. About 20% of the 500 service requests submitted were for crane flies.

11.3 Scientific- Technical: (Staff Report B)

P. O'Connor, Vector Ecologist

Paul O'Connor gave the Scientific-Technical Services report for Director Susanne Klueh, who had a family emergency in Germany. Paul stated that in April, the District detected its first indications of West Nile virus activity, first in a WNV positive dead crow in Valencia and then in a positive mosquito pool in Carson. The disease risk assessment model for the District currently stands at 2.6 response level, which is emergency planning mode. The department is currently assisting Operations in planning and assessing where to conduct additional mosquito control and treatment.

11.4 Community Affairs: (Staff Report C)

T. Dever, Community Affairs Dir.

Truc Dever reported that the department is working to increase the District's visibility and raise awareness about the importance of district services, in light of the state's financial situation and the Governor's potential suspension of Prop 1A. Department staff has been meeting to coordinate summer projects, awareness campaigns, and find ways to integrate new hands-on learning technologies into the education curriculum.

Trustee Archeleta noted that at last week's Contract Cities conference in Indian Wells, the local vector control district had a display promoting district services.

Trustee Williams thanked Truc Dever for an informative presentation on recent WNV activity at the Carson City Council meeting.

Trustee Figueroa used this time to thank the Trustees for allowing her the opportunity to attend the AMCA annual conference in New Orleans. She picked up several collateral items for review and possible integration by the District, including a calendar and book.

11.5 Fiscal: (*Staff Report D*)

Carolyn Weeks had no additional items to report.

11.6 Human Resources: (*Staff Report E*)

R. Miller, Human Resources Dir.

Robert Miller had no additional items to report.

11.7 Legal Counsel Report

Quinn Barrow, Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel had nothing to report.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 Policy Committee Report

O. Newcomer, Chairperson

Trustee Newcomer recommended the Board approve the District Investment Policy for Calendar Year 2009. The only change from the draft would be to input the appropriate date. **Trustee Levi made a motion to approve the Investment Policy. Trustee Perkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Trustee Newcomer also reported that the committee met to consider MVCAC Attorney Richard Shanihan's document titled, "Mosquito and Vector Control District Trustees as District Employees?" The committee recommended that the board make no changes to the current reimbursement system. Trustee Wassem asked if there was an IRS basis for how the issue was being handled. Trustee Newcomer recommended that Trustees consult with their tax attorney. **Trustee Perkins made a motion to continue with the current Trustee compensation system. Trustee Argumedo seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.**

12.2 Education & Publicity Committee Report

A. Martinez, Chairperson

Trustee Martinez reported that that the Foundation cancelled its scheduled meeting for lack of a quorum.

12.3 Budget & Finance Committee Report

O. Newcomer, Chairperson

Trustee Newcomer reported that the Budget Committee had its first meeting to discuss the District budget for FY 2009-10. He explained that the District anticipates no increase in assessments. The proposed budget is balanced, even factoring in negative property tax revenues. The Budget committee will be meeting again before the next Board meeting and no action is currently required by the Board.

13. CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with §54956.9 (a) of the California Government Code, the Trustees held a closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding existing litigation entitled:

- *Abbie Silva v. Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, LASC Case No. BC 387144*

The Trustees reconvened to an open session. Legal Counsel Barrow reported that by unanimous vote, the settlement in the Silva case was approved. Copies of the agreement are available with the District office. NO other reportable action was taken.

14. OTHER

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

President Kelley commended Ken Bayless and staff for working so hard over the past year and a half to resolve the District's pending legal and financial issues.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, 2009. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the District's headquarters office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. in memory of Los Angeles County's veterans and their families.