

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT
MINUTES NO. 2022 – 06**

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, June 9, 2022, at the District office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, California, and via teleconference .

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Ali Saleh, *City of Bell*
Sonny Santa Ines, *City of Bellflower*
Pedro Aceituno, *City of Bell Gardens*
Dr. Jeff Wasseem, *City of Burbank*
Jim Dear, *City of Carson*
Mark Bollman, *City of Cerritos*
Leonard Mendoza, *City of Commerce* *7:07pm
Baru Sanchez, *City of Cudahy*
Ruth Low, *City of Diamond Bar*
Robert Keifer, *City of Downey*
Paulette Francis, *City of Gardena*
Vrej Agajanian, *City of Glendale*
Luis Roa, *City of Hawaiian Gardens* *7:07pm
Marylin Sanabria, Secretary/Treasurer –
City of Huntington Park
Catherine Houwen, *City of La Habra Heights*
Steve Croft, *City of Lakewood*
John Lewis, *City of La Mirada*
Emily Holman, President - *City of Long Beach*
Steve Appleton, *City of Los Angeles*
Steven Goldsworthy, *Los Angeles County*
Jessica Torres, *City of Maywood* *7:39pm
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*
Joe Angel Zamora, *City of Santa Fe Springs*
Robert Copeland, *City of Signal Hill*
Hector Delgado, *City of South El Monte*
Leticia Lopez, *City of Vernon*

TRUSTEES ABSENT (EXCUSED)

Melissa Ramoso, *City of Artesia*
Heidi Heinrich, *City of Santa Clarita*
Jessica Martinez, *City of Whittier*

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Jorge Casanova, *City of Lynwood*
Denise Diaz, *City of South Gate*

OTHERS PRESENT

Susanne Klueh, *General Manager*
Steve Vetrone, *Director of Scientific-
Technical Services*
Mark Daniel, *Director of Operations*
Mary-Joy Coburn, *Director of
Communications*
Carolyn Weeks, *Director of Fiscal
Operations*
Cindy Reyes, *Acting 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 in person and 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 29 trustees were present and eight were absent. Three trustees joined the meeting after roll call, bringing the total to 32 Trustees present and five absent.

3. **INVOCATION**

Trustee Sanabria (Huntington Park) led the invocation.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Kwong (San Marino) led the pledge of allegiance.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

6. **INTRODUCTIONS**

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

NONE

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 – 8.3)**

(VOTE REQUIRED)

8.1 Consideration of **Minutes 2022-05** of regular Board Meeting held on May 12th, 2022.
(EXHIBIT A)

8.2 Consideration of **Resolution 2022-08** Authorizing Payment of Attached Requisition May 1st through May 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.

Trustee Sanabria (Huntington Park) made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Croft (Lakewood) and approved with 30 in favor and one abstention.

Yes: Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Burbank, Carson, Cerritos, Commerce, Cudahy, Diamond Bar, Downey, Gardena, Glendale, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, La Canada Flintridge, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, San Fernando, San Marino, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South El Monte, Vernon

No: NONE

Abstention: Paramount

Absent: Artesia, Lynwood, Maywood, Santa Clarita, South Gate, Whittier

9. CONSIDERATION OF TRUSTEES TO ATTEND THE MEDFLY PREVENTIVE RELEASE PROGRAM AND FACILITY TOUR, LOS ALAMITOS, JULY 19TH OR AUGUST 10TH, 2022

(EXHIBIT D)

General Manager Klueh shared an opportunity for Trustees to attend the Medfly preventative release program and facility tour to give Trustees an idea of the needs and process of a potential Sterile Insect Technique program at GLACVCD. Trustees are asked to email Director Coburn if they are interested in attending.

10. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING STAFF TO EXPLORE THE CONCEPT OF ENGAGING IN A DIALOGUE ABOUT ANNEXING THE CITY OF COMPTON

(VOTE REQUIRED)

General Manager Klueh presented on previous conversations and efforts to annex the City of Compton into the District's service area. Trustee Dear (Carson) shared that he was interested in having a conversation about merging with the Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District (CCMAD) because the District currently services the cities around the City of Compton and believes it would provide efficiency of government and better use of taxpayer dollars.

Trustee Santa Ines (Bellflower) inquired what current city serviced by the District has a comparable size to Compton. General Manager Klueh provided that the area encompasses over 200 parcels but would research which city was similar. Additionally, Trustee Santa Ines (Bellflower) inquired if there was any inclination that the current Board for CCMAD was interested in merging with the District, and Trustee Dear (Carson) shared that in a conversation they had with the Board about 15 years ago, they did not have any interest in merging, and the current Board has not expressed interest either.

Trustee Croft (Lakewood) shared that four or five years ago, LAFCO requested that the vector control agencies merge or annex unincorporated areas and at that time, CCMAD expressed that they were not interested in merging with the District.

Trustee Francis (Gardena) inquired what the process would look like to merge with another District and what are some of the advantages. Trustee Croft (Lakewood) shared that a merger would start with a request to LAFCO, submit for mapping, and seek approval by the city, Los Angeles County, and then the District's Board. Advantages of merging into a larger district would consist of additional resources such as programs that provide surveillance and underground storm drain mosquito control for the city of Compton. Director Daniel also shared that adding the city into the District's service area would add more sources to maintain and control, including Compton Creek River.

Trustee Bollman (Cerritos) asked if pursuing the merger would cost the District money and General Manager Klueh confirmed that it would.

Trustee Low (Diamond Bar) inquired if CCMAD has requested help or resources from the District in the past. General Manager Klueh shared that the industry is very close knit which allows the sharing of resources and knowledge often. Trustee Cordeiro (Montebello) suggested that the Board does not pursue the annexation or merger until otherwise suggested by a public health authority or the voters of the city of Compton.

Trustee Francis (Gardena) inquired if the Board could establish a friendly relationship with the board/management of CCMAD to see where they stand about moving forward but based on the Board's discussion, President Hollman did not feel that was the best next step.

Trustee Appleton (Los Angeles) made a motion to not pursue the annexation of the city of Compton. It was seconded by Trustee Zamora (Santa Fe Springs) and approved unanimously.

Yes: Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Burbank, Carson, Cerritos, Commerce, Cudahy, Diamond Bar, Downey, Gardena, Glendale, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, La Canada Flintridge, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Maywood,

Montebello, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, San Fernando, San Marino, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South El Monte, Vernon

No: NONE

Absent: Artesia, Lynwood, Santa Clarita, South Gate, Whittier

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Budget & Finance Committee

Marilyn Sanabria, Chair

11.1.a. The Committee has reviewed staff's proposed FY 2022/2023 budget and is prepared to report its findings to the Board and make recommendations to the Board to approve and accept the FY 2022-2023 Budget.

(EXHIBIT E, refer to the budget enclosure.) (VOTE REQUIRED)

Chair Sanabria asked General Manager Klueh to share the highlights of the proposed FY 2022/2023 budget. General Manager Klueh shared that in the last time the Budget and Finance committee met, the committee voted to unanimously recommend the budget as proposed. In her first presentation, General Manager Klueh shared that the District ended FY 2020/2021 with a \$425,182 surplus and would allocate those funds towards OPEB and Earthquake and Disaster reserves and provide a COVID stipend for essential workers who reported to work daily.

Trustee Dear (Carson) made a motion to approve the suggested surplus allocations. Trustee Sanabria (Huntington Park) seconded the motion.

Trustee Goldsworthy asked that the motion be amended to provide staff with a maximum amount for the Earthquake and Disaster Reserve Fund.

Trustee Dear (Carson) agreed to amend his motion to approve the allocations of the surplus as presented with a maximum of \$500,000 for the earthquake & disaster recovery. Trustee Sanabria (Huntington Park) seconded the motion.

Trustee Sanchez (Cudahy) wanted to confirm with legal counsel that the stipends would not be seen as giving away public funds. Mr. Barrow confirmed and added that management also reached out to Labor Counsel to confirm that the stipends were allowed.

Trustee Casanova (Lynwood) inquired how the stipend amounts were calculated. General Manager Klueh shared that management consulted with counsel to determine the average stipend amount and considered the amount of gas and mileage that was spent by staff who reported to the District five times a week.

The motion was approved with 31 votes in favor and one no.

Yes: Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Burbank, Carson, Cerritos, Commerce, Cudahy, Diamond Bar, Downey, Gardena, Glendale, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, La Canada Flintridge, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Maywood, Montebello, Norwalk, Paramount, San Fernando, San Marino, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South El Monte, Vernon

No: Pico Rivera

Absent: Artesia, Lynwood, Santa Clarita, South Gate, Whittier

Next, General Manager Klueh presented on the proposed FY 2022/2023 budget. The proposed budget shows an increase in gasoline funds, vehicle purchases, increases to Tier IV cafeteria allotments, insurance premium increases, and mobile equipment for staff. Additionally, the budget includes an allocation of \$700,000 in reserves for the facility expansion, one new staff position (Clerk of the Board), a position reclassification to the Operation's Manager in Sylmar, a salary adjustment to the Vector Field Assistant, and no tax increase.

The District will hold the public hearing for the budget on July 14th.

Trustee Dr. Wassem (Burbank) inquired about the allocations designated for positions in the Scientific-Technical Services Department. Staff shared that the Vector Ecologist and Assistant Vector Ecologist positions change from year to year due to staff experience. The budgeted amount is correct, but staff will adjust the positions allocated to reflect the actual number of staff in those positions.

Trustee Bollman (Cerritos) made a motion to approve the budget with the amendment to the number of Vector Ecologist positions. Trustee Sanabria (Huntington Park) seconded the motion and was approved with 31 votes in favor and one abstention.

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

No: NONE

Abstain: Glendale

Absent: Artesia, Lynwood, Santa Clarita, South Gate, Whittier

12. STAFF PROGRAM REPORTS: MAY 2022

12.1 Manager's Report S. Klueh, General Manager

General Manager Klueh thanked the Board for approving the new FY budget.

Trustee Bollman inquired why there was a change in Director Vetrone's title. General Manager Klueh shared that Director Steve Vetrone recently went through a rigorous vetting process and was selected to be the District's newest Director of Scientific-Technical Services.

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

Director Vetrone provided an update to his report by sharing that three dead birds collected in the community of North Hills were confirmed to be positive for West Nile virus. Additionally, the District received its first WNV positive mosquito sample collected in the city of Bellflower. Lastly, an imported case of Dengue was reported in the community of Willowbrook.

12.3 Operations (Staff Report B) M. Daniel, Operations Dir.

Director Daniel congratulated Director Vetrone on his new role. He also shared that operations teams are now looking at smaller sources to help control mosquitoes. Most of the District's large sources like swimming pools are drying up because of heat and drought.

Trustee Dr. Wassem (Burbank) inquired about wide-area larvicide treatment and if it's a new technology or technique. Director Daniel shared that the WALs (wide-area larvicide spraying) approach has been used by the District in the past, but the application can only be done under certain conditions, and it is only used when there is disease activity present.

12.4 Community Affairs (Staff Report C) M.J. Coburn, Communications Dir.

Director Coburn shared the kudos video for the month of May. Additionally, she shared the District's summer campaign public service announcement video and graphics which showcase the lengths residents take to protect themselves from mosquitoes.

Director Coburn also reported that she visited Washington D.C. with General Manager Klueh to meet with legislative offices to advocate for mosquito control funding allocations.

Trustee Francis (Gardena) shared that she saw Director Coburn on the news and congratulated her on representing the District well.

12.5 Fiscal (Staff Report D) C. Weeks, Finance Director

Director Weeks did not have anything add to her report.

Trustee Houwen (La Habra Heights) thanked Director Weeks for her hard work as Director of Finance.

12.6 Human Resources (Staff Report E) C. Reyes, Acting Human Resources Dir.

Acting Director Reyes shared her department is busy onboarding new hires and filling seasonal vacancies.

12.7 General Counsel Report Q. Barrow, General Counsel

Counsel Barrow did not have anything to report.

13. 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 Croft thanked staff for setting up the board room for a hybrid meeting.

General Manager Klueh checked in with the Board members on whether the hybrid set up worked well for everyone attending and the Board agreed.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Holman adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, July 14th, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the District's headquarters at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs.