

# VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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*"Pride in Community Service"*

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## **MINUTES Regular Meeting**

**September 1, 2020**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Stewart who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL: Directors Brooks and Stewart were present. Directors Bumpass, Redmon, and Wyckoff participated via teleconference.

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

General Manager Joe Barget, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Manager Mike Garner, and General Manager Jose Acosta from Santa Ynez Community Services District were present. Administrative Services (AS) Manager Cynthia Allen and Board Secretary Stephanie Garner participated via teleconference.

### **3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were none.

### **4. PUBLIC FORUM**

President Stewart invited public comments and there were none.

### **5. OPERATIONS REPORT**

O&M Manager Garner reported the District pumped 43.7 million gallons of water for August with an average daily demand of 1.4 million gallons. This is 500,000 gallons more than last August. Vandenberg Village received no rain keeping the calendar year total at 7.03 inches.

Well levels (below ground surface) for August were 1B-144', 3A-146', and 3B-145'.

As a precaution, the field crew shut down power to the water plant during two lighting storms on August 13 and 15. Jim Levingston and Jeff Cole ran the water system on standby generators for more than eight hours during an extended power outage on August 15. The outage damaged low-voltage transmitters on two well meters and one line meter which cost about \$1,500 to replace.

Codi Blea, the owner of Blea Enterprises, returned in August to spray weeds on the back road. A completed DFW Form 680 (Pesticide Use Record) was submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as required by specials conditions in the State Lands Commission lease.

Hopkins Technical installed the District's new chemical treatment panels in July. The field crew welded new piping and fitted new pumps to the chemical tanks. The system is running outstanding.

Crosno Construction started work on Tanks 5A and 5B on August 10. There have been a few delays because of fog and unexpected repairs in both tanks. These two tanks should be complete next week and work will begin on Tanks 1 and Tank 3.

O&M Manager Garner provided fobs to the Directors with photographs and drone footage of tank work. One photograph shows damage to the interior lining of Tank 5A. The District is planning to have Coating Specialists and Inspection Service, Inc. (CSI) repair the interior lining in conjunction with the 11-month warranty inspection for the Tank Rehabilitation Project.

Santa Barbara County Fire began clearing brush around the perimeter of Vandenberg Village. Most of the country club and the south village has been completed. Crews will continue the effort for the next few months.

The field crew repaired four polybutylene service lines in August and two blowouts on the service line to the old County Fire Station 51. No sanitary sewer overflows to report.

To conclude his report, O&M Manager Garner said there were two anniversaries since the last meeting: Jeff Cole with 18 years on August 5 and Joe Barget with 16 years on August 16.

## 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

AS Manager Allen reported the District lobby is still closed to the public but the phones and drive-up window remain busy. The office staff continues to work from home one day a week as they wish; however, they can come into the office on their assigned work-at-home days. Some tasks are easier to perform in the office.

The Governor has not rescinded the stay on service shut-offs. Currently, the field crew is not hanging 48-hour notices, applying late fees, or locking off for non-payment. However, administrative staff is calling those customers who would otherwise be locked off to keep them informed of the possible future application of late fees to their accounts. Pre-COVID, the delinquent accounts had a combined balance of approximately \$15,000. Today, the delinquent account balance is about \$35,000. Most of the District's delinquencies are only 30 days late, so it is not as worrisome as it could be. Customers are making payments on their 60- and 90-day overdue balances.

The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services is no longer hosting a biweekly COVID meeting. A COVID update was added to the regular monthly Emergency Managers Committee meeting she attends and there is nothing new to report. All special districts in the county are continuing with the status quo and will adjust as needed.

The District submitted a \$10,000 FEMA grant application for COVID expenses. To date, the expenses are less than \$2,000 and applicants can only receive reimbursement for approved expenses.

The Santa Barbara County Elections Office approached the District to request the temporary installation of an election ballot drop box near the District's payment box. Joe verbally agreed and the box is scheduled to be installed the week of September 21 or September 28.

In July, AS Manager Allen was scheduled to attend an in-person session for the ACWA/JPIA Leadership Essentials for the Water Industry program.

Due to COVID, the program is on hold temporarily while adjustments are made. Participation continues in monthly conference calls on how people were coping with COVID rather than continuing with lessons. This month's lessons will resume with the leader providing a YouTube video of his presentation instead of an in-person session. During the February sessions, each of the two classes was split into two groups with a group presentation due in July. AS Manager Allen's group is the only one able to continue with their presentation and will have a Zoom meeting in September.

AS Manager Allen has spent time working with iWater on the District's GIS system and is almost at a point to start training the field crew.

To conclude her report, AS Manager Allen said the recently approved tax holiday for Social Security does not impact the District employees because we do not participate in Social Security. The Directors do have Social Security withheld from their stipend checks and VVCSD will continue to withhold Social Security unless a Director specifically asks not to withhold the payment. The tax holiday is temporary and the District is obligated to make up the contribution by April 30, 2021.

## 7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on July 7, 2020

B. Treasurer Report

- 1) Monthly Financials
- 2) Disbursements through August 31, 2020
- 3) Public Official Reimbursement Report
- 4) Surplus Property

**Motion by Director Redmon, seconded by Director Brooks to accept the consent calendar as presented.**

**Roll Call:**

**Ayes:** Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Stewart, Redmon, and Wyckoff

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Farmers Market**

**Motion by Director Wyckoff, seconded by Director Bumpass to approve the Parking Lot License Agreement with Route One Farmer's Market to use the District office parking lot and other property.**

**Roll Call:**

**Ayes:** Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Redmon, Stewart, and Wyckoff

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**9. REPORTS**

**A. Committees**

Directors Brooks and Stewart attended the Sustainability Groundwater Management Agency via teleconference meeting in August.

**B. District Representatives to External Agencies**

Nothing to report.

**C. President**

President Stewart attended the virtual Association California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference and various California Special Districts Association (CSDA) meetings and in August.

## D. General Manager Report

General Manager Barget has been busy working with O&M Manager Garner on the Tank Rehabilitation Project.

General Manager Barget is registered for the ACWA Continuing Legal Education Virtual Workshop Series on September 9 at 10:00 a.m. if anyone would like to join him.

## 10. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Santa Barbara County Fire, Lompoc Valley Fuel Reduction Projects, Defensible Space Accomplishment, Updated 8/24/20

## 11. DIRECTORS FORUM

Director Bumpass asked for an update on the Floradale Bridge Project. General Manager Barget said Lompoc submitted the ninety-five percent design plans to the county and are waiting for their review.

Director Redmon said on the last Saturday of July and August community volunteers and the Rotary Club worked together to clean up the landscape area and murals across from Cabrillo High School.

Director Stewart supports collecting the District's fixed water and sewer charges through the property tax roll, in the same manner as the LRWRP Upgrade Charge. She suggested a future agenda item so the Board could consider and discuss the concept.

## 12. ADJOURN

**President Stewart declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

**Attest:**

**Signed:**

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**Stephanie Garner**  
**Secretary, Board of Directors**

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**Katherine A. Stewart**  
**President, Board of Directors**