

# VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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*"Pride in Community Service"*

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## **MINUTES Special Meeting January 7, 2025**

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Gonzales who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. ROLL CALL: Directors Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi were present.

#### OTHERS PRESENT

General Manager Cynthia Allen; Operations & Maintenance Manager Jeff Cole; Financial Services Manager Patricia LeCavalier; former Board Members Christopher Brooks and Robert Bumpass; Michael Garner, 561 Andromeda Drive; Daniel Redmon, 125 Inverness Avenue and five other members of the public.

### 3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

### 4. PUBLIC FORUM

President Gonzales invited public comments and there were none.

### 5. OPERATIONS REPORT

Operations and Maintenance Manager Cole reported that the district pumped 29.4 million gallons in December with an average daily demand of 0.95 million gallons. This is two percent more than last December.

Vandenberg Village had 0.55” of rainfall in December. The calendar year total is currently at 17.55”. The district’s well levels for December were 1B-141’, 3A-136’, and 3B-134’.

In December, the field crew assisted RL Johnson Construction with the repair of offsite manhole #5. Mr. Cole confirmed that this job is now complete. It was reported that one angle stop was replaced by the crew and a new Filter Control Panel was received from PureFlow. The control panel is installed and already in use.

O&M Manager Cole reported that he and our SCADA integrator completed the SCADA upgrade, and everything went well. To conclude his report, Mr. Cole reported that there were no sewer overflows in December, and he currently has no staff announcements.

## 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Financial Services Manager LeCavalier informed the board that the \$1.67 million was moved from the Santa Barbara County Fund to California CLASS. It was noted that the County does still owe us the interim interest from the end of last quarter up to when the funds were moved. The County should have their quarterly information completed by the end of this week.

Ms. LeCavalier noted that the office was closed to the public from December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, however, it was manned by a member of the office staff each day that was not a holiday. The office will be closed again on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> in respect of President Carter’s passing.

## 7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the Special Meeting on December 6, 2024

B. Treasurer Report

1) Pro-forma Financial Statements as of November 30, 2024

Director Stassi had a question regarding the December jump in the YTD Net Operating Income for Wastewater. Financial

Services Manager LeCavalier confirmed that this is when we expect to receive the amount that is billed on the tax roll and that we did receive an amount that is not going to show until next month.

2) Disbursements through December 31, 2024

**Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Lamont, to accept the consent calendar as presented.**

**Ayes: Directors Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**  
**Noes: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

8. ACTION ITEM

**A. Chris Brooks**

President Gonzales read the resolution aloud before the following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Heuring, to adopt Resolution 236-25 commending and thanking Chris Brooks for 20 years of service to the residents of Vandenberg Village.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Directors Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**  
**Noes: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

**B. Robert Bumpass**

President Gonzales read the resolution aloud before the following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Heuring, to adopt Resolution 237-25 commending and thanking Robert Bumpass for eight years of service to the residents of Vandenberg Village.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Directors Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**  
**Noes: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

**C. Committees and Agencies**

After some discussion, the following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Lamont, seconded by Director Stassi, to confirm Board President Gonzales’ appointments to the Legal/Personnel standing committee, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the external agencies and to table appointments to the Finance/Budget and Water/Wastewater standing committees until the next meeting.**

<b>Standing Committees</b>	<b>2025</b>
Legal/Personnel	Gonzales (Chair)
	Lamont
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)	Stassi (primary)
	Lamont (alternate)

<b>Agencies</b>	<b>2025</b>
Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) & Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA)	Heuring (primary)
	Lamont (alternate)
California Special Districts Association (CSDA) & Santa Barbara County Chapter of CSDA (SBCCSDA)	Gonzales (primary)
	Stassi (alternate)
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD)	Lamont (primary)
	Heuring (alternate)

**Ayes: Directors Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**  
**Noes: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

#### **D. Director Travel Budget**

The Directors discussed which conferences they would like to attend for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

#### **E. Board Vacancy**

After some discussion, the following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Lamont, seconded by Director Heuring, to approve a notice of vacancy and plan to appoint a new Director at the February 4 meeting.**

**Ayes: Directors Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**  
**Noes: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

#### **F. Board Meeting Day and Time**

The following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Gonzales, seconded by Director Lamont, to waive reading and adopt Resolution 235-25 changing the regular meeting time to 4:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month.**

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Directors Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**  
**Noes: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

## G. Future Well Site

General Manager Allen was directed by State Lands and Fish and Wildlife to have a Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the future well site.

Michael Garner, Vandenberg Village resident and former VVCSD employee of forty years, made it clear that this project has been a long time coming and is of great importance to the community. Mr. Garner met with Meridian Consultants eight years ago regarding this same future well site and at that time Meridian Consultants was ready to move forward. Mr. Garner believes that Meridian knows how to mitigate and work well with the state and that it is time to move forward and do what he believes is right for the community.

Daniel Redmon, Vandenberg Village resident and former VVCSD Board Member, addressed the Board stating that many years ago he and former Director Christopher Brooks met with a State Lands Director regarding a future well site. Mr. Redmon has been advocating for a new well site for many years and recommends that we move forward to get this land. Mr. Redmon believes it is important for VVCSD to have this backup well for the community and that it is a matter of when not if a well will eventually go down. He understands that mitigation is going to be a cost of doing business with State Lands Land but it's important for the community to have a backup.

After a lengthy discussion between the Board Members, staff, and concerned members of the public, the following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Gonzales, to accept a proposal from Meridian Consultants to prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and authorize the Board President to sign.**

**Ayes: Directors Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**  
**Noes: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

## 9. REPORTS

### A. Committees

No Committees met.

### B. District Representatives to External Agencies

No District Representative to External Agencies to report.

### C. Board President

President Gonzales thanked the public for showing up. He felt that the Resolutions recognizing Christopher Brooks and Robert Bumpass were something special and each was nicely worded.

Director Gonzales would like to invite Michael Munoz with Santa Barbara County to one of our future board meetings. To conclude his report, Director Gonzales spoke to Director Heuring regarding the Ad Hoc Committee. Both Directors agreed they would discuss this at our next meeting.

### D. General Manager

General Manager Allen commended Director Gonzales on a nice first meeting as Board President.

General Manager Allen reported that this month the Request for Qualifications for the water/wastewater evaluation has been sent to our list of consultants and has also been posted to our website. The due date for responses is February 19<sup>th</sup>. The contract won't be awarded until July, which leaves plenty of time to look over qualifications, vet all applicants, and go through the committee and the board.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviewed our 2021 Risk and Resilience Assessment as well as our Emergency Response Plan. Unfortunately, the EPA felt that the RRA was too brief and

requested that more detailed information be provided in certain sections before they accepted our documents. The original assessment was prepared by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and was not easily modified. Dr. Allen started fresh and rewrote the document using the EPA template. Later this month, they will be meeting virtually to go through the document page by page before a final decision is made.

General Manager Allen was previously asked to provide information regarding the SGMA grant. She reported that we have not yet received a breakdown of how much has been reimbursed for each component to date from the Conservation District. A document was passed out showing how much each GSA area is allocated for each component. Components 6, 7, and 8 are WMA-only projects, which means we will receive a greater percentage of the grant funding. The WMA was selected to oversee the payments to the component administration the consultant does.

Dr. Allen also noted that the next Chapter meeting for the SBCCSDA will be January 27<sup>th</sup>. The location of this meeting has not yet been determined. The district office will be closed Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> to observe the National Day of Mourning for President Carter. It was also noted that you can find the budget calendar on page 83 of the board package.

To conclude her report, General Manager Allen stated that on page 85 of the board package, you will see our cybersecurity grant has been tentatively approved for the full amount of \$30,400. Applicants that were not selected do have the opportunity to appeal this decision. Once the appeals process is complete, which is expected to be later this month, we should receive the official funding paperwork.

## 10. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

A. **US Drought Monitor:** California, December 31, 2024

B. **VVCSD:** Water Pumped vs. Sold, 12 months



**C. VVCS D:** Budget Calendar, Fiscal Year 2025-26

General Manager Allen, Director Gonzales, and Director Lamont scheduled the Legal/Personnel Committee meeting for February 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

**D. Cal OES:** Notification of Subrecipient Allocation

**11. DIRECTORS FORUM**

Director Stassi commented that he likes the budget schedule. His main concern is when it comes down to the approval, the years all fit together for the reserves, rates, capital, and operating budget so we understand how they all support each other.

**12. ADJOURN**

**President Gonzales declared the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.**

**Attest:**

**Signed:**

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**Brianna Jennings**  
**Secretary, Board of Directors**

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**Richard Gonzales**  
**President, Board of Directors**