



*Setting Standards of Excellence in Public Service*

**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Tuesday, May 24, 2022 – 3 p.m.  
7811 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942-0427  
Virtual/Hybrid Meeting**

**OPEN MEETING**

1. Chair Verbeke called the May 24, 2022, special Committee of the Board meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The meeting was turned over to Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen to verify all board members, staff and members of the public could hear one another and that everyone could identify the board members by voice recognition or video image.

The roll call showed a quorum of the board present via electronic conferencing software. Directors Verbeke, McMillan, Gracyk and Scalzitti were present. Director Hedberg was absent.

Staff present: Lugo, Olney, Bryant, Miller, Ross, Valdez, Janzen, Annett, Dambrose, Thompson and Uhrhammer.

Others present: Family, friends and teachers of the poster contest winners were present.

2. Director McMillan led the Pledge of Allegiance. No invocation was provided.
3. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo reported there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. There were no public comments. The motion to approve the agenda carried 4-0 by roll call vote.

Motion: Scalzitti  
Second: McMillan  
Ayes: Verbeke, McMillan, Gracyk, Scalzitti  
Absent: Hedberg

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

4. Chair Verbeke provided opportunity for members of the public to address the board on any item under the subject matter jurisdiction of the district. There were no public comments.

**PRESENTATIONS**

5. The board received an update regarding the Home Start program. Director of Administrative Services Jennifer C. Bryant presented a PowerPoint slide and answered all questions regarding the cities served, the return to pre-pandemic shutoff averages of five per day, extra efforts made by customer service prior to shutoff notice deliveries, \$76,000 spent, 241 customers provided financial assistance with additional state resources coming to those that qualify. All board members shared their appreciation for the program and the assistance provided to their constituents.

During the setup for agenda item 6, a number of questions were answered from customers by General Manager Carlos V. Lugo and Assistant General Manager Brian M. Olney regarding water recycling, conservation, the state project water, the testing of drinking water and COVID-19 testing of wastewater.

6. The board recognized the winners of Helix Water District's annual Water is Life calendar poster contest. Senior Public Affairs Representative Michael J. Uhrhammer introduced the participants. The board presented the awards and congratulated the winners.

**Kindergarten – Fourth grade awards:** 1<sup>st</sup> Aiden Galaz of Vista La Mesa Academy; 2<sup>nd</sup> Charlotte Pierce of Christ Lutheran School; 3<sup>rd</sup> Belen Cardenas Loera of Lighthouse Christian Academy; Honorable Mentions Clare Brandt of Our Lady of Grace and Gabrielle Portilla of Lakeview Elementary School.

**Fifth – Eighth grade awards:** 1<sup>st</sup> Abraham Hernandez of STEAM Academy at La Presa; 2<sup>nd</sup> Abigail Payne of Christian Lutheran School; 3<sup>rd</sup> Catalina Jones of Lemon Avenue Elementary; Honorable Mentions Kayla V. Osuna of STEAM Academy at La Presa and Lindsay Lu of Christ Lutheran School.

Photographs were taken. Mr. Uhrhammer shared that 343 posters were submitted from 18 schools with 40 teachers involved. Special thanks were given to Public Affairs Education Assistant Francine C. Thompson for organizing the contest. The board thanked and congratulated all the participants.

7. The board received an update regarding the East County Advanced Water Purification project. Assistant General Manager Brian M. Olney provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered all questions regarding the governance structure, project phases including the possibility of a third-party energy recover/generation operator or consultant, total program costs of \$950 million dollars with project funding sources of \$760 million in low-interest loans and \$123 million expected through grants and incentives. Director Gracyk requested additional details regarding the source of potential funding from Congressman Darrell Issas' office. Discussion ensued regarding challenges of the agreement with City of San Diego to transfer the East Mission Gorge Pump Station to the ECAWP Joint Powers Authority. The regional brine line and potential Proposition 218 conflicts were discussed. There were no public comments.

### **DISCUSSION**

8. Directors Scalzitti and McMillan reported they would be attending the May 26, 2022, San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors meeting and attended the California Special Districts Association May 19, 2022, dinner meeting with Protective Security Advisor Robert Mielish from Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency. The venue was discussed with network attendees. Director McMillan mentioned his preference to conduct Committee of the Board meetings on Tuesdays to deconflict with the East County Caucus meetings on Wednesday mornings.

Director Gracyk requested an update from the May 24, 2022, State Water Resources Control Board meeting attended by President Hedberg and Public Affairs Supervisor Michelle M. Curtis. Director of Administrative Services Jennifer C. Bryant stated the Level 2 emergency drought regulations would be brought to the board June 15, 2022. There were no public comments.

9. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo had nothing additional to report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

10. Chair Verbeke adjourned the special Committee of the Board meeting at 4:35 p.m.



DeAna R. Verbeke, Chair

ATTEST:



Sandra L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board