

**LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 7, 2023  
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:00 a.m., Commission Chambers, Clark County Government Center,  
500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Marilyn Kirkpatrick, President  
Jim Gibson, Vice President  
Justin Jones  
William McCurdy II  
Ross Miller  
Michael Naft  
Tick Segerblom

STAFF PRESENT: John Entsminger, Doa Ross, Dave Johnson, Greg Walch, Kevin Bethel

*Unless otherwise indicated, all members present voted in the affirmative.*

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

*For full public comment, visit [www.lvwd.com/apps/agenda/lvwd/index.cfm](http://www.lvwd.com/apps/agenda/lvwd/index.cfm)*

Laura McSwain, 2727 Ashby Ave., spoke on agenda item #12 and asked how the excessive use charge is presented in the District's Annual Financial Report. She stated that upon board approval, it was said that the revenue from the excessive use charge would be part of general revenue, but that it has also been stated that the funds would go toward conservation. She stated that there is no tracking or monitoring of where the money is going.

Ed Uehling, Las Vegas, spoke on item #11 and asked why the board would delegate more administrative authority to the General Manager, when there is already much in question about the District's leadership.

**ITEM NO.**

**1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to approve the agenda and the minutes from the regular meeting of October 3, 2023. The motion was approved.

*Las Vegas Valley Water District*

**CONSENT AGENDA** Items 2 – 9 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.

2. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Bravo Underground, Inc., for pipeline replacements in Viking Road, Topaz Street and Pacific Street, extending the final completion date by 106 calendar days.
3. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Change Order No. 2 to the contract with Acme Underground, Inc., for pipeline replacements, in an increased amount not to exceed \$1,267,820.
4. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Change Order No. 2 to the contract with Wadley Construction, Inc., for pipeline replacements in an increased amount not to exceed \$483,411 and a time extension of the completion dates by 5 calendar days.
5. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Change Order No. 4 to the contract with SHF International LLC to construct a Springs Preserve event site, extending the final completion date by 86 calendar days.
6. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Change Order No. 5 to the contract with Harber Company, Inc., dba Mountain Cascade of Nevada, to install and connect pipelines in Deer Springs Way, extending the completion dates by 88 calendar days.
7. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Change Order No. 6 to the contract with M.M.C., Inc., for the construction of the Centennial 2635 Zone Reservoir and 2745 Zone Pumping Station in an increased amount not to exceed \$11,066, and extend the completion dates by 123 calendar days.

8. **Approve and authorize the President to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an interlocal agreement between the City of Las Vegas and the District for installation of water facilities for the Lake Mead-Losee to Simmons Complete Street Upgrades Project.**
9. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an interlocal agreement between the Clark County School District and the District pursuant to which the Clark County School District will pay the District an estimated \$316,183 for certain asphalt installation costs as part of pavement restoration on a segment of St. Louis Avenue in conjunction with miscellaneous pipeline replacements.**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to approve staff's recommendations. The motion was approved.

#### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

10. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between CDJT Builders LLC and the District for developer participation in the cost of future infrastructure and authorize the District to receive from CDJT Builders LLC an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for future pressure regulating valve construction.**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to approve staff's recommendations. The motion was approved.

11. **Adopt a resolution that delegates additional administrative authority to the General Manager and his designees, and ratifies previous actions taken in accordance therewith.**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Jones to adopt the resolution. The motion was approved.

12. **Accept the Las Vegas Valley Water District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, including the corresponding Independent Auditors' Report on Financial Statements and Other Supplementary Information for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023, and authorize its submission to the Nevada Department of Taxation.**

Kevin Bethel, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Las Vegas Valley Water District's Annual Financial Report. Mr. Bethel reported that the audit with Baker Tilly US, LLP went extremely well and within the auditor's required communications, there were no findings, and it was an unmodified, or clean, opinion.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to accept the District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The motion was approved.

#### ***Big Bend Water District (Las Vegas Valley Water District Board of Directors sitting as the Big Bend Water District Board of Trustees)***

13. **Accept the Big Bend Water District's Annual Financial Report, including the corresponding Independent Auditors' Report on Financial Statements and Other Supplementary Information for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023, and authorize its submission to the Nevada Department of Taxation.**

Kevin Bethel, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Big Bend Water District's Annual Financial Report. Mr. Bethel reported that in the auditor's (Baker Tilly US, LLP) required communications, there were no findings and an unmodified opinion, with no internal control weaknesses.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Naft to accept the District's Annual Financial Report. The motion was approved.

#### **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Pete Foley, 4512 Fernbrook Rd., stated that issuing fines to people for the use of water is wrong, especially at a time when inflation is impacting so many people. He stated that the excessive use policy is discriminatory because it impacts the older, larger properties in the valley. He stated that the board is out of touch with the residents of Clark County and that the continued development of Las Vegas is detrimental to those residents who have been here a long time.

Carol Reynolds, 2740 Mann St., a long-time resident of Las Vegas stated that residential customers have been declared enemies by the Water District, adding that the District's recent marketing campaigns have been offensive. She stated that the lack of community input further illustrates the condescension by the District, adding that these new charges are punitive and designed to cause pain to residents.

Diane Henry, 7525 Coley Ave., agrees that water conservation is important, but that the excessive use fees are unfair as it only applies to single-family residences in Las Vegas, and not the other Southern Nevada cities. She stated that this was not communicated or implemented well, adding that it is unfair that this policy was implemented before people were given a chance to adjust their landscape accordingly or before leak detection technologies were implemented. She stated that the additional earned revenue should be used to expand the leak adjustment program to more than just a one-time credit.

Rebecca Osbourne, formerly of 4735 Designer Way, asked how much research was conducted by the board before approving the excessive use charge policy. She stated that she does not own property in Clark County but is currently renting a home, adding that she is stuck between the water district and a landlord and can no longer afford to pay rent and the excessive use charge that comes with watering to satisfy contracts with landlords, as she has no legal authority to change or alter the landscape of the property she is renting.

John Copeland, 3065 S. Torrey Pines, stated that last month he received a voicemail from the Water District notifying him of continuous water flow. He subsequently found and fixed a leak and installed a system to detect future leaks. He stated that he is going to receive a one-time leak adjustment refund, but encouraged the District to improve its leak detection capabilities.

Norm Schilling, 767 Rossmore Dr., has been a horticulturist and arborist for 35 years. He stated that the new excessive use policy enacted by the water district is inordinately impacting the urban forest, especially on large properties. He stated that many of the large, older trees are dependent on nearby lawns and many times when turf is removed, nearby trees die. He said the number one mitigating factor of the valley's heat index is the urban forest, adding that there are many things the Southern Nevada Water Authority can do to help remedy this situation. He asked the board to reconsider the excessive use policy and its approach.

Robert Manring, 9835 Bright Angel Way, stated that he removed the lawn in his backyard lawn due to excessive use fees and that he has a multi-generational house with many people living with him due to rising inflationary costs. He stated that he will continue to pay his water bill but will no longer pay the excessive use fees.

Robert Casper, 9045 Patinagem Ave., stated that trees on his property are dying because he cannot water them properly without being fined. He stated that no one in his neighborhood knew about this policy and felt blindsided. He asked why the commission continues to approve development when Las Vegas has a water crisis.

Mark Craven, 2121 S. Cimarron Rd., stated that he has many trees on his property and a couple are in the process of dying because the surrounding land has less water and they can't water the trees enough without receiving an excessive use fine. He stated that this policy is unfair because it does not apply to everyone in the valley.

Christopher Allen, 1125 Cahlan Dr., stated that the excessive use fees are unfair, and that one size does not fit all. He said that yards and trees in his neighborhood are dying, and the excessive use charge is taking its toll. He said that spraying the valley with cash to incentivize new tree planting is disturbing while those who have established trees are not able to properly care for them, adding that instead of spending money on needless advertising campaigns, the district should focus on finding a real solution to the water crisis.

Mara Meservy, 2718 Mason Ave., reported that her children live at the following addresses, 3444 Lacebark Pine St., 1330 Darmak Dr., and 1141 Barnard Dr., and that all of them have been impacted by the excessive use charge. She stated that they have tried to adjust landscaping and conserve water but are still fined. She stated that her property values are decreasing due to the poor landscapes and upkeep of nearby properties, because they cannot afford to properly care for them.

Faye Bradford, 4125 E. Oquendo Rd., has lived in Las Vegas for 32 years and has an older, larger property. She said that she can no longer enjoy her beautiful landscaping that she has worked so hard over many years to install. She stated that larger lots should not have the same water use thresholds as smaller lots.

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Debbie Hawkins, 28 Congressional Ct., has lived in Las Vegas since 1987 and has raised her family here. She stated that she is tired that growth and development are prioritized over the quality of life of existing residents.

Mike Partridge, 8037 Echo Cliff Ln., a master gardener and retired engineer, stated that the Water District has set policies that have harmed the quality of life of residents and negatively affected property values with inaccurate and incomplete information.

Cindy Savino, 2122 Edgewood Ave., owns her property and the private road adjacent. She stated that they planted more than 40 trees in accordance with the laws in that area. She stated that her summer water bills have increased from \$500/mo. on average to more than \$2,000/mo. due to the excessive use charge, adding that her property helps reduce the heat index and this policy is unfair. She stated that she has sent letters to both the board and the Water District but has not been contacted by either.

Laura McSwain, spoke about the oasis concept which talks about the importance of turf and trees in homes and residences as they impact air quality. She requested that the board and District reset and go back to the basics.

Kent Wallace, 9445 W. El Campo Grande, stated that he is a living water feature expert and that the Las Vegas valley is filled with expertise in related industries, and that those individuals should be consulted. He stated that some experts approached the Water District looking to help but were turned away. He asked the board to put together a commission of industry experts to help improve this situation.

Julie Christensen, 2000 Homeview Ct., built her home in 1988 and developed a beautiful property over the years. She stated that she has recently been slammed with high water bills and feels that the excessive use charge is discriminatory and will negatively impact her property values. She stated that the Water District needs to focus on finding new water resources.

Margaret Matherly, 10629 Shoalhaven Dr., stated that she has desert landscaping in her front yard and a small plot of grass in her backyard, and that her trees help shade her house and grass. She stated that this is a fiasco.

Tara Anderson, 2104 Frontier Ave., stated that she is not impacted by the excessive use charge, but enjoys the urban tree canopy. She stated that the issue with the policy is that it undermines every rule to the matters of land use and planning that Southern Nevada abides by, adding that this policy renders properties valueless.

Andrew Reitz, 1912 Bluejay Cir., stated that Hoover Dam was built to regulate water for Las Vegas and that water is being wasted down the river and cannot be recaptured. He stated that he reported a leak on Jones Blvd. and called both the water district and Commissioner Miller's office, but that the leak was not repaired until more than one week later, wasting an exorbitant amount of water. He stated that this policy is not equitable and is unfair.

Denise Reitz, 1912 Bluejay Cir., stated that the board represents its constituents and that as the board of directors of the Las Vegas Valley Water District, there is a work to do and a response that needs to happen.

Ed Uehling, Las Vegas, stated that developers in the valley get whatever they want from this board. He said that he has spoken many times to the board about this increased heat index on the east side of the valley.

Ernesto & Cynthia Savino, and Kathleen Bellucci submitted public comment in advance of the meeting. Their comments are attached to these minutes.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**Copies of all original agenda items and minutes, including all attachments, are on file in the General Manager's office at the Las Vegas Valley Water District, 1001 South Valley View Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada.**

*Ernesto & Cynthia Savino*  
*2122 Edgewood Ave.*  
*Las Vegas, NV 89102*

General Manager's Office  
Molasky Building

OCT 24 2023

Received

October 17, 2023

Southern Nevada Water Authority

John Entsminger, GM, David Johnson, Deputy GM, Colby Pellegrino Deputy GM, Doa Ross, Deputy GM, E Kevin Bethel CFO, Gregory J Walch, General Counsel

Clark County Board of Directors

Marilyn Kirkpatrick, President, James Gibson, VP, Justin Jones, William McCurdy II, Ross Miller, Michael Naft, Tick Segerblom, Scotch 80's District E, Clark County Commissioners.

LVVWD

1001 South Valley View Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89153

RE: Account #1131032962-5

DISPUTED EXCESSIVE USE CHARGE  
PAYMENT UNDER DURESS

As you are aware, LVVWD "FOR PROFIT" excessive use charge is completely an act of thievery. We dispute this payment and will every month until the water district can justify a fair billing plan to the residents who hold property of over 1 ½ acers. The LVVWD, SNWA, and Clark County Commissioners are responsible for killing our trees, we lost 1 in the front yard and several are struggling on the private street we have lost 16 of our plants on our property between the front and back yard. We have owned this property since 2008. This is not a fair act and **should not be based on** a single household receiving a allowed amount of water which is based on the same for a 1300 square feet of property. This allotment of water law should be tied to the size of property, this is the only fair way to calculate water usage. This "FOR PROFIT" fee is unlawful, and this payment is made under duress and in dispute.

So far this year, January 26, 2023, thru September 26, 2023, we have paid an unlawful fee of \$4,635.00. This is an unfair act of thievery, and we demand a full refund.

Regards,

  
Cynthia Savino  
Ernesto Savino

**From:** [Kat Bellucci](#)  
**To:** [&PublicComment](#)  
**Subject:** {External} Water Fairness Coalition  
**Date:** Sunday, October 29, 2023 3:06:22 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from bellucci823@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I have been a home owner for over 30 years in Clark Count and I find it insulting, manipulative, and greedy to increase rates because of the size of our home lots!!

Additionally, I pay close attention to the water rules and regulations and shouldn't have to pay more because i have more property. I pay enough just following the normal charges never mind being penalized because my home is on a larger lot It's ridiculous. If you want a good comparison, it is same as me having to work a second and 3rd job just to pay for The health insurance of someone who doesn't want to work or is here in this country illegally (as I have had to do since obamacare) !!!!

Please bring common sense back to our water district. We are in no jeopardy of running out of water anytime soon and we have already paid for the upgrades to ensure we have enough water to last us another century. Please tell the water district we have paid enough !!

Kathleen Bellucci  
9'Cozy Glen Cir  
Henderson NV 89074  
[Bellucci823@gmail.com](mailto:bellucci823@gmail.com)