

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was called to order by President Reinhart at 5:00 p.m. on February 12, 2024 at the District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

Directors Present: McLaughlin, Swan, Withers, LaMar, and Reinhart.

Director Absent: None.

Oral and Written Communications: None.

Items too late to be agendized: None.

Also Present: General Manager Cook, Executive Director of Operations Chambers, Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst, Executive Director of Technical Services Burton, Director of Water Quality and Regulatory Compliance Colston, Director of Water Resources Sanchez, Director of Human Resources Mitcham, Director of Safety and Security Choi, Director of Maintenance Manning, Director of Water and Recycling Operations Zepeda, Director of Treasury Morris, Director of Strategic Communication and Advocacy Compton, Secretary Bonkowski, Assistant Secretary Swan, General Counsel Collins, Consultant Newell and members of the staff and public.

PRESENTATION

4. 2023 COMMUNICATIONS OUTREACH RESULTS

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Digital Communications Specialist Ancona and Communications Manager Fabris presented to the Board a recap of the District's digital customer outreach in 2023 noting that to inspire tangible change in customer behavior, staff again focused the outreach campaigns with clear calls to action (e.g., signing up for the Sprinkler Repair Program, attending water efficiency workshops, and participating in the turf-replacement and spray-to-drip-irrigation-conversion rebate programs) and used humor to cut through crises and message fatigue. It was noted that in 2023, IRWD garnered 18,621,720 impressions from its digital communications outreach, nearly twice the 2022 number. The District has also continued to see customer water savings.

Director LaMar said that this item was reviewed by the Water Resources Policy and Communications Committee on February 7, 2024 and the Committee was impressed with the results. Following a few questions from the Board, staff was thanked for their efforts.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On **MOTION** by LaMar, seconded by McLaughlin and unanimously carried, **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 5 THROUGH 7 WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:**

5. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: That the minutes of the January 22, 2024 Regular Board meeting be approved as presented.

6. 2024 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

The Board adopt a “sponsor/support” position on AB 1827 (Papan), a “seek amendments” position on AB 805 (Arambula) and SB 937 (Weiner), and a “watch” position on AB 1820 (Schiavo).

7. WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENTS FOR TUSTIN LEGACY SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT AND TUSTIN MARKET PLACE PROJECT

Recommendation: That the Board approve the Water Supply Assessment for the Tustin Legacy Specific Plan Amendment and the Water Supply Assessment for the Tustin Market Place Project.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. General Manager’s Report

General Manager Cook demonstrated an optional screen that would project Board meeting PowerPoint presentations directly in front of each of the Directors for easier viewing.

9. Receive oral update(s) from District liaison(s) regarding communities within IRWD’s service area and interests.

Consultant Newell said that all is going well in Santiago Canyon.

10. Directors’ Comments and Meeting Reports

Director McLaughlin said that she had no meetings to report.

Director Withers reported on his attendance at an ISDOC quarterly luncheon, a Southern California Water Coalition Quarterly luncheon, a MWDOC Water Policy Forum and dinner, a WACO monthly meeting, and an ISDOC Executive Committee meeting. He said this Wednesday he will be attending an NWRI Board meeting and an OCSD Board meeting.

Director Swan reported on his attendance at a CASA winter conference in Palm Springs, a Quarterly MWDOC / OCWD Joint Planning Committee meeting, a MWDOC Water Policy Forum and dinner, a WACO monthly meeting, a MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee meeting, a Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority Board meeting, a MWDOC Workshop Board meeting, a Newport Chambers meeting, a Southern California Dialogue Planning meeting, and a OCWD Board meeting. He said that this Wednesday he will be attending a PPIC California Economic meeting.

Director LaMar said that he attended an ISDOC quarterly luncheon and a Southern California Water Coalition Quarterly luncheon meeting.

10. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports (continued)

Director Reinhart said that he attended a South Orange County Agencies' Group meeting, a MWDOC Water Policy forum and dinner, an OCWD Communications and Legislation Liaison Committee meeting, a WACO monthly meeting, a Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority Board meeting, an OCWD Board meeting, aa OCWD Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting, and a MWDOC meeting.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Legal Counsel Collins said that the following Closed Session would be held:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL — EXISTING LITIGATION — Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1): *Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District and Irvine Ranch Water District v. The Dow Chemical Company, et al.*, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-22-100041.

12. Open Session

Following the Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened with Directors McLaughlin, Withers, Swan, LaMar and Reinhart present. General Counsel Collins said that there was no action to report.

13. Adjournment

President Reinhart adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 11th day of March, 2024.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

Secretary, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Claire Hervey Collins, General Counsel
Hanson Bridgett LLP