

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE OF THE  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS  
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

January 25, 2023  
11:00 o'clock, A.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chairperson and upon written notice of the Secretary setting the time and place of a special meeting and mailed to each Director at least 24 hours before the meeting, a special meeting of the Personnel Committee of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County was held at the Joint Administration Office, 1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, California, on January 25, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., via teleconference, for the purpose of:

1. Public Comment
2. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting Held October 26, 2022
3. Approve *Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Personnel Committee Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 by California Governor and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Body*
4. Wastewater Revenue Program
5. Re: Agency Updates
  - (a) Return to In-Person Board Meetings
  - (b) 100-Year Celebration
  - (c) 2023 Agency Goals

There were present: Ali Saleh, District No. 1  
Steve Croft, District No. 3  
Lula Davis-Holmes, Districts Nos. 8  
Richard Barakat, District No. 15  
Kathryn Barger, District No. 17  
Ali Sajjad Taj, Districts Nos. 18 and 19  
Cory Moss, District No. 21  
Margaret E. Finlay, District No. 22  
Leticia Lopez, District No. 23  
Michael T. Davitt, District No. 28  
Tina Hansen, District No. 29  
Cathy Warner, Chairperson, District No. 2

Absent: Bill Brand, South Bay Cities and District No. 5  
Lauren Meister, District No. 4  
Janice Hahn, District No. 9, 27 and Newhall Ranch  
Rex Parris, District No. 14  
Vacant, District No. 16  
Laura Bettencourt, District No. 20  
Laurene Weste, Santa Clarita Valley

Also present: Robert Ferrante, Chief Engineer and General Manager  
Wesley Beverlin, Committee Counsel  
Kimberly S. Christensen, Secretary of the Committee

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chairperson announced this was the time for any questions or comments by members of the public. There were no public comments or questions to address the Board on matters not listed on the agenda. Public comments on items listed on agenda are included in the item below.

RE: MINUTES

the special meeting held on October 26, 2022, were approved.

Upon motion of Director Taj, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, the minutes of

RE: RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY ON MARCH 4, 2020 BY CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY - ADOPT

A proposed *Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Personnel Committee Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 by California Governor and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Body* was presented. Remote teleconference meetings, during the continued existence of the Governor's proclaimed state of COVID-19 emergency, will be conducted under

the provisions of AB 361 which added California Government Code Section 54953(e), to the Brown Act. Under the provisions of AB 361 and Government Code Section 54953(e), each District must adopt, by majority vote, a resolution making certain findings about the continuing COVID state of emergency and health and safety risks of conducting their meeting in person. By statute, this Resolution and its referenced findings, are only legally valid for 30 days. A copy of the proposed Resolution was attached to the agenda. A recommendation was made to adopt the Resolution.

Upon motion of Director Taj, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, the following Resolution was adopted:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY, RATIFYING  
THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY ON MARCH 4, 2020 BY  
CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE  
MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee ("Committee") is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the District's Board of Directors and committees; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Committee's Board of Directors are open and public, pursuant to the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 54950-54963) (the "Brown Act"), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, observe and watch the District's Board of Directors conduct business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Section 54953(e), allows for conducting and participating in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of the Brown Act Section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition under the Brown Act Section 54953(e) is the declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor pursuant to California Government Code Section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within California caused by the conditions outlined and described in California Government Code Section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation of a state of emergency is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the District's boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-induced disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that the state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or the Board of Directors of the Committee have held a meeting where it considered and determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the District as Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Order of the Health Officer issued September 22, 2022 (the "County Order") includes recommendations for the protection of persons with elevated risk factors for severe health outcomes due to COVID-19 infection; and

WHEREAS, the Committee's Board of Directors does hereby find that the ongoing and significant risks associated with COVID-19 infection, especially in the absence of capacity limits and physical distancing requirements for indoor activities, on those individuals with underlying health conditions that make them susceptible to severe COVID-19 illness and individuals who are not and cannot be vaccinated, that COVID-19 infection remains a significant health hazard to all residents, and desires to proclaim a local emergency and ratify

the proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California, and further, ratify the County Order findings related to the ongoing health hazards of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the declared state of emergency and the local emergency, the Board of Directors of the Committee does hereby find that the District shall continue to conduct its meetings in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the Brown Act Section 54953(e), and that the legislative bodies of the District shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to, and an opportunity to comment at all meetings of the District's legislative bodies in accordance with the requirements of the Brown Act Section 54953(e)(2); and

WHEREAS, the District will continue its practice of live streaming its meetings via the Zoom software platform which allows members of the public to observe and participate in the meetings via video or call-in options, and will continue to offer members of the public an opportunity to make oral comments during the meetings and/or submit written comments before the meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true, correct, and are incorporated in this Resolution by reference.

Section 2. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Board of Directors of the Committee does hereby proclaim that a local emergency now exists throughout the territory of the District and, as described in the County Order, recommendations from health officers include ongoing masking, and social distancing practices especially for indoor settings and particularly for individuals who, due to vaccine status or underlying health conditions, continue to be at risk for severe illness, and COVID-19 infection remains a significant health hazard to all residents of the District.

Section 3. Ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Committee's Board of Directors hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of a State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Chief Engineer and General Manager, staff and legislative bodies are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, without limitation, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with the Brown Act Section 54953(e) and all other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of 30 days after the date of this resolution, or such time that the Committee's Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with the Brown Act Section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of the District may continue to teleconference without compliance with the requirements of the Brown Act Section 54953(b)(3).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Personnel Committee this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Thirteen (13)

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ten (10)

RE: WASTEWATER REVENUE  
PROGRAM - DISCUSS

The Chief Engineer and General Manager reported the issues that are impacting future wastewater rates.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that there are a number of factors that will be affecting wastewater rates in the future. The District is not immune to the impact of inflation. The agency must meet operations and maintenance (O & M) expenses. There are also several capital improvement projects, particularly in the Joint Outfall System (JOS), including the Pure Water Southern California project, seismic upgrades, and accelerated sewer rehabilitation. He stated that significant rate increases will be needed in the future. The service charge rate increases for the JOS would be considered in 2026. It is important to understand the drivers behind the rate increase. He introduced Mr. Matt Eaton, Deputy Assistant Chief Engineer and Head of the Financial Management Department, to give a presentation regarding this matter.

Mr. Eaton advised that this year there will be no rate package for consideration in the JOS. Last year, the JOS Boards adopted four-year rate ordinances covering rates through June 2026. The purpose of the presentation is to give an overview of potential future rate increases starting in July of 2026.

He gave a brief overview of wastewater financials. The Districts continue to be in a strong financial position. Rates (particularly in the JOS) continue to be similar to or lower than comparable agencies. The Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL)/Post-closure exchange implanted last year has reduced pension costs. However, inflation pressures continue to be a concern. Significant capital projects and O & M increases in the JOS over the next 10 years or more will lead to rate increases.

He reviewed the Districts' service area, as shown on a map. The JOS consists of 17 Districts (District No. 34 is inactive) in the southeast portion of Los Angeles County. The non-JOS Districts in the northern part of the county include 14, 20, Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD), and Newhall Ranch Sanitation District (NRSD), and he indicated that a future slide will cover those Districts. The contract Districts include Nos. 4, 9 and 27, and they discharge into the City of Los Angeles system and will also be covered later. The Districts serve 78 cities and unincorporated Los Angeles County, which include approximately five and a half million people.

Financial objectives of the wastewater revenue program are to meet current O & M expenses, debt repayment, and future capital projects; comply with Board-adopted policies; and implement cost-effective, stable rates.

Two key financial policy targets were shown on a slide. The reserves target is 100 percent of the sum of short-term cash flow needs, six months of O & M, one year of debt service, and a stability fund for capital projects/expenses. The Debt Service Coverage Ratio target is 1.30, which is based on the calculation of revenue minus O & M expenses, divided by debt service. Both of those targets are used to develop budgets and rate recommendations.

The SCVSD and Districts Nos. 14 and 20 are independent systems each with their own wastewater treatment plant. These Districts are not part of the JOS. District No. 14 serves Lancaster, a portion of Palmdale, and Los Angeles County. District No. 20 serves Palmdale and a portion of Los Angeles County. SCVSD serves Santa Clarita. The NRSD is starting up and has established service charges, but no upcoming rate changes. In SCVSD, one of the most recent budget drivers was construction of Advanced Water Treatment and related projects to meet regulatory requirements that are nearing completion. At completion, construction will have taken five years at a total cost of approximately \$157 million. Reserve levels and other financial indicators are strong. There are no large capital projects on the horizon. Rate increases are not expected in this District for three years or more. In District No. 14, reserve levels and other financial indicators are strong. Capital spending is expected to increase compared to recent levels. There will be no rate increase this year. Modest rate increases will be necessary in future years. District No. 20 reserves are well below target. They have the highest service charge rate of all the Districts, primarily due to its small size. There may be a need for an additional reservoir project in the next five years, at a cost of \$16.5 million. In February, the Board will be considering a rate increase for July 1, 2023.

Districts Nos. 4, 9, and 27 are relatively small Districts that contract with the City of Los Angeles for wastewater treatment and disposal. Almost all operating and capital costs are pass-throughs from the City of Los Angeles. Due to high property values and property tax revenue, these Districts have high reserve levels. District No. 27 has no service charge since its property tax revenue covers all of the costs. Staff will be evaluating the service charge in Districts Nos. 4 and 9 over the coming year. There is a possibility of significant reductions.

A map of the JOS service area was shown. The JOS operates financially as one combined system. The 17 JOS Districts are served by a system of sewers and pumping plants that convey wastewater to six water reclamation plants (WRPs) or the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP). The JWPCP is the final destination for treatment before discharge to the ocean.

Key drivers of JOS finances include O & M expenses which have been higher than expected due to inflation, which has been especially significant for utilities, chemicals, and labor costs, and capital due to extensive infrastructure investments planned for 10 years or more, to produce more recycled water, higher treatment to meet regulatory requirements, and reliability. Since 2019, electricity has increased 56 percent and individual chemical prices have increased between 24 and 178 percent. Although chemical prices have been increasing for the last several years, some of those increases are just now being realized as contracts get renewed.

Next, he discussed JOS infrastructure projects. A total of \$2.97 billion in projects are in the Capital Improvement Plan through fiscal years 2032-33. Above-target reserves are currently being used to fund capital

projects, and over time reserves will decrease and become closer to their targeted level. At some point, the Districts will need financing. The Clearwater Tunnel project will take approximately four more years to reach completion. Sewer repair projects were accelerated, as recommended by the third-party audit following the Carson sewer spill. Pumping plant upgrades are planned to provide better treatment and a more reliable system. Pure Water Southern California is a partnership with Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to treat the JWPCP effluent using advanced water treatment to replenish groundwater basins throughout Southern California. Earthquake resilience projects will bring infrastructure to seismic standards.

He compared actual JOS capital expenses in years (FYs) 2017-2021 with projected expenses in years 2022-2026. The projected JOS capital expenses will increase to approximately \$450 million in year 2023-24, which is more than two times than actual expenses in years 2017-2021.

The history of JOS service charge rates was shown on a line graph. Historical rates show that rates increase at an average of 3.6 percent per year in the last 20 years and 1.8 percent per year in the last 10 years. The current JOS rate ordinance took effect July 1, 2022, and established rates through June 30, 2026. Rate increases are relatively gradual and follow inflation. Last year and for the next three years, the increase is less than inflation. Starting in 2026, rate increases will likely need to be 10 to 15 percent per year. Rates are expected to remain below comparable agencies for the foreseeable future.

He reviewed JOS service charge rate projections, as shown on a line graph. He compared actual rate increases from the last 20 years, rate increases under the current ordinance, and projected rate increases starting in 2026. There will be a need for significant increases starting in 2026. The total single family home cost in the Districts' JOS is \$273 per year, which remains lower compared to the City of Los Angeles at \$380 per year and Orange County Sanitation District at \$552 per year. JOS service charge rates may approach their rates in the future, compared to being well below for the last 10-20 years.

In conclusion, the Districts continues to be in a strong financial position, inflation pressures continue to be a concern, extensive infrastructure investments are planned for the JOS, and future JOS rate increases will be more significant than recent increases, but rates will continue to be lower than comparable agencies. He stated that there is no rate package to be considered this year, except for District No. 20, which will be considering a rate increase and new rate ordinance. In February and March, the Boards will consider preliminary budgets and the service charge report, which is required to collect the service charge on the property tax roll. In June, the Boards will consider approval of the final budgets and appropriation limits, which is required to receive property tax revenue.

Mr. Eaton concluded his presentation and opened the meeting for questions.

In response to the Chairperson, Mr. Eaton stated that until last year, the 17 JOS Districts shared in some joint costs and individual Districts were responsible for costs for certain local sewers and pumping plants. In 2021, a Director ad hoc committee was convened to review the cost-sharing and revenue structure of the JOS. It was determined that all assets within the JOS should be classified as JOS assets and all Districts would share in their costs in proportion to the Districts' size. As a result, total costs were equalized for all Districts, although the service charge can vary because of the difference in property taxes paid by each homeowner.

In response to Director Finlay, Mr. Eaton stated that every District in the JOS, on a per-household basis, pays the same into the JOS. The source of the revenue is different; for example, instead of coming from service charge, the revenue may come from reserves or from property tax revenue, but in total each District is contributing funds equally into the JOS on a per household basis. For other non-JOS Districts, District No. 27 has high property tax revenue which covers its costs. In Districts Nos. 14, 20 and SCVSD, the charges are significantly higher than in the JOS because they are smaller, stand-alone Districts and, therefore, have different regulation requirements.

Director Finlay stated that it was good to hear a refresher on the matter.

The Chairperson stated that if Directors need further details or information, there are PowerPoint slides that explain JOS financials. She also asked, regarding the graph that was shown, if it is just because inflation exists or because of real price increases.

In response, Mr. Eaton stated that in the last three years, O & M budgets were underestimated because of the unexpected inflation; therefore, rates fell behind slightly. An increase is needed to catch-up to make up for inflation. More inflation is forecasted but it should come back down in the next couple of years. The budget is built based on various labor and chemical cost increases which are tied to inflation. Regarding prices of chemicals, staff has been in discussions with other agencies as well as chemical suppliers who are also

experiencing high supply costs due to supply chain issues, trucking costs, energy costs, and impact of a hurricane two years ago.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that, in a few years, the agency will need significant rate increases. He encouraged any questions and will continue to update the Directors as more information is received.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that these matters will move forward to the individual Districts' Boards for consideration.

RE: AGENCY UPDATES- RETURN TO  
IN-PERSON BOARD MEETINGS - DISCUSS

The Chief Engineer and General Manager provided a brief update on transition in March 2023 from remote to in-person meetings.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that since March 2020, the Board meetings have been held virtually. Governor Gavin Newsom's state of emergency order, which allows for virtual meetings, ends February 2023. In March 2023, Board meetings will resume under the Brown Act or Assembly Bill (AB) 2449, which was effective January 1, 2023.

He reviewed the requirements for remote attendance under the "Traditional" Brown Act and AB 2449, as shown on a slide. Under AB 2449, a quorum must participate in-person from a singular location (e.g., Districts' Board Room). A justification for remote attendance must be for an emergency circumstance or just cause, which must be approved in advance on the agenda by the Board. The justification refers to medical emergencies, contagious illness, caregiving, official travel, etc. There is no location or posting requirement for virtual attendees. Public access/participation is provided in-person at the Board meeting location or on-line via software/phone. AB 2449 is meant for an individual Director's issues for a short-term duration. Under the "Traditional" Brown Act, a quorum must participate from locations within the District's boundaries or, if multiple Boards are meeting jointly, one of the Districts' boundaries. For example, if a Director serves multiple Districts, their city hall would not count for other Districts. The remote location must be posted on the agenda and accessible to the public. The Brown Act requirements may allow some Directors to be remote, but since most Directors are on multiple Districts, it would be very difficult to meet quorums for all meetings.

Effective March 2023, the Directors will meet in-person for regular Board meetings and the Personnel Committee meetings.

The Districts was approached by San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) regarding potential legislation to allow regional agencies to have virtual meetings and have discussed reaching out to Assemblymember Blanca Rubio to sponsor the proposed legislation. The Districts' Board Room will have the ability to conduct meetings for some Directors to attend remotely. Remote meetings provide a lot of efficiency and save time, and the meeting duration is the same. He asked Directors for their comments regarding pursuing this matter with SGVCOG and Assemblymember Rubio.

Director Barakat stated that he prefers in-person meetings because there is a lot said and unsaid that is not caught on virtual dialog. In-person meetings are better and more effective.

The Chairperson agreed with Director Barakat. She stated that coming together provides an opportunity to network before and after meetings. The Districts provides a myriad of appetizers and mileage reimbursement. On the other hand, she understands the need and opportunity for the option of hybrid meetings because some Directors need to travel a distance.

Director Davis-Holmes concurred. She stated that she has missed the opportunity to meet in-person. She is concerned regarding if Directors suddenly fall ill and cannot provide advanced notice. This is not ideal.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that under AB 2449, if a Director falls ill on the day of the Board meeting, an emergency item would be placed on the agenda, which requires Board approval to add it to the agenda prior to consideration.

Director Moss agreed that in-person meetings are better and preferred, although she also agreed with the option for hybrid meetings.

Director Taj agreed with in-person meetings. He stated that he was interested in exploring the option for hybrid meetings.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the idea of the potential legislation was not to prevent in-person meetings, but to allow for the option of virtual attendance.

Director Finlay asked if we need to introduce new legislation to follow AB 2449 if Directors are sick or on business travel.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager responded that no action is needed. AB 2449 is signed and in effect as of January 1, 2023. Directors would need to advise Districts' staff in advance of their desire to attend a meeting virtually.

Director Finlay agreed with the other Directors.

Director Hansen stated that she favored the hybrid meeting option. In District No. 29, all five members of the city council serve on that Board.

Director Shyne stated that she was in favor of hybrid meetings. The Chairperson recognized Sepi Shyne, Director from the City of West Hollywood. She advised that Director Shyne's comments will count as public comment since she does not serve on the Personnel Committee. District Counsel concurred.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the Districts would work to pursue potential legislation and work with SGVCOG to allow for in-person meetings which will allow remote attendance. He will update the Personnel Committee and return with proposed language and requirements.

RE: AGENCY UPDATES - 100-YEAR  
CELEBRATION - DISCUSS

The Chief Engineer and General Manager provided a brief update on proposed activities for the agency's 100-year celebration.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that in 1923, the County Sanitation Districts Act, written by A.K. Warren (Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' (LACSD) first General Manager) was passed, allowing for the agency's formation. There is a plan to commemorate the 100-year anniversary with staff, public, and Directors.

Districts' Management provided employee holiday gifts (a choice of jacket, polo shirt, or lunch container) with the 100-year celebration logo, in lieu of an annual agency-wide holiday party. The Earth Day Festival is planned on April 22, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. The festival, which started 15 years ago, is the brainchild of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. The festival draws 2,000-4,000 attendees. The festival will restart this year after a hiatus during the pandemic. He will provide more information to the Boards in February/March meetings. The Earth Day Festival has educational opportunities, facility tours, and several vendors, and there will be displays themed around 100 years of service. There is a plan for quarterly newspaper ads highlighting the Districts' 100-year celebration, including the Districts' inception, innovation, growth, and service to Los Angeles County.

A 100-year celebration is planned in October/November at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP). The Districts will invite Directors, local elected officials, retired senior management, and former Chief Engineer and General Managers. The JWPCP was sited by the Districts' first Chief Engineer and General Manager, A.K. Warren. Mr. Warren worked in flood control in Los Angeles County in the late 1910-20s. At that time, William Mulholland, a civil engineer, was responsible for building the infrastructure to provide a water supply that allowed Los Angeles to grow into the largest city in California. Mr. Warren was responsible for cleaning the water, developed the Joint Disposal Plant (original name of the JWPCP), and government structure. The government structure involved cities working with county supervisors. During a time when there were concerns with contaminants, the plant was renamed as the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant. Now, the Districts continues to provide essential services, including renewable energy from food waste, biosolids for agricultural composting, and Pure Water Southern California conversion to potable water.

At this celebration, the Districts will be changing the name of the JWPCP to the A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility. It is industry practice to name facilities after individuals. The system that A.K. Warren pioneered continues to work effectively and will continue to evolve in the next 100 years, as a new water source for the region.

Another component of the 100-year anniversary is the start of an enhanced program of tours for middle and high school students. The tours will focus on environmental issues and long-term career opportunities in the various trades at the A.K. Warren Resource Facility. At this facility, there are 350-400 employees. The number of jobs will increase with future construction.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that he looks forward to recognizing the past 100 years of service and the future as the agency evolves to support customers and the County of Los Angeles.

Director Davis-Holmes stated that she is excited about the enhanced tour program, as it is important for the youth to know about other career pathways.

The Chairperson concurred. As a credentialed teacher, she loves the opportunity and options for the community. She stated that she looks forward to seeing the tour program unfold.

RE: AGENCY UPDATES- 2023 AGENCY GOALS - DISCUSS

The Chief Engineer and General Manager provided a brief update on an overview of the Districts' 2023 goals.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that several years ago, each department was tasked with developing goals for the coming year and listing accomplishments from the previous year, which are reviewed annually by Martha Tremblay, Assistant Chief Engineer and Assistant General Manager; Matt Eaton, Deputy Assistant Chief Engineer; and himself. He introduced Ms. Tremblay to present the 2023 agency goals.

Ms. Tremblay reviewed six goals to be implemented in 2023, as follows:

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts – Management will continue to implement four segments of the Strategic Action Plan. The DEI Manager will help to move the plan forward. By the end of 2023, the agency will implement DEI training including implicit bias training for all employees, incorporate DEI training into new-hire orientation and develop a framework and procedures for the voluntary use of preferred personal pronouns as an option for all employees.
2. Improving Sewer System Monitoring and Repair – Last year, the agency implemented recommendations of a third-party audit of the sewer maintenance plan, following a large sewer spill in Carson on December 31, 2021. In 2023, the agency will complete implementation of the sewer system third-party audit recommendations and the first phase of the Sewer System Model Development. Many recommendations have been implemented, and work on the most complex and longer-term items, including development of sewer system model, has started. The first phase of the sewer model development consists of modeling and flow monitoring of the sewer system within District No. 8, which includes the location of the sewer spill that triggered the audit.
3. Food Waste/Organics Recycling – Senate Bill 1383 is a statewide effort to divert organic waste from landfills to 75 percent by 2025. The Districts' Food Waste Program, one of the largest in the state, is accepting slurry, which is introduced to digesters to produce biogas that is converted to renewable vehicle fuel. The Districts is looking to identify ways to expand the food waste program and maximize revenue, while preserving the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) infrastructure and digesters. A plan will be developed to help guide efforts.
4. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – The agency will develop a risk-based CIP that establishes priorities and schedule of capital infrastructure improvements, starting with the development of a Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP). The CAMP will be used to build out a long-term CIP for asset replacement based on equipment condition, life cycles, maintenance costs, criticality, and other factors.
5. Pure Water Southern California Project – This project is a partnership with Metropolitan Water District (MWD), which involves using advanced water treatment with effluent from the JWPCP to replenish groundwater basins throughout Southern California. In 2023, the agency will complete the Facilities Plan and pilot testing to identify the preferred biological treatment and nutrient removal processes by spring 2023. We will continue operation of the demonstration facility to evaluate membrane bioreactor treatment of secondary effluent. The Draft Environmental Impact Report will be completed and released for public comment in 2023. Staff will initiate negotiations with MWD on a potential agreement for implementation of a full-scale project.
6. Energy at the JWPCP – The agency will complete an assessment of the JWPCP's energy needs and energy production including the Total Energy Facility. In 2023, staff will evaluate the existing infrastructure and short-term and long-term plans considering challenges and opportunities associated with energy, emissions and aging infrastructure, the Food Waste Program, and the implementation of the Pure Water Southern California project.

She ended her presentation. There were no further comments or questions.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that there is no Personnel Committee meeting scheduled in February.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting in memory of the victims of the Monterey Park tragedy.

CATHY WARNER  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

KIMBERLY S. CHRISTENSEN  
Secretary

/ee