

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SERRANO WATER DISTRICT

The Board of Directors of the Serrano Water District met in a Special Board meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. The meeting was held at the District Office located at 18021 Lincoln Street, Villa Park, California.

CALL TO ORDER: President Reese called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

### ROLL CALL:

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Reese	President
Frank Bryant	Vice-President
Greg Mills	Board Member
Jerry Haight	Board Member
Robbie Pitts	Board Member ( <i>via zoom platform</i> )

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

### STAFF PRESENT:

Jerry Vilander	General Manager
Jennifer Westrum	Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Jungreis	Legal Counsel

### GUESTS PRESENT:

Scott Nelson	Starting Line Advisory ( <i>via zoom platform</i> )
Lora Nichols	Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates ( <i>via zoom platform</i> )
Robert Porr	Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates ( <i>via zoom platform</i> )
Pete Evich	Van Scoyoc Associates ( <i>via zoom platform</i> )
Dennis Albiani	California Advocates ( <i>via zoom platform</i> )
Adam Quinonez	California Advocates ( <i>via zoom platform</i> )

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

*General Counsel Jungreis announced that pursuant to AB 2449 Director Pitt's emergency family situation qualifies as just cause and he is allowed to participate in the board meeting remotely under this ruling. It was moved by Director Haight and seconded by Director Bryant and unanimously carried to approve Director Pitts to participate remotely under the AB2449 rule.*

### ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Jungreis announced that Bill AB2561 passed last year but took effect in January 2025 and requires every Special District to hold a public hearing to post all district vacancies before July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is something that Serrano Water District will need to do prior to the July 1, 2025 deadline. General Counsel Jungreis also mentioned that Form 700 will be reviewed at the next Board meeting instead of this one.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Federal lobbyist Pete Evich from Van Scoyoc Associates announced to the Board that he has identified and secured federal funding in the past for Serrano Water in the amount of \$500,000. That was earmarked funding for the FY24 appropriation for the Smith Reservoir and Pump Station from Young Kim. He stated that despite recent governmental changes, the earmark funding options that have been available in the past should continue to be available. He noted that he will be assisting us with a new well application for FY25.

Dennis Albiani spoke to the Board as the President of California Advocates which is a state lobbyist firm. He commented that he can continue to help Serrano Water District with state grants that become available. He meets with the Department of Water Resources and the Water Board to help get additional funding opportunities.

Lora Nichols from Fieldman Rolapp & Associates reviewed a financial model with the Board for the Smith Reservoir refurbishment project and new pump station. The cost benefit analysis was reviewed for two different storage options at Smith Reservoir. The Board asked for additional information, more specifically total revenue needs, so that rate alternatives can be more easily analyzed at a subsequent meeting.

Tom Epperson from Tetra Tech Engineering reviewed the Smith Reservoir refurbishment project and new pump station with the Board of Directors and General Manager. A lengthy discussion ensued as well as a question-and-answer period related to two comparison options for the Smith Reservoir storage that were provided. The Board asked about the feasibility of a third option to add storage at the Edison Substation near the Lockett instead. The Board would like Tetra Tech to review engineering requirements for that option as well as model a few scenarios.

## DIRECTORS' COMMENTS AND REPORTS

President Reese commented that we need to look at safety first instead of financial first. He would like to see two fire hydrants opened up simultaneously in various zones of the city to test the flow of water under static pressure from different areas of Villa Park. Director Haight asked General Manager Vilander to reach out to Edison to see if they will allow us to expand our water storage to the Lockett area with a potential land lease. Director Bryant mentioned that we need to evaluate our water system for any weaknesses. Director Mills said it is important to see how fast we can recover from an emergency and continue to operate. All directors agreed that a new pump station and generators are vital for the successful operation of Serrano Water District, but there is more data that needs to be analyzed before making a decision on the scope of work needed at Smith Reservoir. Once the district's overall budgetary requirements have been determined, a thorough rate analysis will be conducted to determine a fair rate for the rate payer.

*The Board of Directors announced that they would be entering closed session at 11:20 a.m.*

## RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION (Government Code § 54956.9(d)): One case.

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL TO DISCUSS SECURITY ISSUES AND POSSIBLE INITIATION OF LITIGATION (Government Code §§ Government Code 54956.9(d); 54957 (a)(1)).

*The meeting was reconvened in open session at 11:47 a.m., and it was announced that there was no reportable action.*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was formally adjourned at 11:48 a.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on February 25, 2025 @ 8:30 a.m.

Jennifer Westrum  
Administrative Assistant