

# VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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## **MINUTES Regular Meeting**

**May 5, 2026**

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Gonzales, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL: Directors Cox, Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi were present.

### OTHERS PRESENT

Cynthia Allen, General Manager; Jeff Cole, Operations and Maintenance Manager; and Patricia LeCavalier, Financial Services Manager. Brian Jensen and Noah Bischof from HydroPro Solutions and Tanya Harvey from Master Meter were also present.

One member of the public was in attendance: Patrick Smith, 708 Cypress Way.

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

### 4. PUBLIC FORUM

President Gonzales invited public comments, and there were none.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS: Brian Jensen and Noah Bischof, HydroPro Solutions; Tanya Harvey, Master Meter

Our guest speakers gave an informative presentation that covered our current metering system, the next generation of meters, the new

technologies and benefits Master Meter is offering, and what it would look like if the district transitioned to a Fixed Network.

The Board took a break at 6:04 p.m. and reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

## 6. OPERATIONS REPORT

Operations and Maintenance Manager Cole reported that the district pumped 37.6 million gallons, with an average daily demand of 1.3 million gallons. This is 8 percent more than last April.

Vandenberg Village received .76 inches of rainfall in April, bringing the calendar-year total to 6.32 inches. The district's well levels for April were 1B – 140 feet, 3A – 133 feet, and 3B – 132 feet.

In April, the crew replaced two 1" angle stops, a 2" angle stop, a 1" copper service line, and two 1" poly B service lines.

Mr. Cole reported that Sancon began their pre-cleaning and CCTV inspection on April 13 and completed their work on April 16. They have not yet scheduled a date to come back and start lining.

There were no sewer overflows in April. Avery Griffin celebrated his 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary with the District on April 1. Mr. Cole shared that he and Garrett Kirkland attended the California Rural Water Association Expo in Lake Tahoe. On April 21, the District hosted a Continuing Education class on Hydra-Stop insertion valves. The class included staff from Mission Hills CSD, Los Alamos CSD, and VVCSD.

## 7. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Financial Services Manager LeCavalier reported that Cynthia Allen celebrated her 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on April 15 and Brianna Jennings celebrated her 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on April 17.

Ms. LeCavalier reported that we received \$450,978 in LRWRP payments from the county tax collector on April 30, 2026, and that the most recent investment earnings rates are: California CLASS is 3.69 percent, LAIF is 3.81 percent, and Mechanics Bank is 3.74 percent. Our interim in-house audit visit is tentatively scheduled for May 28-29.

## 8. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 7, 2026

B. Treasurer Report

(1) Pro-forma Financial Statements as of March 31, 2026

(2) Disbursements through April 30, 2026

(3) Schedule of Investments as of March 31, 2026

The following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Lamont, seconded by Director Heuring, to accept the consent calendar as presented.**

**Ayes: Directors Cox, Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**

**Noes: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

## 9. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Interfund Loan

Director Stassi reported that the Finance and Budget Committee is recommending the interfund loan of \$1,000,000. The main reason for this recommendation is that the water fund's reserves are below the required level.

After some discussion between the board members, the following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Heuring, to approve an interfund loan of \$1,000,000 from the wastewater fund to the water fund, and set the interest rate and repayment terms at 4 percent for 15 years.**

### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Directors Cox, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**

**Noes: Director Gonzales**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

### **B. AMI Project**

Director Stassi reported that the Finance and Budget Committee spent some time looking over the quote and recommendations provided by HydroPro Solutions. Director Stassi shared that both the committee and staff recognize the need to replace meters, as all are nearly 15 years old.

The Committee recommends AMR-Compatible AMI meters. The meters would continue to be read monthly using our drive-by system. However, the purchase of these meters would enable consideration of a Fixed Network in the future. Director Stassi noted that this recommendation is not to be taken as a Committee endorsement of an AMI Fixed Network, but rather to preserve the possibility of a future Board deciding to proceed with a Fixed Network system.

Director Cox noted that after our earlier presentation, she learned of additional benefits for the AMI meters and believes they would be a better investment.

There was discussion between the board and staff about the different types of meters offered by HydroPro Solutions.

The following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Gonzales, to defer the decision until the following Board meeting and request staff to bring back a new proposal.**

**Ayes: Directors Cox, Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**

**Noes: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

### **C. LRWRP Upgrade**

Director Cox reported that the Finance and Budget Committee recommends continuing to collect the LRWRP Upgrade charge on the Santa Barbara County Tax Roll and pay the SRF loan payments as they are due.

The Committee came to this conclusion after staff laid out the different options for consideration. The Committee decided that Scenario 3, Status Quo, is the best option. General Manager Allen noted that the schedule laid out by staff stops the LRWRP charge in the year 2030.

Director Gonzales shared his disappointment in this decision and referred to paragraph three on page 55. This was followed by a discussion regarding the reserves on the wastewater side and Director Gonzales' hope to look at the reserves more critically in the future.

General Manager Allen will put this on the schedule to bring back during the budget season next year.

After much discussion between the Board and staff, the following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Cox, seconded by Director Stassi, to continue to collect the LRWRP Upgrade Charge on the Santa Barbara County Tax Roll and pay SRF Loan payments as they are due.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Directors Cox, Heuring, and Stassi**

**Noes: Directors Gonzales and Lamont**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

## **D. Capital Budget Increase**

General Manager Allen stated that part of our Filter Rehabilitation Project included a new booster pump. The original quote received was for a Goulds Pump because the vendor informed staff that the Peerless Pump, which was preferred, was not available.

At a later time, another vendor let staff know they have the Peerless Pump readily available. The Peerless Pump is preferred, as it would not require any modifications, which the Gould's Pump would need to work with our system. The Peerless Pump costs \$13K more but is a direct replacement for what we currently have.

At our February meeting, the Board deferred the \$100K Water Valve Project to a future budget and reallocated \$75K of the funds to the Filter Rehabilitation Project. A portion of that remaining \$25K can be allocated to this capital item.

The following motion was made:

**Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Lamont, to increase the FY 2025-26 water capital budget by \$13,000 to replace the 25 hp filter pump.**

**Ayes: Directors Cox, Gonzales, Heuring, Lamont, and Stassi**  
**Noes: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

## 10. REPORTS

### A. Committees

Director Stassi reported that the Finance and Budget Committee met on April 24 with staff members present. Several staff reports were created. Staff drafts of the capital and operating budgets were reviewed. The Committee decided to hold off on the approval of those two budgets until the status of Action Items 9A, 9B, and 9C was known.

## B. District Representatives to External Agencies

Director Stassi reported that three Board members and General Manager Allen attended the SBCCSDA Chapter Meeting on April 27 in Goleta.

## C. Board President

Director Gonzales thanked the Finance and Budget Committee and staff for meeting as much as they did and for all of their effort.

Director Gonzales shared that the County Fire Fuels Crew has been working on weed abatement on Lot 54. Director Gonzales wanted to mention that there was originally another Action Item for the Strategic Plan, which was coming from the Finance and Budget Committee. He asked General Manager Allen if the item could be removed from this agenda, as it didn't fit with the progression of the Strategic Plan. It is Director Gonzales' preference to move the topic to an Ad Hoc Committee and asked Director Cox to join him. Director Cox agreed to join the Ad Hoc Committee.

Director Gonzales met with General Manager Allen on April 24 and spoke about the SBCCSDA Chapter Meeting. It was also noted that the CSDA Annual Conference is coming up in August, and if you would like to attend, to let Brianna know.

There are two Board members who will not be in attendance for the June Board Meeting. It was asked that the meeting be pushed up a week to Tuesday, May 26. The Board agreed this date would work.

## D. General Manager

General Manager Allen reported that there were no new ADU Can and Will Serve requests in April. We are still awaiting the plans for the one request we received in March. General Manager Allen sent them a reminder letter this week.

We received our reconciliations from the City of Lompoc for Wastewater Treatment and the Wastewater Capital Reserve Fund. Since the city deducted no capital expenses from our account last

year, we will receive a \$34K refund check from the WCRF account for interest earned in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Actual treatment costs were \$303K higher than we paid during that period. We will receive an invoice for the difference. \$600K was budgeted, we paid \$416K, while the actual treatment cost was \$720K. Each month, as a prepayment, the city bills us on the volume of wastewater, suspended solids, and BOD. Biochemical Oxygen Demand is the amount of organic material in the wastewater. At the end of the year, the city's audited wastewater department expenses are used to calculate the actual cost to treat the wastewater received at the plant during that year. To calculate our share, the annual volume, average suspended solids, and average BOD are used. If the amount we prepaid is less than our share, we receive an invoice. If our prepayment exceeds our share, we receive a refund.

The rates used for the prepayment calculations have not been updated since 2005. It could be asked for the rates to be recalculated to prevent large invoices; however, about one-third of the time, we receive refunds, and we do not earn interest on those overpayments. This puts us at risk of providing the city with an interest-free loan if the rate is too high.

General Manager Allen referenced the Wastewater Summary chart on page 71 of the board package. The light-green vertical column represents the total of our prepayments for that fiscal year. The dark green vertical column next to it represents the actual treatment costs. In this snapshot, there are three years where the light-green column is taller than the dark-green column. These are years when we received refund checks.

The Total Flow, Average BOD, and Average SS lines don't correlate with the actual costs, which seems to demonstrate that, for the most part, the city's expenses, not our wastewater loading, are increasing treatment costs. General Manager Allen referenced page 73 of the board package. This page details the wastewater loading at the plant for Fiscal Year 2024-25. As you can see, we presently use about half of our 0.89 MGD allocation.

General Manager Allen reported that Michael Luther, the Utility Director for the City of Lompoc, responded to her email regarding our wastewater ordinance and asked that, in order to comply with EPA regulations, we make a few minor changes. General Manager Allen will be working on those changes and plans to bring the revised ordinance to the board in July.

General Manager Allen contacted four consulting firms regarding the engineering for the Europa Loop. Two firms responded to her inquiry and gathered information about the project. However, neither firm has submitted a proposal. Feedback from one of the firms stated that the amount we discussed at our March meeting with the Wallace Group was reasonable for the project scope. General Manager Allen has reached out to the Wallace Group and asked them to provide additional proposals so that the board can discuss options at the June meeting.

The soil contractor took samples in our parking lot on April 17. We should have a soil report soon to complete our permit application with the county. The carport is being fabricated to our specifications. Once the county approves our permit, we will issue an RFP for a contractor to assemble the carport and construct the generator enclosure.

In 2013, a new retirement law went into effect, creating two groups of CalPERS employees at VVCSD. VVCSD employees who were hired before January 1, 2013, are Classic employees and receive the benefits selected by our governing body (2.7% @ 55). Employees hired after January 1, 2013, who are not subject to CalPERS reciprocity, receive PEPRAs benefits (2% at 62). At the time this was implemented, no formal contract amendment was required because the amendment was mandatory. However, CalPERS is now requiring us to amend our contract to include PEPRAs language. This amendment will not affect the District or its employees, and there will be no change in costs or benefits. This amendment is only an update to the contract's language to reflect reality. In the next few months, General Manager Allen will receive the required language from CalPERS and will bring two resolutions to the board for adoption: a Resolution of Intention must be filed with

CalPERS at least 20 days before the Final Resolution is adopted by the board.

General Manager Allen responded to an information request from Leave93436 regarding our water and wastewater services. They have prepared a response to Lompoc's sphere-of-influence letter. This is included in Business Item 2 for the May LAFCO meeting. Director Gonzales and General Manager Allen also submitted a written response for public comment. It has been posted on the LAFCO website on the May 7 meeting page. A copy of this has been provided.

On the disbursements report, you will see a \$11K payment to Kaizen Collision. On March 27, one of our service vehicles was struck by another vehicle in the country club area. The CHP responded and found the other driver to be at fault. Our truck had to be towed to the body shop for repairs. The necessary repairs were completed on April 15. The repair shop does not bill the insurance company, so we paid for the repairs and will be sending an invoice to AAA for reimbursement.

On April 1, former VVCSD Director Charles Blair passed away. Charlie served on the board for 16 years from 2000 through 2018, with a two-year gap from 2004 to 2006. During his tenure, he was appointed to all three standing committees. He served on the Finance/Budget Committee for 1 year, the Legal/Personnel Committee for 6 years, and the Water/Wastewater Committee for 9 years. He was the District's representative for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and was committed to understanding the political, social, and scientific aspects of water. He was also very active in the California Special Districts Association at both the state and chapter levels.

In his professional life, Dr. Blair was a cardiac surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. After his retirement, he dedicated his time to his love of nature. He was a lifelong naturalist, a member of the California Native Plant Society and the Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society. He could give you the Latin names for a myriad of native plants and provide you with more details than you

could ever remember. He was our resident expert on the Seaside Bird's Beak and the Vandenberg Monkeyflower.

Charlie was also an active member of the Vandenberg Village Association and was an appointed Trustee for the Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County from 2005 until his death. His funeral is scheduled for the end of May.

The Santa Barbara CSDA chapter meeting was held at Glen Annie Golf Course in Goleta on April 27. The next meeting will be on July 27 at La Botte Restaurant at Mama's Caffé in Lompoc. The chapter is sponsoring the meal, so again, it will be free for attendees.

General Manager Allen concluded her report by thanking everyone for allowing her to be absent from the office for two weeks and for your patience with the technical hiccups during her remote participation at the last meeting. Apparently, the HDMI cable under the table was dislodged by the janitor, which prevented the connection to the television. In 13 days, they visited 13 states and drove over 4,500 miles. She hopes her granddaughter remembers this trip forever.

## 11. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

- A. **US Drought Monitor:** California, April 30, 2026
- B. **VVCS D:** Water Pumped vs Sold, 12 months
- C. **VVCS D:** Well Soundings, 12 months
- D. **VVCS D:** Wastewater Treatment Summary
- E. **City of Lompoc:** Appendix B: Lompoc Regional Wastewater System Loading, FY 2024-25

## 12. DIRECTORS FORUM

Director Cox apologized for missing the April board meeting due to a planned vacation.

Director Heuring shared that he attended a fire safety meeting at the end of Constellation earlier today. Members affiliated with the county, state, and federal fire levels were present.

13. CLOSED SESSION

**Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov't Code § 54957)**

Title: General Manager

The Directors convened in closed session at 8:10 p.m.

14. OPEN SESSION

The Directors reconvened in open session at 8:30 p.m.

No action was taken.

15. ADJOURN

**President Gonzales declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

**Attest:**

**Signed:**

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**Brianna Jennings**  
**Secretary, Board of Directors**

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**Richard Gonzales**  
**President, Board of Directors**