

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT
MINUTES NO. 2019-11**

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019, at the District office at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, California.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Melissa Ramoso, *City of Artesia*
Ali Saleh, *City of Bell*
Pedro Aceituno, *City of Bell Gardens*
Sonny R. Santa Ines, *City of Bellflower*
Dr. Jeff D. Wassem, *City of Burbank*
Elito D. Santarina, *City of Carson*
Mark W. Bollman, *City of Cerritos*
Leonard Mendoza, *City of Commerce*
Baru Sanchez, *City of Cudahy*
Steve Tye, *City of Diamond Bar*
Robert Kiefer, *City of Downey*
Dan Medina, *City of Gardena*
Luis Roa, *City of Hawaiian Gardens*
Marilyn Sanabria, *City of Huntington Park*
Leonard Pieroni, *City of La Cañada Flintridge*
Catherine Houwen, *City of La Habra Heights*
Steve Croft, *City of Lakewood*
Larry P. Mowles, *City of La Mirada*
Emily Holman, *City of Long Beach*
Steve Appleton, *City of Los Angeles*
Steven A. Goldsworthy, *Los Angeles County*
Ricardo Lara, *City of Maywood*
Avik Cordeiro, *City of Montebello*
Leonard Shryock, *City of Norwalk*
Dr. Tom Hansen, *City of Paramount*
Raul Elias, *City of Pico Rivera*
Jesse H. Avila, *City of San Fernando*
Scott T. Kwong, *City of San Marino*
Heidi Heinrich, *City of Santa Clarita*
Hector Delgado, *City of South El Monte* *7:05pm
Denise Diaz, *City of South Gate*

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Jerry Walton, *City of Glendale*
Jay Sarno, *City of Santa Fe Springs*
Robert D. Copeland, *City of Signal Hill*
Josué Alvarado, *City of Whittier*

TRUSTEES ABSENT (EXCUSED)

Salvador Alatorre, *City of Lynwood*

OTHERS PRESENT

Truc Dever, *General Manager*
Mark Daniel, *Director of Operations*
Susanne Klueh, *Director of Sci-Tech Services*
Mary-Joy Coburn, *Director of Community Affairs*
Richard Knott, *Director of Human Resources*
Anais Medina Diaz, *Public Information Officer*
Fernando Martinez, *Facilities and Fleet Maintenance Supervisor*
Steven Flower, *Legal Counsel*

**Denotes times of late arrival (vote tallies on agenda items reflect actual Trustees present at time of vote)*

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
President Sanchez called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. **QUORUM (ROLL) CALL**
Following roll call, it was recorded that 31 Trustees were present and five were absent.
3. **INVOCATION**
Trustee Appleton gave the invocation.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Trustee Heinrich's daughter, Madeline Heinrich, led the pledge of allegiance.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

6. **INTRODUCTIONS**

(Introductions requested by staff or Trustees of persons attending the meeting are made at this time).

General Manager Dever introduced legal counsel Steven Flower who is stepping in for Quinn Barrow for the November meeting, and Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District Public Information Officer Heather Hyland and Scientific Director Bob Cummings who are attending the meeting to see a presentation for the board.

Community Affairs Director Coburn introduced three new Department of Community Affairs employees: Education Program Coordinators Francis Fernando and Gregory Mercado, and Outreach Assistant Liliana Moreno. All new employees were provided with a few moments to introduce themselves.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

(This time is reserved for members of the public to address the Board relative to matters of business on and off the agenda. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person).

NONE

8. **CONSENT AGENDA (8.1-8.2)**

VOTE REQUIRED

8.1 Consideration of **Minutes 2019-10** of regular Board Meeting held October 10, 2019. (**EXHIBIT A**)

8.2 Consideration of **Resolution 2019-17** Authorizing Payment of Attached Requisition October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019. (**EXHIBIT B**)

Trustee Croft made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bollman and approved unanimously.

9. **PRESENTATION ON WOLBACHIA-INFECTED MALE MOSQUITO RELEASES FOR AEADES CONTROL**

Summary: Susanne Klueh, Director of Scientific-Technical Services will present on Wolbachia, a promising new technology to mitigate invasive Aedes populations and arbovirus transmission.

Scientific-Technical Services Director Klueh gave a presentation highlighting the District's current *Aedes* control efforts, the labor and cost attributed to this program, and challenges presented throughout the years. Furthermore, Director Klueh provided background information on the County's Mediterranean Fruit Fly program and the similarities in trying to find additional tools to deal and control *Aedes* mosquitoes within the District's service area. A similar approach is available for the control of *Aedes* mosquitoes through the use of Wolbachia-infected male mosquitoes which would help decrease the reproduction of this species in the long-term. This program is provided through organizations like Mosquito Mate and Verily which conducted a successful pilot program in the Central Valley. The District is considering a similar program for the upcoming year in collaboration with neighboring vector control districts.

Trustee Sanchez thanked Director Klueh for her presentation and looks forward to how the District looks at combating mosquitoes in the future but specifically to this project, he wondered if there would be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the participating districts since it could possibly be entailing a collaboration of resources. General Manager Dever mentioned that at the moment an MOU was not discussed because there is still more information needed from the vendors of the program including what a potential contract contains. The representatives from Mosquito Mate will possibly attend the upcoming meeting to provide more information and what services would be provided for the district.

Trustee Appleton asked who produced and owns the science behind the Wolbachia-infected male mosquito releases. Director Klueh shared that the science behind Wolbachia has been around for quite some time and no one necessarily owns the science. However, a Kentucky-based group Mosquito Mate has improved the technique behind producing sterile mosquitoes and provided the resources for pilot programs to be conducted, including the District's sterile mosquito release in South El Monte. Following the proof of concept, Verily, a Google company, built a rearing facility in the Bay area and helped fund a pilot program in Fresno.

Trustee Santa Ines inquired about the best time and area for release and Director Klueh explained that the District would need to look at its data and activity to determine what area would see the most impact. However, staff have looked at conducting a pilot program in a hot spot area that experiences high biting pressure and produces a high volume of service requests. Furthermore, Trustee Santa Ines inquired about the cost of the program in Fresno but because it was pilot program for most parties involved, the pilot was privately funded by Verily. General Manager Dever added that the program would most likely be conducted in April/May 2020.

Trustee Medina asked for a copy of the video that was shared during the presentation which staff agreed to distribute following the meeting.

Trustee Cordeiro asked if the program would only target the *Aedes* species or would there be a possibility to expand the program to target *Culex* mosquitoes. Director Klueh answered that the program was specifically designed for *Aedes* mosquito control but could one day be used for *Culex* depending on the cost.

Trustee Sanchez inquired about the cost but further information would need to be provided by Mosquito Mate at a later time. Additionally, participating districts could potentially look at sharing some overhead and logistical costs because multiple programs would be sharing some resources. Overall, the cost would decrease over time through the program's success.

Trustee Wassem asked if similar technologies have been used around the world and Director Klueh shared that different approaches are being tested but they are taking different approaches at controlling populations and disease transmission. General Manager Dever mentioned vector control facilities in Florida are exploring the possibility of rearing mosquitoes to develop their own Sterile-Insect Technology (SIT) program.

Trustee Bollman asked Director Klueh about the District's initial pilot program in South El Monte and whether the area saw any residual effects. Because this program only conducted one release of sterile-mosquitoes, staff were only able to observe the initial benefits of the study but long-term effects could only be assessed with consistent releases.

Trustee Sanchez wrapped up the discussion on this item by suggesting that an MOU should be in place if the participating districts decided to share any facilities to decrease the cost of the programs.

10. CONSIDERATION OF LAFCO REQUEST TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES TO SERVE AS SPECIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE (EXHIBIT C) (VOTE REQUIRED)

Summary: To be eligible, the nominee must be an elected official or appointed to the board for a fixed term. Nominations must be received no later than December 27, 2019 by 5:00pm.

Community Affairs Director Coburn explained the process and requirements for the LAFCO representative nomination. Trustee Santa Ines asked who actively votes within the election process and General Manager Dever explained that all special districts within Los Angeles County can vote for the candidates. Trustee Appleton and Trustee Medina mentioned they are interested but would like to look into it further. Trustee Sanchez asked to move the item to the December meeting. Trustee Saleh requested for a comprehensive list of all parties eligible to vote.

11. **CONSIDERATION OF 2 TRUSTEES TO ATTEND THE 88TH ANNUAL MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (MVCAC) MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, JANUARY 26-29, 2020 (EXHIBIT D)**

Trustees Diaz and Roa expressed interest in attending. Trustee Medina and Cordeiro would like to attend if either trustee is unable to attend.

10. **STAFF PROGRAM REPORTS: NOVEMBER 2019**

10.1 **Manager's Report**

T. Dever, General Manager

General Manager Dever would like to invite trustees to the District's Holiday Potluck on Wednesday, December 11th. Additionally, she would like recognize trustees who are veterans and thanked them for their service.

10.2 **Scientific-Technical: (Staff Report A)**

S. Klueh, Sci-Tech Director

Director Klueh offered to answer any questions on her report.

10.3 **Operations: (Staff Report B)**

M. Daniel, Operations Dir.

Director Daniel shared that the District's service requests have decreased but technicians are still finding breeding.

10.4 **Community Affairs: (Staff Report C)**

MJ. Coburn, Comm. Affairs Dir.

Director Coburn shared her enthusiasm for her new team members and looks forward to the department's work.

10.5 **Fiscal: (Staff Report D)**

T. Dever, General Manager

In addition to Director Weeks' report, General Manager Dever wanted to share that the District added additional revenue through the sale of decommissioned trucks.

10.6 **Human Resources: (Staff Report E)**

R. Knott, Human Resources Dir.

Director Knott offered to answer any questions.

10.7 **Legal Counsel Report**

S. Flower, Legal Counsel

Counsel Flower had nothing to report.

11. **OTHER**

The Board may consider items not on the agenda provided that the Board complies with the Government Code (Brown Act) §54954.2(b).

Trustee Lara thanked General Manager Dever and Mark Hall for providing a presentation to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments. Additionally, he wanted to thank PIO Medina for attending the Maywood City Council meeting and providing a presentation to the council and its residents.

Trustee Sanchez wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the District's headquarters at 12545 Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs.

President Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.