

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
602 E. HUNTINGTON DRIVE, SUITE B, MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA 91016  
8:00 A.M. – JULY 19, 2011**

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A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District was held in the office of the District, 602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite B, City of Monrovia, County of Los Angeles, State of California, within said Water District, on July 19, 2011 at the hour of 8:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS** Robinson, Treviño, Urias and Chavez.  
**PRESENT:**

**DIRECTORS** Fellow.  
**ABSENT:**

**STAFF** Shane Chapman, General Manager; Reymundo Trejo,  
**PRESENT:** Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer; Steven O'Neill, Legal Counsel; Evelyn M. Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer; Christy Hawkins, Executive Assistant; Kenya Torres, Administrative Assistant.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Stephen Millard, R.K. Brown, Dan Arrighi, Jonathan Contreras, Ken Tchong, John Robinson, Jim Byerrum, Barbara Carrera, Chuck Shaw, Chet Anderson, Lenet Pacheco, Ben Lewis and Margarita Vargas.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

On motion by Vice President Urias and seconded by Director Chavez, the agenda was accepted as presented by the following vote:

**AYES: TREVIÑO, URIAS, CHAVEZ, ROBINSON**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**  
**ABSENT: FELLOW**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING  
APPOINTMENT OF AT-WILL UPPER  
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE  
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

Director Chavez moved to remove the current Upper District representative to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Board of Directors. Director Robinson seconded the motion.

President Treviño discussed the possibility of extending the opportunity to serve on the Metropolitan Board to all Directors.

The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

**ROBINSON: AYE**  
**FELLOW: ABSENT**  
**TREVIÑO: AYE**  
**CHAVEZ: AYE**  
**URIAS: NAY**

President Treviño moved to appoint Director Chavez as the Upper District representative to the Metropolitan Board.

Director Chavez declined his appointment. He suggested discussing the matter when the full Board is present.

The motion to appoint Director Chavez as the Upper District representative to the Metropolitan Board was withdrawn.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Director Robinson requested information on the identity of the owners of the Upper District's new office. He then read aloud a statement expressing disappointment on vacating Upper District's former office located in a government zone area in favor of leasing, as well as hiring additional staff. The letter has been attached herein as part of the minutes.

President Treviño expressed concern regarding hiring staff without any input from the Board. He then requested that the Board revisit the budget and the General Manager's authority for hiring staff as well as protocol for meeting cancellations.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) Discussion regarding the budget and the General Manager's authorization for hiring staff, requested by President Treviño.
- b) Discussion regarding Executive Board positions, requested by Vice President Urias.
- c) Discussion regarding Board compensation and allowance, requested by Vice President Urias.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Treviño asked if there were other business to come before the Board; there being none, the meeting was duly adjourned to a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on August 2, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Upper District offices, 602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite B, Monrovia, CA 91016.

ATTEST



PRESIDENT



SECRETARY



SECRETARY

SEAL

## **Director Robinson's Comments July 19, 2011 Board Meeting**

VACATING FACILITIES IN FAVOR OF RENTAL MAKES NO SENSE. I like sunshine. I prefer windows, not fluorescent lighting. We are tenants, now occupying this air-conditioned box.

Has a mouse driven us out of facilities in El Monte that we own? Staff informs that deferred maintenance did not drive the move to this facility. Bureaucracy building is another alternative.

The water industry, primarily a regulated monopoly, is already burdened by multiple layers of big, bloated bureaucracy. Upper District doesn't need to fuel this trend suddenly add additional staff. Elaborate PR an attempt to more effectively spin doctor the District's recent cluster of \$million + mistakes can be dispensed with. All the public needs are the straight up facts, not PR.

The district board can easily manage our current/future policy so current staff can handle the current work load. The district can rid the place of vermin in El Monte, encapsulate permanently an asbestos problem, if any, get new paint and carpet and vacate these facilitates quickly. No good reason exists to stay. Staff can be added slowly, incrementally as required there.

Hasty, unsound reasoning triggered this move to a rental. The ownership of our current facility needs to be determined.

Recent actions to vacate in El Monte are positive proof that the board majority that seems to run things has become positively delusional.  
d-e-l-u-s-i-o-n-a-l.

Unwise is vacating a now revitalizing downtown section of El Monte, with a brand new school district headquarters building under construction, Rio Hondo court house, the police department, and city hall, Our former location is zoned perfectly for us and adds to our visibility and stature with sister local government agencies being located in that neighborhood.

This move into left field is the exact opposite of what we should be doing. Moving out into this business office park, isolated from other governmental entities, is outrageous poor public policy.

We represent about 900,000 voters and my guess is that most of them are laughing at us now. Vacating our former office costs about 1.5 million dollars when all expenses, including moving expenses are added up is a wholly unnecessary extravagant expense for the valley's ratepayers in hard economic times. Yielding NO SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT for anyone except our landlord....And it may make 3 district board members feel good.

This is an outrage. It will be hard to recover from this mistake. Clear policy dysfunction is evident here. Unfortunately, foolish decisions on the part of public officials are not illegal. If we don't get some clear answers soon, I'm forced to go to outside authorities:

The public integrity branch of the D.A.'s office or perhaps, the state Attorney General's office will have jurisdiction of this situation. I won't sit on the side lines at let public funds being wasted here; as the district becomes an object of humorous derision, similar to what occurred at the city of Bell.

Three directors voted for the districts 15.5 percent rate increase so we can finance this unfortunate debacle, which is an unsound ill-advised mismanagement; miss-guided perversion of public policy.

We can hope not too many voters find out what this board has done, because we can easily be replaced in the next election.

R. William "Bill" Robinson July 19, 2011/ Monrovia, California.