

**SWEETWATER AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

January 9, 2019

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at the Sweetwater Authority Administrative Office, 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, California. Chair Castaneda called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- **Roll Call**

Directors Present: Josie Calderon-Scott, Jerry Cano, Steve Castaneda, José F. Cerda, *Hector Martinez (*left at 7:56 p.m.*), Jose Preciado, and *Alejandra Sotelo-Solis (*left at 7:58 p.m.*)

Directors Absent: None

Management, Staff and Others Present: General Manager Tish Berge, Assistant General Manager Jennifer Sabine, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa Mills, and Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff members: Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne. Others present: Alison Alpert of Best Best & Krieger, Mike Sampsel and Robert Moreno.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

- **Opportunity for Public Comment** (Government Code Section 54954.3)

Mike Sampsel spoke to creating a citizens advisory council; rainfall; water rates; and the water in Loveland Reservoir.

Robert Moreno spoke on behalf of the City of Chula Vista Councilmember Jill Galvez to congratulate the new Board; share that she looks forward to working with the Board; and wish them a Happy New Year.

- **Chair's Presentation**

A. Introduction and Administration of Ceremonial Oath of Office for City of National City Appointed Directors Alejandra Sotelo-Solis and Jerry Cano

Director Cano took his oath of office which was administered by National City Mayor Sotelo-Solis; and Director Sotelo-Solis took her oath of office which was administered by Chair Castaneda.

B. "Water Efficiency Partnership," Presented by Jen Nation, Executive Director, Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center

Chair Castaneda proposed creating an Ad Hoc Committee of the Board to explore options for citizen engagement and requested that this be agendaized for discussion the next Board meeting. Director Cano suggested including staff in this engagement

process.

At 6:20 p.m. Chair Castaneda called a short recess for refreshments. The meeting was called back to order at 6:29 p.m., with all Board members present.

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

- 1. Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There were none.

- 2. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Meeting of December 12, 2018

B. Regular Meeting of December 12, 2018

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the December 12, 2018 Special and Regular meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar. Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of warrant numbers 150215 and 150263 due to his contract negotiation with SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Approval of Demands and Warrants – Check numbers 150192 through 150346 and electronic fund transfers 25231 through 25692
- 4. Adoption of Resolution 19-01 of the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority Appointing Ligia Perez as Board Secretary

RESOLUTION 19-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
APPOINTING ITS SECRETARY**

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

Ayes:	Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, Cerda, Martinez, Preciado, and Sotelo-Solis
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

Action and Discussion Items

5. New Business

Consideration to Approve Adding Board Members' Dependent(s) to the Authority's Healthcare Plans

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board direct staff to modify Policy 520, Benefits, to include provisions to allow Board members to add dependents to their health insurance plan at the same cost the employees pay. The motion carried, with Director Calderon-Scott opposing.

6. Approval of Directors' Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items

Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the Water Education for Latino Leaders Annual Conference – March 28-29, 2019

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board approve a per diem for Directors who wish to attend the Water Education for Latino Leaders Annual Conference – March 28-29, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. November 2018 Financial Reports

General Manager Berge noted the transfer of funds from South Bay Irrigation District in the financial report per the agreement between South Bay Irrigation District and Sweetwater Authority. Chair Castaneda provided background information on the agreement.

8. Report of Legal Counsel

Ms. de Sousa Mills reported on Senate Bill 998.

9. Management Report

A. Report of Assistant General Manager

Ms. Sabine reported on the rainfall received at Sweetwater and Loveland reservoirs; amount of water in Loveland reservoir; and the possibility of a water transfer from Loveland reservoir to Sweetwater reservoir depending upon weather, basin conditions, and other factors.

B. Report of General Manager

Ms. Berge reported on a sewage spill from the County of San Diego near Sweetwater Reservoir; direction from the Division of Drinking Water to not treat Sweetwater reservoir water because of the sewage spill; continuous testing for total coliform and two indicator species that identify whether fecal matter is present in the water; that the County of San Diego was contacted to identify the problem as this has

been the fourth sewer spill in the last two years; a bill insert explaining the new water bill, new rates, and new ways to pay; and that she will be participating in the Cuyamaca College Women in Water symposium on January 17, 2019.

10. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

San Diego County Water Authority Legislative Roundtable with Assembly Minority Leader Marie Waldron – December 17, 2018

Director Calderon-Scott provided a report.

11. Directors' Comments

Director Cano thanked everyone for their friendly hospitality.

Director Preciado welcomed the new Directors from National City.

Director Martinez welcomed the new Directors, commented on the report from Legal Counsel on SB 998, and shared that he looks forward to working with the Board to assist low income customers.

Director Calderon-Scott welcomed Directors Cano and Sotelo-Solis.

Director Cerda welcomed Directors Cano and Sotelo-Solis and shared that he looks forward to working together.

Director Sotelo-Solis commented that she is excited to be on the Board; water is very important to her, the Board, and all the residents; looks forward to new ideas on how to engage rate payers; looks forward to bring a voice from the City of National City to the dais; and extended an open door for staff and the team to visit National City.

Chair Castaneda welcomed the new Directors; commented that the Authority has great assets that can be capitalized on; and looks forward to making decisions that will help keep the water rates down.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:06 p.m., the Board convened to meet in closed session with legal counsel for:

- A., Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2): One Case;
- B., Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6: Agency Negotiator: Alison Alpert, Legal Counsel; Employee Organizations: Sweetwater Authority Employees Committee, Sweetwater Authority Middle Management Group, and Sweetwater Authority Confidential Employees' Group;
- C., Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6: Agency Negotiator: Alison Alpert, Legal Counsel; Unrepresented

Employees: Assistant General Manager, Director of Administrative Services, Director of Engineering, Director of Distribution, Director of Finance, and Director of Water Quality; and

- D., Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 (d)(1): Michael Wallace v. Sweetwater Authority, PERB Case No. LA-CE-1346-M

There was no need for a closed session on item E., Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1); United States, et al. ex rel John Hendrix v. J-M Manufacturing Company Inc., and Formosa Plastics Corporation, U.S.A., case No. ED CV06-00055-GW.

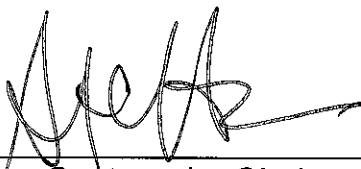
(Note: Director Martinez left the meeting at 7:56 p.m.)

(Note: Director Sotelo-Solis left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.)

There were no minutes taken, and the session was not audio-recorded. At 8:10 p.m., Chair Castaneda declared the meeting to be in open session. No reportable action was taken by the Governing Board.

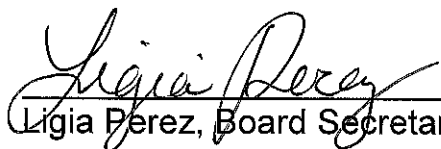
12. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary