

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

January 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
and at
Sweetwater Authority
Administration Building
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Directors Present: Josie Calderon-Scott, Steve Castaneda, Manny Delgado, Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, Ditas Yamane

Directors Absent: Ron Morrison

Management, Staff and Others Present: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, and Assistant Board Secretary Michael Garcia. Staff members: Customer Service Supervisor Miguel Alvarez, Engineering Manager Christopher Bauer, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Director of Engineering and Operations Erick Del Bosque, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Senior Public Affairs Representative Gwyneth Shoecraft, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson. Others present: Gina DePinto and Steve Gagnon of Raftelis, Alive Bou and Greg Clumper of NBS, Mary D., Karen Henry, Mark Robak, and Russell Walsh.

- **Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Note: After calling the meeting to order, Chair Martinez established for the record that all Directors were able to hear the proceedings, that all members of the Board were able to hear the Directors participating by teleconference clearly, and that all votes would be taken by a roll call vote pursuant to the provisions of the Brown Act. Chair Martinez further established for the record the process by which public comments would be received by the Board, which process was also described in the Agenda for the meeting.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

1. **Findings to Continue Holding Remote/Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361**

Mary D. encouraged Board members to vote no on item 1 due to the upcoming conclusion of the Governor's proclaimed State of Emergency, and encouraged the development of a policy for hybrid meetings.

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Calderon-Scott

that the Governing Board make the following findings:

1. The Governor-declared COVID-19 State of Emergency remains in effect and the Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the COVID-19 State of Emergency;
2. State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and
3. For the next 30 days, the meetings of the Board, its committees, and any other Authority legislative bodies including the Citizens Advisory Committee, shall be held pursuant to the provision of Government Code section 54953 (e), allowing legislative body members and members of the public to participate in meetings remotely in accordance with that section;

and direct staff to present options for public meeting formats at the next Regular Board meeting due to the upcoming conclusion of the Governor-declared State of Emergency.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

- **Opportunity for Public Comment**

Karen Henry commented on the quality inconsistencies of the Authority's teleconferencing technology, the general listening atmosphere in the Board room, and provided suggestions for improvement.

Mary D. commented on the fiscal and environmental stewardship of the Authority, its collaboration with stakeholders, and transparency and meeting accessibility; and provided kudos to Authority on certain operational procedures.

Mark Robak commented on suggested improvements to the local trails around Sweetwater Reservoir, and provided a handout.

Russell Walsh commented on written communications with Chair Martinez; the effects of lowering water levels at Loveland Reservoir, including damage to the fishing dock; and impacts to the wildlife.

Due to technical issues, the January 11, 2023 Regular Board meeting was cancelled. It was determined that submitted written public comments will be re-read at a future meeting. Below is a summary of the public comments submitted for the January 11, 2023 meeting:

Collette Donovan submitted written comments regarding the restoration of water to Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Robert Kilpatrick submitted written comments regarding the use of Loveland Reservoir for firefighting, and the impact that draining Loveland Reservoir has on wildlife, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Donald Miller submitted written comments regarding the impacts of the Loveland Reservoir water transfer to fire fighting in East County, and wildlife, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Patricia Moss submitted written comments regarding the draining of Loveland Reservoir and its effect on wildlife, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Mike Sampsel submitted written comments regarding the benefits of the water transferred from Loveland Reservoir, including to ratepayers Authority facilities, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

David Yetz submitted written comments regarding the impacts "deadpool" levels at Loveland Reservoir has combating fires, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Submitted written public comments for the January 25, 2023 meeting:

Darlene Cossio submitted written comments regarding the harm being caused to the environment due to the draining of Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Carolyn McGavock submitted written comments regarding consequences of the Loveland Reservoir water transfer, and the operation of the Authority by management and the Board, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

William Pardo submitted written comments regarding the draining of Loveland Reservoir and effects to local wildlife and his appeal to the EPA, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Jenelle Ring submitted written comments opposing the draining of Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Shahrzad Zahedi submitted written comments opposing the draining of Loveland Reservoir and the impacts to local natural habitat, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

- **Chair's Presentation**

- A. Introduction and Administration of Ceremonial Oath of Office for City of National City Appointed Directors Ron Morrison and Ditas Yamane, and Division 3 Appointed Director Manny Delgado
- B. Presentation of Special District Leadership Foundation's District Transparency Certificate of Excellence to Sweetwater Authority by Chris Palmer, Southern Network Public Relations Field Coordinator
- C. Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

- 2. **Adoption of Resolution 23-01 of the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority Honoring Jose Preciado for His Service as a Director**

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board adopt Resolution 23-01, Honoring Jose Preciado for His Service as a Director

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

- 3. **Adoption of Resolution 23-02 of the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority Honoring Mona Rios for Her Service as a Director**

Motion by: Director Martinez-Perez

Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board adopt Resolution 23-02, Honoring Mona Rios for Her Service as a Director.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

- 4. **Adoption of Resolution 23-03 of the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority Honoring Alejandra Sotelo-Solis for Her Service as a Director**

Motion by: Director Yamane
Seconded by: Director Martinez-Perez

that the Governing Board adopt Resolution 23-03, Honoring Alejandra Sotelo-Solis for Her Service as a Director

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

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

There were none.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Director Castaneda
Seconded by: Director Calderon-Scott

that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of December 8, 2022, and the Regular Board meeting of December 14, 2022.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

6.A Special Board Meeting of December 8, 2022

6.B Regular Board Meeting of December 14, 2022

Consent Calendar Items

Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 7 due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Motion by: Director Martinez-Perez
Seconded by: Director Calderon-Scott

that the Governing Board approve Consent Calendar.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

7. **Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – November and December 2022**
8. **Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – November and December 2022**

Action and Discussion Items

9 New Business

9.A “State Legislative Update,” presented by Glenn Farrel, GF Advocacy

Russell Walsh commented on the funding of the Desalination Facility; the draining of Loveland Reservoir; the use of bond funds for Loveland Dam projects; and the Authority's income from taxpayer funding.

Due to technical issues, the January 11, 2023 Regular Board meeting was cancelled. It was determined that submitted written public comments will be re-read at a future meeting. Below is a summary of the public comments submitted for this agenda item for the January 11, 2023 meeting:

Carolyn McGavok submitted written comments suggesting an audit of the Authority; the use of taxpayer bond funds; and the effects of draining Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

9.B Consultant Presentations and Consideration to Award a Contract for the 2023 Water Rate Cost of Service Study

NBS and Raftelis presented its proposals to the Governing Board.

Director Martinez called a recess at 7:54 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8 p.m.

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Calderon-Scott

that the Governing Board award a contract to NBS in the amount of \$58,200 for the 2023 Water Rate Cost of Service Study.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

9.C Consideration to Adopt Resolution 23-04, Authorizing the General Manager to Submit an Application for a Turf/Smart Irrigation Controller Replacement Project and Automated Metering Infrastructure Installation Project

Motion by: Director Martinez
Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board adopt Resolution 23-04, Authorizing the General Manager to submit an application for the Turf/Smart Irrigation Controller Replacement Project and the Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Installation Project under the Department of Water Resources Urban Community Drought Relief Grant, committing to provide 25 percent cost share, and Authorizing the General Manager to accept grant funds and execute Grant Agreement.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

9.D Consideration to Issue a Request for Qualifications for On-call Land Surveying Services and Award a Short-term Contract for Professional Survey Services

Motion by: Director Castaneda
Seconded by: Director Martinez-Perez

that the Governing Board direct staff to advertise a Request for Qualifications for on-call survey services; direct staff to select two on-call survey firms and negotiate contract(s) based on competitive hourly rates; and extend existing contract for professional land survey services with Berggren & Associates, using the hourly rate schedule provided in its current contract, with the extended contract to expire until new contract(s) for on-call survey services are in place.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

9.E Consideration to Award a One-year Contract for the Purchase of Water Meters and Conduct an AMI Feasibility Study

Karen Henry commented on the availability of information regarding the qualifications of the potential vendor, and perception of transparency.

Raul Tellez commented on the need for advanced metering infrastructure, and encouraged exploring automated meter reading and cellular technology; he also commented on the cost of implementation, and shared the benefits of this technology.

Motion by: Director Yamane

Seconded by: Director Martinez-Perez

that the Governing Board approve the request to extend the current contract for the purchase of water meters with Ferguson Enterprises and to contract with Hazen & Sawyer to conduct an AMI Feasibility Study.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

9.F Consideration to Adopt Resolution 23-05, Adopting a Revised FY 2022-23 Salary Schedule for All Employees Effective January 25, 2023

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Calderon-Scott

that the Governing Board adopt Resolution 23-05, Adopting a Salary Schedule for All Employees Effective January 25, 2023, as proposed, with a fiscal impact of \$52,705.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

9.G Consideration to Issue a Request for Qualifications for On-call Cathodic Protection Services and Award a Short-Term Extension to Existing Contract for Cathodic Protection Services

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Delgado

that the Governing Board direct staff to advertise a Request for Qualifications for on-call cathodic protection services; direct staff to select an on-call cathodic protection firm and negotiate a contract based on competitive hourly rates; and award a short-term extension to the existing contract for cathodic protection services with V&A Consulting Engineers, Inc., using the hourly rate schedule provided, with the extended contract to expire when a new contract is in place with the consultant selected through the RFQ process.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

9.H Review of Policies and Procedures (Board Policies 501 through 509)

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Martinez-Perez

that the Governing Board approve Board Policies 501 through 509 as presented.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

9.I Review of Board Policy 510 - Per Diem Compensation and Reimbursement

Motion by: Director Martinez-Perez

Seconded by: Director Delgado

that the Governing Board direct staff to provide adequate notice to conduct a Public Hearing at the March 8, 2023 Regular Board meeting to consider adopting an ordinance or resolution to increase the per diem to \$200 per meeting.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

10. Old and Unfinished Business

10.A Status Update on Loveland Dam Stairway and Valve Replacement Project

Mary D. expressed her concerns about the Authority's stewardship of Loveland Reservoir; the long-term consequences of draining Loveland Reservoir; and the Authority's relationship Loveland Reservoir area residents.

Russell Walsh commented on the Loveland Valve replacement; the public response of draining Loveland Reservoir; the status of the valve replacement project; the sediment shift at the Reservoir; and the Authority's ask for additional funding from the State.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

10.B Consideration to Issue a Request for Qualifications for the Sweetwater Reservoir Enhancement Entity for Sweetwater Reservoir’s Enhancement Project

Due to technical issues, the January 11, 2023 Regular Board meeting was cancelled. It was determined that submitted written public comments will be re-read at a future meeting. Below is a summary of the public comments submitted for this agenda item for the January 11, 2023 meeting:

Dave Schlesinger submitted written comments congratulating the Board on moving forward with this project; the value of Public Private Partnerships (P3), and the benefits to ratepayers and the Sweetwater Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Motion by: Director Martinez
Seconded by: Director Delgado

that the Governing Board authorize staff to advertise the Request for Qualifications as presented to obtain Statements of Qualifications from potential reservoir enhancement entities for the Sweetwater Reservoir Enhancement Project; and direct staff to submit Statements of Qualifications to the Governing Board for evaluation.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

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

Motion by: Director Castaneda
Seconded by: Director Martinez-Perez

that the Governing Board approve per diem for Directors for agenda items 11 A through 11 D.

Ayes (6): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Morrison

Motion Carried Unanimously (6 to 0)

11.A Per diem approval for Directors Morrison and Yamane’s onboarding meetings with Staff and Legal Counsel

- 11.B Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the ACWA 2023 DC Conference, Washington D.C. – February 28-March 2, 2023
- 11.C Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the Multi-State Salinity Coalition Annual Summit, Las Vegas, NV – February 22-February 24, 2023
- 11.D Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy, La Quinta, CA – February 26, 2023-March 1, 2023

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12. Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

13. Informational Reports

- Financial Reports - November 2022
- Financial Reports - December 2022
- Quarterly Report of One-time Water Bill Adjustments – Second Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Consultant Report – Second Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Vendor Agreement Listing – Second Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Capital Projects Report - Second Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Performance Measurement Report - Second Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Report of Directors' Expenses - Second Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Report on Communications Plan Metrics - Second Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Water Treatment Chemical Update - Second Quarter FY 2022-23

14. Report of Legal Counsel

There was none.

15. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero thanked the Board for their support, especially for the reorganization item.

16. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

16.A Other Events Attended

Director Castaneda provided a report on the Water Conservation Garden Authority Board of Directors Meeting - Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

17. Directors' Comments

Ditas Yamane requested the page numbers on the agenda cover.

Director Delgado thanked members of the public for attending the meeting, and for staying late. Expressed a desire to tour the Authority's facilities and the Water Conservation Garden.

Director Castaneda welcomed new Directors to the Board and has positive feelings about the new year.

Vice Chair Martinez-Perez congratulated outgoing Directors and welcomed the new Directors to the Board.

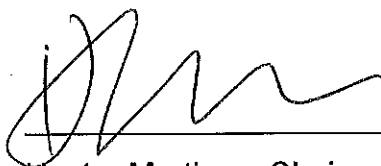
Director Calderon-Scott welcomed the new Board members and also wants to do a tour of Loveland Reservoir.

Chair Martinez commented on the great taste of the Authority's drinking water, and thanked Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil.

CLOSED SESSION – There was none.

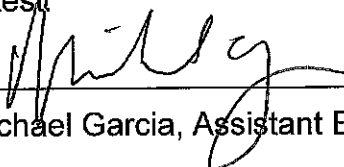
18. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Martinez adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.



Hector Martinez, Chair

Attest



Michael Garcia, Assistant Board Secretary