

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

January 26, 2022

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Pursuant to provisions provided for by Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was held via teleconference. Vice Chair Martinez-Perez called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

*(*Note: After calling the meeting to order, Vice Chair Martinez-Perez 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. Vice Chair Martinez-Perez 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.)*

- **Roll Call**

Directors Present: Josie Calderon-Scott, Steve Castaneda, Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, Jose Preciado, Mona Rios, and Alejandra Sotelo-Solis.

Directors Absent: None.

Management, Staff, and Others Present: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, and Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff members: Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Interim Director of Engineering Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Program Manager Dan Hayes, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, Director of Distribution Carl Quiram, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Russell Walsh submitted written comments regarding the Loveland Reservoir Fishing Program closure, attempt for mediation, and the right of public access, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Greg Sanchez submitted written comments regarding the modified hours of operations and public access at Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

- **Chair's Presentation**

- A. 2022 Committees and Interagency Assignments
- B. Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There was none.

3. Approval of Minutes - Regular Board Meeting of January 12, 2022

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of January 12, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 5 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check numbers 157034, 157072, 157122, and 157162) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Recommendation: 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 thirty (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 provisions 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.

5. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – December 2021

6. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – December 2021

7. Consideration of One-time Adjustment to Customer Water Bill – Palomar Inn (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/19/22)

Recommendation: Approve a one-time adjustment to the Palomar Inn's account in the amount of \$2,004.50.

8. Review of Proposals for a Financial Audit Firm and Direction on the Final Selection Processes (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/19/22)

Recommendation: Award a contract for five consecutive fiscal year audits in an amount not to exceed of \$187,871 to the Pun Group, San Diego, CA, staff's top ranked proposal.

9. Consideration of Reaffirming Level One of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/19/22)
Recommendation: Reaffirm Level 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.
10. Sweetwater and Loveland Reservoirs 303(d) Mercury Listing (Information Item) (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 1/19/22)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

Action and Discussion Items

11. Consideration of Award of Contracts for the Operations Center Storage System (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 1/19/22)
Recommendation: Award a contract in the amount of \$66,200 to El Cajon Grading for the slab construction.

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve to award a contract in the amount of \$66,200 to El Cajon Grading for the slab construction. The motion carried unanimously.
12. Approval of Directors' Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items
 - A. Per diem approval for Directors that attended the legislative meeting with Senator Hueso – January 13, 2022
 - B. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the Urban Water Institute's Virtual Spring Water Conference – February 16-17, 2022 (*Note: registration deadline is 2/5/22*)
(*Note: draft agenda not available*)
Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve per diem for items 12.A. and 12.B. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

13. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard
14. Committee Minutes
15. Informational Reports
 - Financial Reports – December 2021
 - Quarterly Capital Projects Report – Second Quarter FY 2021-22
 - Quarterly Performance Measurement Report – Second Quarter FY 2021-22
 - Quarterly Report on Communications Plan Metrics – Second Quarter FY 2021-22
16. Report of Management
General Manager Quintero reported on:
 - Staff shortages due to COVID-19 and turnover; its effect on Authority operations; and the reopening of the Fishing Programs

- The Authority is partnering with Union Bank to host financial literacy webinars for customers.

17. Report of Sweetwater Authority Director to the Water Conservation Garden Authority

Director Castaneda reported on the recent meeting of the Water Conservation Garden, including grants received, the reopening of schools and the increase in visitors; and the effort to reduce financial investment by the Authority.

Director Castaneda also reported on his attendance at the Council of Water Utilities and South County Economic Development Council meetings.

18. Report of Representatives to the San Diego County Water Authority

Director Rios reported on the upcoming agenda of the SDCWA Finance and Administration Subcommittee, including a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for CIP projects and the adoption of an ordinance; and the Engineering Committee will be looking at professional services contracts.

Director Preciado reported on the delay of the team-building retreat of the SDCWA Board members; PLA agenda item is drawing the most attention; Water Resources and Environmental Planning Committee will share achievements, including the successful submission of the Urban Water Management Plan and the Drought Management Plan, and the Committee will receive an update on the current drought conditions; the Imported Water Committee will receive an update on the improving relationship with Metropolitan Water District; the SDCWA will begin discussion on the conceptualization of water affordability; the Legislative Committee will continue to monitor legislation that may impact the water industry; funds available for dam safety and affordability; and the SDCWA will begin mid-year budget reviews.

19. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. Other Events Attended

Chair Sotelo-Solis reported on recent meetings with legislators regarding Authority priorities.

20. Directors' Comments

Director Rios thanked staff for updating and promoting the reopening of the Authority's Fishing Programs.

Chair Sotelo-Solis reported on her recent trip to Washington, D.C., including discussions on infrastructure and climate change, and meeting President and First Lady Biden.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:53 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for:

A. Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:

Agency Negotiators: Carlos Quintero, General Manager

Jennifer Sabine, Assistant General Manager

Employee Organizations: Sweetwater Authority Employees' Committee
Sweetwater Authority Middle Management Group
Sweetwater Authority Confidential Group

B. Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:

Agency Negotiators: Carlos Quintero, General Manager
Jennifer Sabine, Assistant General Manager

Unrepresented Employees: Director of Administrative Services
Director of Distribution
Director of Engineering
Director of Finance
Director of Water Quality

There was no need for closed session on the following item:

C. 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

There were no minutes taken, and the session was not audio-recorded.

The Board came out of Closed Session at 7:48 p.m. and reconvened in open session with Directors Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Preciado, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis present. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

21. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.



Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:


Ligia Perez, Board Secretary