

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

February 9, 2022

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Pursuant to provisions provided for by Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was held via teleconference. Chair Sotelo-Solis called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

*(*Note: After calling the meeting to order, Chair Sotelo-Solis 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 Sotelo-Solis 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, Assistant General Manager Jennifer Sabine, Legal Counsel Nicholas Norvell, and Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff members: Engineering Manager Christopher Bauer, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Interim Director of Engineering Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others present: Daniel Iacofano and Andy Pendoley of MIG, and Norberto Avila.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Norberto Avila requested a second One-time Bill Adjustment for his water bill.

Margaret Yova submitted written comments regarding her concerns of water discoloration and lack of notification when the Authority flushes water lines, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

- **Chair's Presentation**

ACWA/JPIA President's Special Recognition Award

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

General Manager Quintero requested Agenda Item 13. B. be reordered before item number 8.

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board reorder item 13. B to be addressed before item number 8. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes – Regular Board Meeting of January 26, 2022

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of January 26, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Calderon-Scott pulled Item 7 for discussion.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar items 3 through 6. The motion carried unanimously.

3. 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.
4. Consideration to Approve Change Order No. 2 with Ortiz Corporation under the FY 2020-21 Pipeline Replacement Program and Douglas Street Interconnection Improvements (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)
Recommendation: Approve Change Order No. 2 with Ortiz Corporation of National City, CA, in the amount of \$51,881.71, increasing the total contract amount of \$1,625,832.98, and authorize the General Manager to execute the Change Order
5. Consideration of Second One-time Adjustment to Customer Water Bill - Ahmad Esmailpour (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)
Recommendation: Deny the request for a second one-time adjustment and allow Mr. Esmailpour an extended payment plan to pay the balance of \$3,954.42.
6. Consideration of One-time Adjustment for Customer Water Bill – Dan Eskew (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)

Recommendation: Approve a one-time adjustment in the amount of \$1,675.07 to the account of Dan Eskew.

ITEM PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

7. Review of Board Policies and Procedures (Policies 510 through 516 and 518 through 520) (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)

Recommendation: Approve the recommended changes as presented.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the recommended changes as presented; with direction to discuss potential changes to Policy 518 at a future Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Action and Discussion Items

13. B. Consideration of Draft 2022 Strategic Plan for Review and Comments

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board direct staff to bring back modifications incorporating Board feedback at the February 23, 2022 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Strategic Plan Reporting – Mid-Year Detailed Work Plan Status Report (Information Item) (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/19/22; Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 1/19/22; and Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

- 9 Request for Remote Services – 2811-2824 C Avenue, National City (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)

Recommendation: Approve the remote services request, with costs to be paid in full by Bartizan Investments, LLC.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve the remote services request, with costs to be paid in full by Bartizan Investments, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Comparison of Recommended Expenditures between the 2015 and 2020 Water Distribution System Master Plans and Evaluation of Satellite-Based Leak Detection Data (Information Item) (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

11. FY 2021-22 Mid-year Budget Review and Arrearage Status (Information Item) (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

12. FY 2021-22 Water Supply Assumptions Status Update (Information Item) (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/31/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

13. New Business

- A. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 22-01 Recognizing the Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King Jr. Holidays

Upon a motion by Director Rios, seconded by Vice Chair Martinez-Perez, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION 22-01

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY RECOGNIZING THE CESAR CHAVEZ AND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAYS

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Preciado, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

- A. Per diem approval for Director Sotelo-Solis' participation at the legislative meeting with Assemblymember Voepel – January 25, 2022

- B. Per diem approval for Director Sotelo-Solis' participation at the legislative meeting with Assemblymember Weber – January 26, 2022

- C. California Special Districts Association - San Diego Chapter Quarterly Virtual Meeting – Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.: "Priorities as it Relates to Special Districts"

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve items 14.A. and 14.B. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

15. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

16. Committee Minutes

17. Report of Legal Counsel

There was none.

18. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported on:

- Check was received from the State for water bill arrearages;
- California Department of Community Services has funds available for its low-income water bill assistance program; and
- Authority staffing levels continue to return to normal after the recent COVID-19 peak.

19. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. Other Events Attended

Director Castaneda reported on the recent SCEDC meeting presentation by SANDAG staff regarding transportation planning in the region including budgeting, and the collection of information and phone data to learn the ways people travel.

20. Directors' Comments

There was none.

CLOSED SESSION

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

A. 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

21. Adjournment

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


Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:


Ligia Pérez, Board Secretary