

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

February 10, 2021

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 and 33-20, this meeting was held via teleconference. Chair Martinez called the meeting 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.)*

- **Roll Call**

Directors Present: Josie Calderon-Scott, *Steve Castaneda (6:04 p.m.), Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, Jose Preciado, Mona Rios, and Alejandra Sotelo-Solis

Directors Absent: None.

Management, Staff, and Others Present: General Manager Tish Berge, Assistant General Manager Jennifer Sabine, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, and Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff Members: Human Resources Manager Cindy Barnett, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Engineering Manager Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Distribution Manager Nathan Golder, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Director of Distribution Greg Snyder, Senior Human Resources Analyst Angela Soto, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, Principal Engineering Technician Arturo Tejeda, 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 Fishing Program 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**

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There were none.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Board Meeting of January 27, 2021

B. Special Board Meeting of February 1, 2021

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of January 27, 2021, and the Special Board Meeting of February 1, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Rios pulled item 4 for discussion.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar item 3. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration of FY 2021-22 Budget Calendar (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/3/21)

Recommendation: No action is required by the Governing Board.

ITEM PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Consideration to Select a Landscape Maintenance Service Provider (Operations Committee Meeting of 2/3/21)

Recommendation: Award a contract to TerraCare Associates, Encinitas, CA in the amount of \$78,768, with four one-year renewal options based on work performance; and return to the Operations Committee prior to the expiration of the second year of the contract, for the Operations Committee to recommend to the Board whether to renew the contract or issue a Request for Quotes

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board award a contract to the lowest responsive bidder for landscape maintenance services at Authority facilities to TerraCare Associates of Encinitas, CA in the amount of \$78,768 with four one-year renewal options based on work performance. The motion carried with Directors Castaneda, Martinez-Perez, Preciado, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis in favor, and Directors Calderon-Scott and Martinez opposing.

Action and Discussion Items

5. New Business

- A. Consideration of Several Factors Before Initiating Phase II of the Sediment Characterization Study at Loveland Reservoir

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board refer this item to its March 24, 2021 meeting; and direct staff to gather additional and updated information from the geotechnical consultant and staff biologist, provide any responses received from interested sand mining companies and provide information about the implications of the County’s recent acquisition of land in the El Monte Valley. The motion carried with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Preciado, and Sotelo-Solis in favor, and Director Rios opposing.

- B. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 21-04, Adopting the Revised FY 2020-21 Pay Schedule for All Employees

Upon a motion by Director Preciado, seconded by Director Castaneda, the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 21-04

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
ADOPTING A SALARY SCHEDULE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

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

- C. California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Board of Directors Call for Nominations: Seat A

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board nominate Director Martinez-Perez to the CSDA Board of Directors Southern Network Seat A. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Approval of Directors’ Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items
 - A. Per diem approval for Directors meeting with the General Manager, Assistant General Manager, Special Legal Counsel, and Director of Finance

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board approve per diem for Directors meeting with the General Manager,

Assistant General Manager, Special Legal Counsel, and Director of Finance. **The motion carried unanimously.**

- B. California Special Districts Association - San Diego Chapter Quarterly Virtual Meeting – Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.: “Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Operations”

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

8. Committee Minutes

9. Report of Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel de Sousa reported on the SB 323 (Caballero), it is an ACWA-sponsored bill that would set a statute of limitations on certain water fee claims.

10. Report of Management

- Recent/Upcoming Community Events (No Enclosures):

General Manager Berge reported on:

- Staff is monitoring the success of the water transfer.
- Preview agenda items for the upcoming meetings: Regular Board meeting, Operations Committee, and the Finance and Personnel Committee.
- Announced her resignation from the Authority.

11. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. NWRA Annual Virtual Conference – January 25-29, 2021

Directors Calderon-Scott and Martinez provided a report.

B. Council of Water Utilities – February 1, 2021

Director Castaneda provided a report.

C. South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) Meeting – February 2, 2021

Director Castaneda provided a report.

D. Other Events Attended

Director Calderon-Scott commented on the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce First Friday Breakfast.

12. Directors’ Comments

Director Preciado commented on the opportunity for change and renewal in the future and looks forward to working with the Board.

Director Sotelo-Solis announced that the National City State of the City address will be held Thursday, March 25, 2021.

CLOSED SESSION – There was none.

13. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Martinez adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

APPROVED by Governing Board – February 24, 2021

Hector Martinez, Chair

Attest:

Ligia Perez, Board Secretary