

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

**February 22, 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, Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, \*Ron Morrison (6:05 p.m.), Ditas Yamane, Manny Delgado

Staff Present: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, Assistant Board Secretary Michael Garcia, Engineering Manager Christopher Bauer, Director of Engineering and Operations Erick Del Bosque, Watershed Caretaker Manager Victor Gaus, Water Treatment Superintendent Mark Hatcher, Board Secretary Ligia Hoffman, Environmental Project Manager Israel Marquez, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, and Director of Finance Rich Stevenson

Others Present: Kip Howard of Allegis Development, Lutfi Kharuf of Best, Best, & Krieger, Alice Bou of NBS, Wes Danskin and Michael Garrod of the United States Geological Survey.

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- **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**

- **Opportunity for Public Comment**

Mary Davis encouraged the development of a policy for hybrid and virtual meetings; and commented on the effects of the Loveland Reservoir water drawdown.

Legal Counsel de Sousa provided information for the record that the Governing Board acted at its February 8, 2023 meeting, to proceed with holding meetings under Assembly Bill 2449 beginning March 1, 2023.

*(Note: Director Morrison entered the meeting at 6:05 p.m.)*

- **Chair's Presentation**

- A. "Bayfront Development," presented by Kip Howard, Allegis Development
- B. "Hydrology of the San Diego Formation," presented by Wes Danskin, Research Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey

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

Dave Schlesinger submitted written comments regarding the possible use of reclaimed water, including the injection of water into the San Diego Formation, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

- C. **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**

**Motion by:** Director Morrison

**Seconded by:** Director Castaneda

that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2023, and the Special Meeting of February 15, 2023.

Ayes (7): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, Director Yamane, and Director Delgado

**Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)**

- A. **Regular Board Meeting of February 8, 2023**
- B. **Special Board Meeting of February 15, 2023**

**Consent Calendar Items**

**Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 4 due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.**

Director Calderon-Scott pulled items 6 and 7 for discussion.

**Motion by:** Director Yamane

**Seconded by:** Director Morrison

that the Governing Board approve consent calendar items 4 and 5.

Ayes (7): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, Director Yamane, and Director Delgado

**Motion Carried Unanimously, with Director Castaneda recused from Item 4.  
(7 to 0)**

4. **Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants - January 2023**
5. **Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) - January 2023**

**Items Pulled from Consent Calendar**

6. **Consideration of Rate Study Outreach Plan**

**Motion by:** Director Calderon-Scott

**Seconded by:** Director Castaneda

that the Governing Board approve the Rate Study Outreach Plan with the addition of community groups; recognizing that this process is still evolving and may include other participants.

Ayes (7): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, Director Yamane, and Director Delgado

**Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)**

7. **Update on Strategic Communications Plan (Information Item)**

No action was required by the Governing Board.

Director Martinez called a recess at 8:01 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:08 p.m.

**Action and Discussion Items****8. New Business****A. Introduction to the 2023 Water Rate Cost of Service Study**

No action was required by the Governing Board.

**B. Status Update Regarding Proposed Loop Trail at Sweetwater Reservoir**

No action was required by the Governing Board.

**C. Temporary Closure of Loveland Reservoir Recreation Program**

John Allen submitted written comments regarding the closure of Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Karen Wood submitted written comments encouraging the opening of Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Russell Walsh submitted written comments regarding the closure of 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.

**D. Update/Demonstration on the Outage Map (Information item)**

No action was required by the Governing Board.

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

**Motion by:** Director Martinez

**Seconded by:** Director Calderon-Scott

that the Governing Board approve per diem for Directors for agenda items 10 A through 10 C.

Ayes (7): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, Director Yamane, and Director Delgado

**Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)**

**A. Per diem approval for Directors Delgado, Martinez-Perez, and Yamane's tour with staff of Loveland Dam – February 20, 2023****B. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the Bonita Community Town Hall with Assemblymember David Alvarez– February 25, 2023**

- C. **Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the National Water Resources Association Federal Water Issues Conference, Washington D.C. – April 17-19, 2023**

**Reports and Informational Items**

**11. Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard**

**12. Committee Minutes**

Karen Henry submitted written comments regarding the characterization of her comments at the February 1, 2023 Water Quality Committee meeting, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

The Governing Board concurred to revise the Water Quality Committee minutes, item 4 A, the public comment paragraph to change the word "value" to "cost."

**13. Financial Reports - January 2023**

**14. Report of Management**

General Manager Quintero reported on:

- His visit to the Univision Television Studios; and
- Provided preliminary data on the expected revenue of the Bayfront Project, which is estimated to be approximately 220 acre-feet per year, equaling \$650,000. This estimate does not include the outdoor water features.

**15. Report of Representatives to the San Diego County Water Authority**

Directors Castaneda and Yamane reported on issues with the dam at Lake Hodges that affects the emergency water storage of the SDCWA, including significant water costs to member agencies; there is a bill in the state legislature that could help with dam repairs throughout the state; the visit of the Metropolitan Water District Chair to the SDCWA; SDCWA Committee appointments; and water rate restructuring.

**16. Reports by Directors on Events Attended**

**A. San Diego Chapter California Special Districts Association Quarterly Meeting – February 16, 2023**

Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, and Morrison provided a report.

**B. Council of Water Utilities Meeting – February 21, 2023**

Directors Castaneda and Morrison provided a report.

**C. Other Events Attended**

There were none.

**17. Directors' Comments**

Director Martinez-Perez reported on her tour of Loveland Reservoir and the closure of the area due to safety reasons.

Director Yamane echoed Director Martinez-Perez statement regarding the tour of Loveland Reservoir.

Director Delgado commented on his tour of Loveland Reservoir and the unsafe conditions; and thanked staff for showing him the conditions.

Director Martinez commented on a great year and the great projects thus far, commended the General Manager for his work on moving projects forward; and shared that Sweetwater Reservoir is at 57 percent.

**Closed Session**

At 10:03 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  
Paula de Sousa, Legal Counsel

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  
Paula de Sousa, Legal Counsel

Employee Organizations: Director of Finance  
Director of Water Quality  
Director of Administrative Services  
Director of Engineering and Operations  
Assistant General Manager

**C. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:**

Title: General Counsel

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

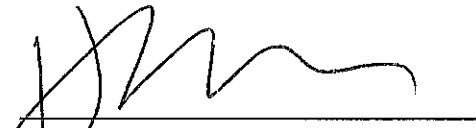
**D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1):**

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

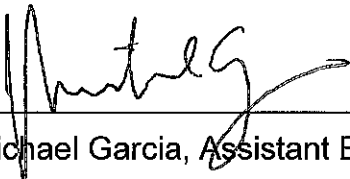
There were no minutes taken, and the session was not audio-recorded. The Board came out of Closed Session at 10:10 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:13 p.m. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

**18. Adjournment**

With no further business before the Board, Chair Martinez adjourned the meeting at 10:13 p.m.

  
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Hector Martinez, Chair

Attest:

  
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Michael Garcia, Assistant Board Secretary