

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

**February 23, 2022**

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 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 6:02 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 Paula de Sousa, and Acting Secretary Michael Garcia. Staff members: Engineering Manager Christopher Bauer, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Interim Director of Engineering Erick Del Bosque, 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, a graphic, and a video regarding the Loveland Reservoir Fishing Program closure, the water levels at Loveland Reservoir, and the right of public access, which were read onto the record by the Acting Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

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

- **Chair's Presentation**

Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

## ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There was none.

2. Approval of Minutes - Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2022

**Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 9, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.**

### Consent Calendar Items

**Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 4 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check numbers 157266 and 157303) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.**

Director Castaneda pulled Item 6 for discussion.

**Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar items 3 through 5, and 7 through 10. 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. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – January 2022
5. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – January 2022
7. Development Services Summary (Information Item) (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 2/14/22)  
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.
8. Consideration to Award a Contract to C&SS for the Pallet Rack System Fabrication and Installation at Operations Center (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 2/16/22)

Recommendation: Award a contract to C&SS, San Diego, CA, in the amount of \$28,472.67 for the pallet rack system fabrication and installation at the Operations Center.

9. Consideration to Authorize the Purchase of Four (4) Ford F-150 Lightning Trucks from National Auto Fleet Group (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 2/16/22)  
Recommendation: Authorize staff to purchase four (4) F-150 Lightning trucks from National Auto Fleet Group, Watsonville, CA in the amount of \$191,887.41 from the Vehicle Replacement Fund.
10. Consideration to Award a Contract to Hudson Safe-T-Lite for Traffic Control Services (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 2/16/22)  
Recommendation: Award a contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Hudson Safe-T-Lite of El Cajon, CA, for Traffic Control Services for a two (2) year period with three (3) 12-month renewal options at the discretion of the General Manager for a 5-year not-to-exceed price of \$223,365.10.

#### **ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

6. Consideration of Proposal for Comprehensive Assessment of Sweetwater Dam (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 2/14/22)  
Recommendation: Select GEI Consultants, Inc. to perform the comprehensive assessment of Sweetwater Dam for a not to exceed amount of \$753,800 in accordance with Tasks 1 – 8 of its proposal dated January 27, 2022; and direct staff to submit a work plan and schedule to the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams by May 31, 2022.

**Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board select GEI Consultants, Inc. to perform the comprehensive assessment of Sweetwater Dam for a not-to-exceed amount of \$753,800 in accordance with Tasks 1 – 8 of its proposal dated January 27, 2022; direct staff to submit a work plan and schedule to the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams by May 31, 2022; and refer discussion of the applicability of value engineering for the Comprehensive Assessment of Sweetwater Dam to the Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Action and Discussion Items**

11. Update on Distribution Maintenance Activities – Flushing Dead-end Pipelines (Information Item) (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 2/16/22)  
Recommendation: No action is required by the Governing Board.  
No action was required by the Governing Board.

12. Old and Unfinished Business

##### **A. Consideration to Approve the Draft 2022 Strategic Plan**

Russell Walsh submitted written comments regarding Objective CS8, and the inclusion of recreational opportunities around the Authority's reservoirs as noted in the Strategic Plan,

which were read onto the record by the Acting Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

**Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve the 2022 Strategic Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Consideration to Approve the Plan for Well Site Beautification of Various Authority Facilities

**Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approve the Well Site Beautification Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

- A. Per diem approval for Director Martinez's participation in the South County Economic Development Council's Water Day! Elected Officials Webinar Series – February 17, 2022
- B. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the ACWA 2022 Spring Conference, Sacramento, CA – May 3-5, 2022

**Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve per diem for items 13.A. and 13.B. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

14. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

15. Committee Minutes

16. Committee Look Ahead

- Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Six-Month Look Ahead FY 2021-22 Q3 & Q4 (Information Item) (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 2/14/22)  
Recommendation: No action is required by the Governing Board.
- Water Quality and Distribution Committee Six-Month Look Ahead FY 2021-22 Q3 & Q4 (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 2/14/22)  
Recommendation: No action is required by the Governing Board.

17. Financial Reports – January 2022

18. Revised Quarterly Report of Directors' Expenses – Second Quarter FY 2021-22

19. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported on:

- The future publishing of Board and Committee meeting videos to the Authority's website in the coming weeks.

20. Report of Representatives to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Director Rios reported on the January 27th meeting of the SDCWA, including the lengthy discussion of increasing Project Labor Agreements in SDCWA capital improvement projects, which the SDCWA Board supported; and SDCWA committee items were also presented including service contracts, budget policy, and rate design and development.

Director Preciado reported that the SDCWA Water Planning and Environmental Committee will review a \$2.8 million contract to develop the 2023 Water Facilities Master Plan and the high interest by local agencies; review of the State's development of long-term water efficiency targets; presentation on current drought conditions and the Colorado River water availability; a closed session update on litigation with Metropolitan Water District; an update on the MWD Demand Management Cost Recovery business plan; and the selection of a new General Counsel.

21. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. San Diego Chapter California Special Districts Association Quarterly Meeting – February 17, 2022

Director Martinez provided a report.

B. Other Events Attended

There was none.

22. Directors' Comments

There were none.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:09 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for:

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2): One case

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

Title: General Manager

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):

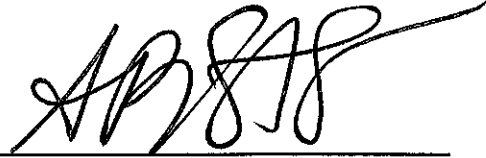
United States, et al. ex rel John Hendrix v. J-M Manufacturing Company Inc., and Formosa Plastics Corporation, U.S.A., Case No. ED CV06-00055-GW

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

The Board came out of Closed Session at 7:49 p.m. and reconvened in open session with all Directors present. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.


23. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.



Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:

  
Michael Garcia, Acting Secretary