

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

February 24, 2021

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 and 33-20, this meeting was held via teleconference. Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

*(*Note: After calling the meeting to order, Vice 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. Vice 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 (*left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.*), Paulina Martinez-Perez, Jose Preciado, Mona Rios, and Alejandra Sotelo-Solis

Directors Absent: None.

Management, Staff, and Others Present: Acting General Manager Jennifer Sabine, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, and Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff Members: Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Engineering Manager Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Distribution Manager Nate Golder, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Director of Distribution Greg Snyder, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, Engineering Manager Mike Wallace, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others Present: Leanne Hammond and Eric Scherch of HDR, Inc., David Thomas, and Russell Walsh.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

There were none.

- **Chair's Presentation**

COVID-19 Community Utility Bill and Resource Guide (No Enclosure)

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There was none.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Board Meeting of February 8, 2021

B. Regular Meeting of February 10, 2021

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of February 8, 2021, and the Regular Board meeting of February 10, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 3 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check numbers 154864, 154936, and 154979) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Chair Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – Check numbers 154864, 154936 and 154979
4. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – January 2021
5. ACWA/JPIA President's Special Recognition Award (Information Item)
6. Consideration to Select Consultant for Landscape Architecture Services – Beautification of Various Authority Facilities (Consultant Selection Committee Meeting of 2/9/21)
Recommendation: Direct staff to negotiate a contract and fee with KTUA, and to increase the budget from \$50,000 to \$75,000, appropriating the additional funding from contingency. Further, if staff is unable to negotiate a fair and reasonable price proposal with KTUA, direct staff to negotiate a contract and fee with Daneen Powell Atelier
7. Consideration of Request for Second One-time Adjustment – Chula Vista Tile & Stone (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/17/21)
Recommendation: Adhere to the One-time Adjustment to Customers' Water Bills policy and deny the request for a second adjustment; and allow Ms. Montes De Oca to enter into a twelve (12) month payment plan.

8. Request for Remote Services – 1139 and 1141 Second Avenue, Chula Vista at APNs 69-132-33-00 and 610-132-34-00 (Operations Committee Meeting of 2/17/21)
Recommendation: Approve the Owner's request for remote services, with the owner paying all costs associated with the installation of the new water services.
9. Consideration of Statements of Qualifications for the National City Wells Iron and Manganese Removal System (Operations Committee Meeting of 2/17/21)
Recommendation: Direct the Operations Committee to invite proposers Hazen and Sawyer, PACE, and Wood to interview with the Operations Committee.

Action and Discussion Items

10. Review of Board Policies and Procedures (501 through 509) – Second Review (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/17/21)
Recommendation: Approve the proposed changes to Policy 507 with additional edits noting that consultant selection will be assigned to the Committee with the purview for the subject matter, and that policies and procedures concerning from the use of teleconferencing for committee meetings mirror the policies and procedures concerning from the use of teleconferencing for Board meetings.

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approve Board Policies 501 through 506, 508, and 509 as presented; recommended additions to Board Policy 507; and direct staff to correct spelling errors in Board Policy 507. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Old and Unfinished Business

Sweetwater Authority Fishing Programs Safe Reopening and Expansion

David Thomas commented on the conditions and water levels of Loveland Reservoir; and the expansion of the fishing area.

Ernest Gorham submitted written comments regarding the reopening of Loveland Reservoir to seven days a week and expanding the fishing area, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments

Mike V. submitted written comments regarding reopening Loveland Reservoir to normal hours and moving the buoy line for an expanded fishing area, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments

Carolyn McGavok submitted written comments asking the Authority to adhere to the terms of the land swap that resulted in access to the water in Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments

Russell Walsh commented on adjusting the Loveland Reservoir Fishing Program schedule from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week; modifying the Program to provide for five miles of shoreline fishing, and provide for handicap access.

Madeline Shute, on behalf of Supervisor Joel Anderson, submitted written comments regarding a safe reopening of fishing activities at Loveland Reservoir to seven days a week, and offered the assistance of the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments

Jason Fields submitted written comments regarding the reopening of Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the hire of one additional watershed caretaker; the purchase of an additional vehicle to support the staff person; and expand the Fishing Program in accordance with Board direction once the new watershed caretaker and vehicle are secured. The motion carried, with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, and Preciado in favor, and Directors Rios and Sotelo-Solis opposing.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board direct staff and legal counsel to advise the Board on next steps required to move the buoy line at the Loveland Fishing Program; and inform the Board about the appropriate level of environmental review pursuant to CEQA. The motion carried unanimously.

12. New Business

A. Water Transfer from Loveland Reservoir to Sweetwater Reservoir (Information Item)

No action was required by the Governing Board.

B. Water Demand and Supply Projections for Sweetwater Authority's Urban Water Management Plan and Water Distribution System Master Plan (Information Item)

No action was required by the Governing Board.

(Chair Martinez left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.)

C. Request to concur in nomination to the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee

- Randall James Reed, Cucamonga Valley Water District

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board support the nomination of Randal James Reed of the Cucamonga Valley Water District to the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously with Directors Martinez and Preciado absent.

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

Per diem approval for Director Rios' attendance at the meeting with County Supervisor Nora Vargas in support of SWA Resolution supporting water affordability during COVID-19 – January 25, 2021

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve the per diem for Director Rios' attendance at the meeting with County Supervisor Nora Vargas in support of SWA Resolution supporting water affordability during COVID-19 – January 25, 2021. The motion carried unanimously with Director Martinez absent.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

14. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

15. Committee Minutes

16. Financial Reports – January 2021

17. Report of Management

- Upcoming Community Events (Information Item) (No Enclosures)

Acting General Manager Sabine reported on:

- The Authority awarded STEP and WEEP grants to National City-based EPIC Gardening.
- The Authority is working with the City of National City to clean-up encampment issues along the pathway adjacent to the National City Wells site.
- The deadline for the Continued Letters of Interest related to sand mining were due February 23, 2021 – though a one-week extension has been granted for all interested parties.
- In honor of Fix-A-Leak Week, the Authority is offering a \$75 rebate to customers who fix a leak or install a pressure reducing valve
- Acting General Manager Sabine participated in a panel at the CSDA Quarterly Dinner regarding the impacts of COVID-19.
- Previewed the agenda items for the upcoming Operations Committee and Finance and Personnel Committee meetings.

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

Director Rios reported that the SDCWA will be considering the data center replacement project, and a resolution to support potable water reuse project at its upcoming meeting.

Director Preciado reported that the SDCWA committees will be reporting on their 2-year work plans; an introduction of the Urban Water Management Plan; working with state senator Hueso on legislation to exploit the use of San Vicente Dam for energy generation; long-term debt adjustments; working with ACWA and MWD to address arrearages due to COVID-19; and the Colorado River Water Working Group is discussing the 12-year drought of the river, and how to best use this asset.

19. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. California Special Districts Association - San Diego Chapter Quarterly Virtual Meeting – February 18, 2021

This report was deferred to the next Board meeting.

B. Other Events Attended – There was none.

20. Directors' Comments

Director Martinez-Perez commented on being thankful for the action of the previous Board directing staff to execute a Loveland-Sweetwater Reservoir water transfer.

Director Rios commented on the great reports and updates, and congratulated the Board on the water transfer.

Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis thanked the board for their foresight regarding the water transfer; and is looking forward to more dialogue regarding outreach related to water demand and supply projections.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:38 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for:

A. Conference with Real Property Negotiators pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8:

Property: Assessor Parcel Number: 521-020-18 and 521-020-19

Agency Negotiators: Jennifer Sabine, Acting General Manager
Ron Mosher, Director of Engineering
Paula de Sousa, Legal Counsel

Negotiating Party: John A. Sindelar

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

There was no need for closed session on item:

B. 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 reconvened in open session at 8:47 p.m., with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez-Perez, Preciado, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis in attendance. Legal Counsel de Sousa reported that the Board came out of Closed Session at 8:46 p.m. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

21. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.



Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Vice Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary