

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

**February 27, 2019**

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at the Sweetwater Authority Administrative Office, 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, California. Chair Castaneda called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

- **Roll Call**

Directors Present: Josie Calderon-Scott, Jerry Cano, Steve Castaneda, José F. Cerda, \*Hector Martinez (4:35 p.m.), and Alejandra Sotelo-Solis

Directors Absent: Jose Preciado

Management, General Manager Tish Berge, Assistant General Manager  
Staff and Others Jennifer Sabine, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa Mills, and  
Present: Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff Members: Administrative  
Assistant Michael Garcia and Director of Engineering Ron  
Mosher. Others present: Abraham Edid, Tom Pocklington, and  
Mike Sampsel

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Tom Pocklington informed the Board that former Board member W.D “Bud” Pocklington passed away on February 22, 2019. Mr. Pocklington submitted the former Director’s obituary for the record.

Mike Sampsel spoke to employee pay and benefits; and an article regarding the Sweetwater Dam.

- **Chair’s Presentation**

Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff and Agency Recognition in the Press

**ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA**

1. Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda  
There were none.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Special Meeting of February 7, 2019
  - B. Regular Meeting of February 13, 2019

Director Calderon-Scott requested that the minutes of February 13, 2019 be revised to include her comment, “that most of the ratepayers that attend the Board meetings come from

Bonita; she decided to poll community members from the Bonita Optimist and the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association; comments received expressed a preference to keep the meetings at 3:30 p.m. since many are seniors and don't drive at night; for this reason, Director Calderon-Scott decided to vote on the side of her constituents, opposing to change the meeting time."

**Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Jerry Cano, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the February 7, 2019 Special meeting; and the February 13, 2019 Regular meeting, with a revision to agenda item 5. C to include Director Calderon-Scott's comment. The motion carried unanimously, with Directors Martinez and Preciado absent.**

### **Consent Calendar Items**

**Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Cano that the Governing Board approve the consent items 3 through 6, and 8. Director Calderon-Scott pulled items 7, 9, and 10 for discussion. Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of warrant numbers 150578 and 150617 due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record. The motion carried unanimously, with Directors Martinez and Preciado absent.**

3. Approval of Demands and Warrants – Check numbers 150546 through 150625 and electronic fund transfers 26189 through 26590
4. Consideration to Award a Contract for Heavy Equipment Replacement (Operations Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, Item 4. B.)  
Recommendation: Award a contract in the amount of \$121,920.32 to RDO Equipment Company, Lakeside, CA.  
Mike Sampsel spoke to the reasoning behind heavy equipment replacement.
5. Request to Approve Easement Quitclaim – 237 Rogan Road, Chula Vista (Operations Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, item 4. C.)  
Recommendation: Approve the quitclaim request, with the Owner paying all costs associated with processing the quitclaim.
6. Consideration to Award a Contract for Desktop Computer (PC) Purchase (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, Item 4. B.)  
Recommendation: Declare the bid from Red River Technology, LLC nonresponsive; and award a contract in the amount of \$125,434 to CDW Government LLC, Vernon Hills, IL.
8. Consideration to Approve Contract Amendment No. 5 to GEI Consultants, Inc., for Condition Assessment of North and South Spillways of Sweetwater Dam (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, Item 4. D.)  
Recommendation: Approve Contract Amendment No. 5 to GEI Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$169,244.

### Items Pulled from Consent Calendar for Discussion

7. One-time Adjustment to Customer Water Bill (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, Item 4. C.)

Recommendation: Deny an adjustment and grant an extended payment plan to pay \$37,583.48 over a twelve-month period.

**Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board deny an adjustment and grant an extended payment plan to pay \$37,583.48 over a twelve-month period. The motion carried unanimously, with Directors Martinez and Preciado absent.**

9. Consideration of Changes to Director's Per Diem Fees (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, Item 4. E.)

Recommendation: No action was recommended.

No action was made by the Governing Board.

10. Review of Board Policies and Procedures (501 through 511) (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, Item 4. F.)

Recommendation: Approve the recommended changes as presented.

*(Note: Director Martinez entered the meeting at 4:35 p.m.)*

**Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board continue Policies 504 and 506 to a future meeting; approve to update Policy 502 with a revision to the first sentence under Procedure to read "staff and Management;" and approved the recommended changes to Policies 501 through 503, 505, and 507 through 511. The motion carried, with Director Martinez abstaining and Director Preciado absent.**

### Action and Discussion Items

11. Ridgeway Apartments Project by Blue Centurion Homes, Development Project Update (Operations Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, item 4.A)

Recommendation: Direct staff to evaluate remaining life of the existing pipeline; assign a value, and provide as a credit to Blue Centurion Homes.

*(Note: Director Sotelo-Solis left the meeting at 4:50 p.m.)*

Abraham Edid spoke to the Authority's interpretation of its Rates and Rules and gave a presentation on the development project. *(Note: Director Sotelo-Solis reentered the meeting at 4:52 p.m.) (Note: Director Martinez left the meeting at 4:52 p.m. and reentered the meeting at 4:53 p.m.)*

Chair Castaneda asked that the clarity and usage of "velocity" in the Authority's policies be discussed at a future Operations Committee meeting.

**Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve to enter into a developer reimbursement agreement with Blue Centurion Homes. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Preciado absent.**

## 12. Old Business

Consideration to Adopt Resolution 19-04 of the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority Rescinding Resolution 96-03, Re-establishing the Regular Meeting Date and Time of the Governing Board, and Authorizing Amendments to Policy 601 of the Policies & Procedures for the Governing Board

Upon a motion made by Director Sotelo-Solis, seconded by Director Cerda, the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 19-04**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SWEETWATER AUTHORITY (“AUTHORITY”) RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 96-03, RE-ESTABLISHING THE REGULAR MEETING DATE AND TIME OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO POLICY 601 OF THE POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR THE GOVERNING BOARD**

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

Ayes:	Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, Cerda, Martinez, and Sotelo-Solis
Noes:	None
Absent:	Preciado
Abstain:	None

## 13. New Business

- A. Consideration to Approve Chair’s Recommendation to Appoint Steve Castaneda as the Director Representative and José Cerda as the Alternate to the Association of California Water Agencies – Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA)
- B. Request to concur in nomination to the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee and possible adoption of resolution
- Paul E. Dorey, Vista Irrigation District
  - Andre Morris, Santa Rosa Regional Resources Authority

**Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, appointing Steve Castaneda as the Director Representative and José F. Cerda as the Alternate to the Association of California Water Agencies – Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA); and concurring in the nomination of Paul E. Dorey, Vista Irrigation District, to the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee; and Andrew Morris, The Santa Rosa Regional Resources Authority (SRRRA) to the ACWA/JPIA California Water Insurance Fund Board, and adopting its corresponding Resolutions. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Preciado absent.**

**RESOLUTION 19-05**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY CONCURRING IN THE NOMINATION OF PAUL E. DOREY TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES JOINT**

**POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY ("ACWA/JPIA")**

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, Cerda, Martinez, and Sotelo-Solis  
Noes: None  
Absent: Preciado  
Abstain: None

**RESOLUTION 19-06**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY CONCURRING IN THE NOMINATION OF ANDREW MORRIS TO THE CALIFORNIA WATER INSURANCE FUND BOARD, AN ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY ("ACWA/JPIA") CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANY**

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, Cerda, Martinez, and Sotelo-Solis  
Noes: None  
Absent: Preciado  
Abstain: None

14. Approval of Directors' Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items
  - A. Per diem approval for Director Martinez' participation in the San Diego County Water Authority Citizens Water Academy – March 7, March 13, and March 23, 2019
  - B. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the California Water Policy Conference, San Diego, CA – April 4-5, 2019.

**Director Cano made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve per diem for Director Martinez' attendance at the San Diego County Water Authority Citizens Water Academy – March 7, March 13, and March 23, 2019; and Director's attendance at the California Water Policy Conference, San Diego, CA – April 4-5, 2019. The motion carried unanimously with Director Preciado absent.**

**REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

15. FY 2019-20 Budget Calendar (Information Item) (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 2/20/19, Item 4. A.)
16. Committee Minutes
17. January 2019 Financial Reports
18. Management Report
  - A. Report of Assistant General Manager – There was none.

## B. Report of General Manager

General Manager Berge shared that the staffing plan the Governing Board approved in 2018 will result in approximately three million dollars in savings each year beginning in Fiscal Year 2018-19.

### 19. Report of Sweetwater Authority Director to the Water Conservation Garden Authority

Chair Castaneda reported that the new Executive Director of the Water Conservation Garden is Jennifer Pillsbury.

### 20. Report of the South Bay Irrigation District Representative and the City of National City Representative to the San Diego County Water Authority

There was none.

### 21. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

Council of Water Utilities Meeting – February 19, 2019

The following Directors provided a report: Chair Castaneda, (*Note: Director Martinez left the meeting at 5:46 p.m. and reentered the meeting at 5:47 p.m.*) Director Cerda, and Director Martinez.

### 22. Director's Comments

Director Calderon-Scott expressed interest in the Authority's continued involvement in elementary schools and education; and recommended taking a closer look at the Authority's investment in the Water Conservation Garden.

Director Cerda spoke to the strengths of collaborating between neighboring water districts in sharing information or equipment to keep costs lower for the rate payers.

Director Sotelo-Solis spoke to looking at opportunities for hydropower as an energy source for the district.

Director Cano spoke of his recent visit to the Hoover Dam, its ability to generate electricity from water, and its building infrastructure; the importance of having the best, safest tools and equipment for the Authority's employees; and that he values employees with education to better themselves, equipment to do the job better, and all the necessary tools they need to provide better service and go home safe.

Chair Castaneda commented on his recent meeting with the Chairs of Otay Water District and Helix Water District; their discussion was centered on how to work together; looking at their facilities, assets, and resources; will be reaching out to Padre Dam; and are looking into developing a proposal for a strategic plan to make better use of resources and assets for the benefit of ratepayers.

## CLOSED SESSION

At 6:00 p.m., the Board convened to meet in closed session with legal counsel for:

- A. Potential Threat to Public Services and Facilities, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Consultation with: Paula de Sousa Mills, Legal Counsel, and


Special Agent J. K. Goettsche and Intelligence Analyst A. Pettigrew, Federal Bureau of Investigations.

- There was no need for a 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. At 6:51 p.m., Chair Castaneda declared the meeting to be in open session. No reportable action was taken by the Governing Board.

23. Adjournment


With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.



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Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



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Ligia Perez, Board Secretary