

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

March 11, 2020

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at the Sweetwater Authority Administrative Office, 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, California. Chair Castaneda called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

- **Roll Call**

Directors Present: Josie Calderon-Scott, Jerry Cano, Steve Castaneda, José F. Cerda, Hector Martinez, and Jose Preciado

Directors Absent: Alejandra Sotelo-Solis.

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: Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Environmental Project Manager Israel Marquez, Director of Administration Dina Yorba, Director of Distribution Greg Snyder, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, and Senior Public Affairs Representative Gwyneth Shoecraft. Others present: Glenn Farrel and Juanita Hayes of the San Diego County Water Authority and Wendy Wilson of the Bonita Museum.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

There were none.

- **Chair's Presentation**

A. Recognition of 2020 High School Photo Contest Winners

B. Presentation by Glenn Farrel, Director of Government Relations, San Diego County Water Authority

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There was none.

The Board provided an opportunity for the General Manager to provide a partial report from agenda item 13, Management Report in response to a question made by Director Calderon-Scott.

13. Management Report

General Manager Berge reported on the status update of Policy 507, Committees of the Governing Board and Interagency Committees. The remainder of the Management Report was presented later in the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. Special Board Meeting of February 26, 2020
- B. Regular Board Meeting of February 26, 2020

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 26, 2020, and the Regular Board Meeting of February 26, 2020. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Sotelo-Solis absent.

Consent Calendar Items

Chair Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 3 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check numbers 153007 and 153046) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Chair Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Sotelo-Solis absent.

- 3. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – Check number 153007 and 153046
- 4. Approval of Demands and Warrants – check number 152970 through 153053 and electronic fund transfers 32829 through 33065 (excluding the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants)
- 5. Consultant Selection for the Programmatic Permitting of the Property Operations and Maintenance Plan (Consultant Selection Committee meeting of 3/3/20)
Recommendation: Award a multi-year contract to ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc.
- 6. Customer Bill Dispute – 258 5th Avenue, Chula Vista (Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of 3/4/20)
Recommendation: Deny the request to reverse the one-time adjustment in the amount of \$200 granted on December 26, 2019, and allow the customer to enter into an extended payment plan for 12 months.

Action and Discussion Items

- 7. Consideration to Issue a Request for Proposals for On-call General Construction Contractor(s) (Operations Committee meeting of 3/4/20)
Staff Recommendation: Waive the application of the Authority's Procurement Policy regarding competitive bidding for construction projects in excess of \$75,000; approve the

Request for Proposals for On-call General Construction Contractor(s), including a statement in the letter indicating the Authority encourages participation of local contractors; and direct staff to bring proposals to the Operations Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Governing Board.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board 1) waive the application of the Authority's Procurement Policy regarding competitive bidding for Construction Projects in excess of \$75,000; 2) approve the Request for Proposals for On-call General Construction Contractor(s), including a statement in the letter indicating the Authority encourages participation of local contractors, subject to review and revision by Legal Counsel; and 3) direct staff to bring proposals to the Operations Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Governing Board. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Sotelo-Solis absent.

8. New Business

A. Report on Initial Results of Flushing Program (Information Only) (No Enclosure)

No action was required by the Governing Board.

B. Selection Process for Federal and/or State Lobbyist

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve to extend the contract with federal lobbyist Thomas Walters and Associates for one year. The motion carried, with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Cerda, Martinez, and Preciado in favor, Director Cano opposing, and Director Sotelo-Solis absent.

9. Old Business

Review of Board Policies and Procedures (Policy 518)

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board continue this item and direct staff to collect examples of General Manager Performance Evaluation processes from various agencies. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Sotelo-Solis absent.

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

A. Per diem approval for Director Castaneda to attend Olivewood Garden's 10th Anniversary Kick-off Event, National City – March 14, 2020

B. Council of Water Utilities Meeting, San Diego County – The Butcher Shop Steakhouse, San Diego – Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 8:00 a.m. – Presentation by Serge Dedina, City of Imperial Beach Mayor and Co-founder and Executive Director of WILDCOAST

C. Per diem approval for Directors that wish to attend the City of Chula Vista's First Friday Breakfast, Chula Vista – April 3, 2020 (Item requested by Director Martinez)

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve per diem for Director Castaneda to attend the Olivewood Garden's 10th Anniversary Kick-off Event, National City – March 14, 2020, and for Directors who wish to attend the City of Chula Vista's First Friday Breakfast, Chula Vista – April 3, 2020. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Sotelo-Solis absent.

Chair Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approve per diem for Director Cano to attend the Olivewood Garden's 10th Anniversary Kick-off Event, National City – March 14, 2020. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Sotelo-Solis absent.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11. Communications Plan Metrics Reporting - FY 2019-20 First Quarter (Information Item) (Communications Committee meeting of 3/2/20)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

12. Report of Legal Counsel

There was none.

13. Management Report

- Recent/Upcoming Community Events (No Enclosures):
 - Sweetwater Authority High School Photography Competition Reception at Bonita Museum – April 10, 2020, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 - Spring Garden Festival – Water Conservation Garden – April 25, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - South Bay Earth Day – Memorial Park – May 2, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - Day of Play at Olivewood Gardens – July 18, 2020
 - Presentation to the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce Utilities Subcommittee – July 29, 2020

General Manager Berge reported on:

- Authority's 36-inch Transmission Main Replacement Project;
- Authority-organized meeting with National School District on their participation in the Hydro Station;
- The Citizens Advisory Committee tour of the Desalination Facility;
- Next steps for the Sediment Characterization Study;
- Fix-a-Leak month and the Authority's associated rebates; and
- Preview of the agendas for the Operations Committee, Finance and Personnel Committee, and Otay/Sweetwater Working Group meetings.

14. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner – February 28, 2020

Director Calderon-Scott provided a report.

B. San Diego IRWM Summit – March 2, 2020

Director Castaneda provided a report.

C. Local Government Commission (LGC) Yosemite Policymakers Conference – March 5-8, 2020

Director Cano provided a report.

15. Directors' Comments

Director Cano commented on being glad to be alive.

Director Preciado shared news of the recent passing of City of Escondido Councilmember and San Diego County Water Authority Director John Masson and requested the meeting be adjourned in his honor.

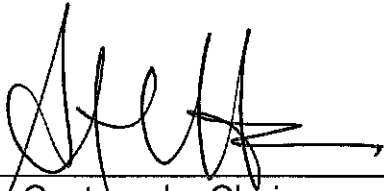
Director Martinez commented on looking forward to the results of the sand mining study.

Director Castaneda commented on the COVID-19 news coverage, emergency water storage, and the possibility for the Authority to provide water storage containers.

CLOSED SESSION – There was none.

16. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting in honor of John Masson at 8:36 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary