

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

March 23, 2022

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. Pursuant to provisions provided for by Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was held via teleconference. Vice Chair Martinez-Perez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

*(*Note: After calling the meeting to order, Vice Chair Martinez-Perez 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 Martinez-Perez 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 (6:30 p.m.), Steve Castaneda, Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, Jose Preciado, Mona Rios, and
*Alejandra Sotelo-Solis (6:23 p.m.).

Directors Absent: None.

Management, Staff, and Others Present: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Assistant General Manager Jennifer Sabine, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, and Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff members: Engineering Manager Christopher Bauer, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Interim Director of Engineering Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, Director of Distribution Carl Quiram, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others Present: Adrienne Beatty, Melody McDonald, and Andy Sells of ACWA-JPIA; Bruce Steubing of Benchmark Resources; Crystal Howard of Crystal Waters Consulting, LLC; and Tom Keller of GEI Consultants, Inc.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

There was none.

- **Chair's Presentation**

A. Citizens Advisory Committee Quarterly Update from Vice Chair Kevin O'Neill (heard following agenda item 14.)

B. Acceptance of Refund Check from ACWA-JPIA for Workers' Compensation Program
Andy Sells addressed the Board on the Authority's Workers' Compensation Insurance refund.

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda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 March 9, 2022

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 9, 2022. The motion carried unanimously, with Directors Calderon-Scott and Sotelo-Solis absent.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 4 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check number 157470) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Rios pulled item 6 for discussion.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve consent calendar items 3 through 5 and 7 through 12. The motion carried unanimously, with Directors Calderon-Scott and Sotelo-Solis absent.

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 – February 2022
5. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – February 2022
7. Federal Legislative Update (Information Item) (Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/7/22)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

8. Water Efficiency Business Outreach Program (Information Item) (Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/7/22)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.
9. Consideration of Requests for Proposals for On-call Communications Consulting Services (Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/7/22)
Recommendation: Select NV5 based on the proposals received.
10. Consideration of Application for the CivicSpark Fellows Program (Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/7/22)
Recommendation: Direct staff to apply for the CivicSpark Fellows program and allocate funds in the FY 2022-23 Budget to cover the program stipend.
11. Electric Vehicle Charging Upgrade Plan Update and Consideration of the SDG&E Power Your Drive For Fleet Program Agreement and Draft Supporting Easement for Operations Center (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 3/16/22)
Recommendation: Approve the Power Your Drive For Fleet Agreement with SDG&E and authorize the General Manager to sign the required easement in its final form and record it at the County Recorder's Office.
12. Consideration of Request for Quotes for On-Call Reverse Osmosis Membrane Replacement at the Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 3/16/22)
Recommendation: Direct staff to issue the Request for Quotes as presented for On-call Reverse Osmosis Membrane Replacement at the Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility.

ITEM PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

6. "State Legislative Update", Presentation by Glenn Farrel, GF Advocacy (Information Item) (Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/7/22)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.
No action was required by the Governing Board.

Action and Discussion Items

13. Consideration of Reserve Analysis and Market Study for Potential Sweetwater Reservoir Enhancement Project (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 3/14/22)
Recommendation: Accept the findings of the Reserve Analysis and Market Study provided by the Benchmark Resources consulting team; direct staff to coordinate with the consulting team for proceeding with Task 5 – Develop Project Scenarios and Preliminary Economic Feasibility and Risk Analysis for future presentation to the Governing Board.

(Note: Chair Sotelo-Solis entered the meeting at 6:23 p.m.)

(Note: Director Calderon-Scott entered the meeting at 6:30 p.m.)

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board accept the findings of the Reserve Analysis and Market Study provided by the Benchmark Resources consulting team; and direct staff to coordinate with the consulting team for proceeding with Task 5 – Develop Project Scenarios and Preliminary Economic Feasibility and Risk Analysis for future presentation to the Governing Board. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Underwater Inspection of Loveland Dam’s Intake Structure and Consideration of Next Steps (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 3/14/22)
Recommendation: Direct staff to request a cost proposal from GEI Consultants, Inc., to develop design plans for a new trash rack at Loveland Dam’s intake structure, and develop construction plans and specifications for the removal and replacement of the trash rack; direct staff to obtain Governing Board approval before proceeding with the work if costs exceed \$75,000; and direct staff to coordinate with the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams for approval, before construction work takes place.

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board direct staff to request a cost proposal from GEI Consultants, Inc., to develop design plans for a new trash rack at Loveland Dam’s intake structure, and develop construction plans and specifications for the removal and replacement of the trash rack; direct staff to obtain Governing Board approval before proceeding with the work if costs exceed \$75,000; and direct staff to coordinate with the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams for approval before construction work takes place. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Chair’s Presentation**

- A. Citizens Advisory Committee Quarterly Update from Vice Chair Kevin O’Neill

The newly appointed Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Kevin O’Neill provided an update to the Board on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

15. Review of the Draft FY 2022-23 Five-year Financial Plan Assumptions (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 3/16/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

Approval of Directors’ Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items

- A. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) Elected Officials Webinar – March 31, 2022
- B. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the U.S. Society of Dams (USSD) San Diego 2022 Annual Conference – April 11-14, 2022
- C. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the Southern California Water Coalition Quarterly Luncheon, Temecula – April 22, 2022
- D. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Legislative Days, Sacramento, CA – May 17-18, 2022

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve per diem for items 16.A. through 16.D. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

17. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

18. Committee Minutes

19. Financial Reports – February 2022

20. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported on:

- He will be attending the upcoming California Special District Association/Special District Leadership Foundation Leadership Academy; and
- Commended the Authority's Safety Programs and staff for Authority's training efforts.

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

Director Preciado shared information regarding Metropolitan Water District's projected budget and future rate escalations, which includes larger CIP expenditures with the building of its reclamation program in Los Angeles County and general rate increases; SDCWA will be making CIP investments in its Pipeline 1; and the upcoming Sierra Mountains snow reading and anticipated executive order regarding water restrictions.

Director Rios reported on the upcoming efforts and discussions of the SDCWA regarding water rate increases; that the SDCWA Imported Water Committee will meet in closed session regarding an award of lawyer fees; provided an overview of items of the SDCWA Engineering and Operations Committee and the Legislative Affairs Committee; the Authority will meet regarding SDCWA Officer replacement since Director Rios announced she will not remain in a SDCWA Officer role but will continue as the representative from National City.

22. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. Council of Water Utilities Meeting – March 15, 2022

Director Martinez provided a report.

B. Yosemite Policymakers Conference – March 17-20, 2022

Directors Martinez and Sotelo-Solis provided a report.

C. Other Events Attended

23. Directors' Comments

Director Rios commended staff for their work, specifically on their safety efforts; and thanked General Manager Quintero for his quick response on producing letters of support.

Director Martinez thanked Director Rios for her diligence and service as the Vice Chair

of the SDCWA.

Director Martinez-Perez thanked Director Rios for her service as Vice Chair of the SDCWA.

Chair Sotelo-Solis thanked Director Rios for her service as Vice Chair of the SDCWA.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:44 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

There was no need for closed session on the following 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 came out of Closed Session at 9:09 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 9:10 p.m. with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis present. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

24. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:

Ligia Perez, Board Secretary