

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

**March 25, 2020**

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 and 33-20, this meeting was held via teleconference. Chair Castaneda called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

*(\*Note: After calling the meeting to order, Chair Castaneda 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 Castaneda 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, Jerry Cano, Steve Castaneda, José F. Cerda, Hector Martinez, Jose Preciado, and Alejandra Sotelo-Solis

Directors Absent: None

Management, Staff, and Others Present: General Manager Tish Berge, Assistant General Manager Jennifer Sabine, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, and Acting Board Secretary Michael Garcia. Staff members: Director of Engineering Ron Mosher and Director of Finance Rich Stevenson. Others present: Mike Sampsel.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

- **Consideration to Adopt Resolution 20-07 – Declaring an Emergency Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Board provided an opportunity for the General Manager to provide a partial report from agenda item 13, Management Report in regards to a potential water transfer from Loveland Reservoir to Sweetwater Reservoir as it related to management of Authority resources during the COVID-19 emergency. The remainder of the Management Report was presented later in the meeting.

**Director Cerda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado,** that the Governing Board adopt Resolution No. 20-07.

**Upon a substitute motion made by Director Cano, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott,** the Governing Board adopted the following resolution until April 30, 2020, and directed this resolution be brought back to the Governing Board for review at its last meeting in April:

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-07****A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH PANDEMIC**

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

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

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

Mike Sampsel submitted written comments on recent rainfall and the Five-year Financial Plan Assumptions, which written comments were read aloud to the Directors and members of the public participating in the meeting via teleconference, pursuant to the Authority established process for public comment.

- **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 were none.

2. Approval of Minutes – Regular Board Meeting of March 11, 2020

**Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 Regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Consent Calendar Items**

**Chair Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 3 (Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – Check numbers 153085 and 153114 due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Chair Castaneda disclosed on the record.)**

Director Calderon-Scott pulled item 4 for discussion.

**Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board approve consent calendar item 3. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Castaneda recused.**

3. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – Check number 153085 and 153114

### Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

4. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – Check numbers 153054 through 153124 and electronic fund transfers 33066 through 33346.

**Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board approve the Demands and Warrants (excluding the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants). The motion carried unanimously.**

### Action and Discussion Items

5. Review of FY 2020-21 Five-year Financial Plan Assumptions (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 3/18/20)

No action was required by the Governing Board.

6. Old Business

Review of Board Policies and Procedures (Policies 507 and 605)

**Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board approve Policies and Procedures 507 and 605 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

7. Approval of Directors' Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items  
There were none.

### REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

8. Financial Reports

- Monthly Financials – February 2020

9. Report of Management

- Upcoming Community Events (Information Item) (No Enclosure)
  - Sweetwater Authority High School Photography Competition Reception at Bonita Museum – April 10, 2020, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  - Day of Play at Olivewood Gardens – July 11, 2020
  - Presentation to the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce Utilities Subcommittee – July 29, 2020

General Manager Berge reported on:

- a meeting with Chair Castaneda, the Port of San Diego, and the City of Chula Vista to discuss improving future coordination on development projects;
- an upcoming meeting with representatives from SARPA;
- a request by the Feasibility Study consultant for a one-month extension on the first deliverable, initial results will be presented at the May 13, 2020 Board meeting; and

- provided a review of agendas for the next Operations and Finance and Personnel Committees.

10. Report of Representatives to the San Diego County Water Authority

Director Preciado reported on a meeting of the initial studies of the regional conveyance project; the SDCWA has adjusted their operations due to the coronavirus pandemic; potential funding and improvements to Pipeline 5; and a status update on the litigation with the Metropolitan Water District.

11. Reports by Directors on Events Attended – There were none.

12. Directors' Comments

Director Sotelo-Solis commented on the meeting adjustments and the “new normal” due to the pandemic; and appreciated staff’s efforts.

Director Preciado commended staff on their efforts during this pandemic, including their communications; and, commended the Chair on the meeting’s agenda items that focused on the emergency at hand.

Director Martinez thanked staff for being out in the field and keeping the water system going.

Director Cerda thanked the Chair for the meeting’s agenda items; thanked staff for their efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic; and commended Mayor Sotelo-Solis on her social media efforts to keep the community informed.

Director Cano thanked front-line staff for their efforts during the pandemic; the potential for a stipend for front-line employees; emphasized the importance of safety; and encouraged visiting local restaurants when the pandemic is over.

Director Castaneda appreciated everyone’s meeting accommodation during the pandemic; and commented on the importance of keeping public access to the board meetings during this time.

Director Calderon-Scott thanked front-line employees; management to consider a way to offer a special thanks to front-line employees, and encouraged the use of local businesses during the pandemic.

Director Sotelo-Solis clarified her earlier vote on Resolution 20-07.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:19 p.m., the Board convened to meet in closed session with legal counsel for:

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2): One Case

- B. Threat to Public Services or Facilities pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: (Item Requested by Director Martinez)

Consultation with: Paula de Sousa, Legal Counsel

There was no need for closed session on item:

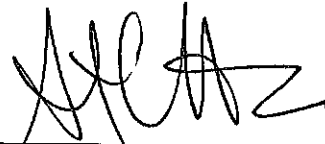
- C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1):

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. At 10:15 p.m., Chair Castaneda declared the meeting to be in open session. No reportable action was taken by the Governing Board.

13. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Michael Garcia, Acting Board Secretary