

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

April 16, 2020

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Thursday, April 16, 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 4:02 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 (4:56 p.m.) 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 Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff Members: Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Director of Distribution Greg Snyder, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others present: Alison Alpert of Best, Best, & Krieger.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

There were none.

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

A. Overview of Water Industry COVID-19 Response and Concerns and Consideration to Authorize General Manager to Advocate for Funding

(Director Preciado entered the meeting at 4:56 p.m.)

Director Cerda made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board authorize the General Manager to advocate on behalf of the Authority in

response to legislative efforts for funding for water utilities and their customers in response to COVID-19. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Evaluation of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Authority's Financial Position

Chair Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board direct the following:

- the General Manager present to the Board a list of temporary budget cuts that would have minimal impact to necessary operations;
- staff to report on the amount and impact of delayed revenue at every regularly scheduled Board meeting and recommend any corresponding actions;
- authorize staff to provide relief to customers by allowing 24-month payment plans for delinquent balances incurred as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic during the period that the Governor's Executive Order is in effect; and
- staff to develop and present alternatives to maintain flexibility in the draft FY 2020-21 Financial Plan to address various level of financial impacts due to the COVID-19 Pandemic to include analysis of available reserves and analysis of flexibility in operating and capital expenditures.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration to Approve Pandemic Response Plan as a Component of the Authority's Emergency Response and Recovery Plan

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve the Pandemic Response Plan as a Component of the Authority's Emergency Response and Recovery Plan with the following modification, that a statement be included requiring that any emergency declaration by the General Manager be presented to the Board for ratification at the next Board meeting for which notice may be provided. The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:25 p.m., the Board convened in closed session with legal counsel for:

A. Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency Negotiators: Alison Alpert, Labor Counsel
Tish Berge, General Manager
Jennifer Sabine, Assistant General Manager

Employee Organizations: Sweetwater Authority Employees' Committee
Sweetwater Authority Middle Management Group
Sweetwater Authority Confidential Group

B. Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency Negotiators: Alison Alpert, Labor Counsel
Tish Berge, General Manager

Employee Organizations: Assistant General Manager
Director of Administrative Services
Director of Engineering
Director of Distribution
Director of Finance
Director of Water Quality

There were no minutes taken, and the session was not audio-recorded. At 7:38 p.m., Chair Castaneda declared the meeting to be in open session. No reportable action was taken by the Governing Board.

15. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary