

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

May 11, 2022

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Pursuant to provisions provided for by Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was held via teleconference. Chair Sotelo-Solis called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

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 Hoffman. Staff members: Engineering Manager Christopher Bauer, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Interim Director of Engineering Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Distribution Manager Nathan Golder, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Senior Public Affairs Representative Gwen Shoecraft, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others present: Kevin O'Neill of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and Wendy Wilson of The Bonita Museum.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Vianeu Prado submitted written comments regarding the operations of the Loveland Reservoir Fishing Program, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Russell Walsh submitted written comments regarding the operating hours and available shoreline of the Fishing Program at the Loveland Reservoir, which were read

onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

- **Chair's Presentation**

Recognition of 2022 High School Photo Contest Winners

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda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 April 27, 2022

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of April 27, 2022. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Preciado absent.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Calderon-Scott pulled item 5 for discussion.

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve consent calendar items 3, 4, and 6 through 10. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Preciado 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. H Street Main Break Incident (Information Item) (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 5/2/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

6. Transition from Pandemic to Endemic: Lessons Learned from COVID-19 (Information Item) (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 5/4/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

7. National City Discolored Water Incident (Information Item) (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 5/4/22)

Recommendation: Refer a review of Authority outreach and communications efforts during water incidents to the Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee.

8. Consideration to Issue a Bid for Removal of the Operations Yard Underground Fuel Storage Tank and Installation of a New Above-ground Fuel Storage Tank (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 5/4/22)

Recommendation: Direct staff to issue the bid documents as presented.

9. Plan Modification for Electric Vehicle Chargers at the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 5/4/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

10. Consideration to Award a Contract for On-call Membrane Replacement for the Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 5/4/22)

Recommendation: Award a contract for On-call Membrane Replacement to H2O Innovation, Vista, CA, for one year, with an option to renew for up to four additional years in an amount not to exceed \$1,090,000; and direct staff to negotiate bid exceptions and execute a contract.

ITEM PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 22-02, Adopting the Revised FY 2021-22 Pay Schedule for All Employees (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 5/4/22)

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 22-02.

Upon a motion by Director Calderon-Scott, seconded by Director Rios, the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 22-02

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY ADOPTING A SALARY SCHEDULE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE MAY 11, 2022

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

Ayes: Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis

Noes: None

Absent: Director Preciado

Abstain: None

Action and Discussion Items

11. Summary of Developers Workshop Held on May 2, 2022 (Information Item) (No Enclosure) (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 5/2/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

(Director Preciado reentered the meeting at 6:42 p.m.)

No action was required by the Governing Board.

12. Consideration to Perform Cost-Benefit Analyses for Water Transfers (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 5/2/22)
Recommendation: Direct staff to perform a cost-benefit analyses for water transfer release periods 1, 2, and 3.

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board direct staff to perform a cost-benefit analyses for water transfer release periods 1, 2, and 3. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Review of Board Policies and Procedures (Policy 517 – Financial Policies) (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 5/4/22)
Recommendation: Defer to the Governing Board for review.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the recommended changes to Policy 517 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

14. New Business

Consideration of Revised Citizens Advisory Committee Areas of Focus

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the Citizens Advisory Committee revised list of Areas of Focus. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Approval of Directors' Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items
California Special Districts Association - San Diego Chapter Quarterly Meeting – Thursday, May 19, 2022, 6:00-9:00 p.m., AleSmith Brewing Company, San Diego; Program: "Cybersecurity," Presented by: Robert Mielish, Protective Security Advisor, San Diego District Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

No action was required by the Governing Board.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

16. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

17. Committee Minutes

18. Committee Look Ahead

- Water Quality and Distribution Committee Six-Month Look Ahead FY 2021-22 Q4 & FY 2022-23 Q1 (Information Item) (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 5/4/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

19. Report of Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel de Sousa reported on three legislative bills in Sacramento related to potential changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act, including teleconferencing, hybrid meetings, and meeting decorum.

20. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported on:

- Two upcoming outreach efforts by the Authority, including a 1) virtual open house informing the public of the State's Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), water efficiency, drought conditions, and capital projects, and 2) an in-person tour of the Richard A. Reynolds Desalination Facility on May 31, 2022. Both outreach events will be held in English and Spanish.

21. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. ACWA Spring Conference – May 2-5, 2022

Directors Castaneda and Martinez provided a report.

B. Other Events Attended

There were none.

22. Directors' Comments

Vice Chair Martinez-Perez commented on her positive experience at the HydroStation; and thanked staff member Davis Doane for the short tour of the Desalination Facility.

Chair Sotelo-Solis commented that she looks forward to seeing people at the High School Photo Contest Winners Artists Reception at the Bonita Museum & Cultural Center on Thursday, May 12.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:53 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): Two cases

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 and reconvened in Open Session 8:19 p.m. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.


23. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.



Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:


Ligia Hoffman, Board Secretary