

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

**May 25, 2022**

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 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 (*left at 8:47 p.m.*), Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, \*Jose Preciado (*6:07 p.m.*), 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: Customer Service Supervisor Miguel Alvarez, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Interim Director of Engineering Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- **Opportunity for Public Comment** (Government Code Section 54954.3)
- **Chair's Presentation**

*(Note: Director Preciado entered the meeting at 6:07 p.m.)*

Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

## **ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA**

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

Per the General Manager's request, the Board concurred to pull item 6 from consent calendar for public comment.

### 2. Approval of Minutes - Regular Board Meeting of May 11, 2022

**Vice Chair Martinez-Perez made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of May 11, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Consent Calendar Items**

**Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 4 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check number 157752, and 157795) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.**

**Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar items 3 through 5 and 7 through 9. The motion carried unanimously.**

### 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 – April 2022

### 5. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – April 2022

### 7. Consideration to Approve the South Bay Irrigation District FY 2022-23 Budget, pursuant to the Fund Transfer and Reimbursement Agreement between Sweetwater Authority and South Bay Irrigation District (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 5/18/22)

**Recommendation:** Approve the South Bay Irrigation District FY 2022-23 Budget.

### 8. Consideration to Award Annual Contracts for Water Treatment Chemicals (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 5/18/22)

**Recommendation:** Award contracts to the lowest responsive bidders for water treatment chemicals as follows: \$39,700 to Airgas Specialty Products, Inc., Lawrenceville, GA for

Aqueous Ammonia 19%; \$237,600 to Brenntag Pacific, Inc., Santa Fe Springs, CA (\$17,000 for Ammonium Sulfate, \$41,200 for Liquid Ammonium Sulfate 40%, \$173,600 for Sodium Hydroxide 50%, and \$5,800 for Aluminum Sulfate 45-55%); \$59,500 to California Water Technologies, LLC., Santa Fe Springs, CA for Ferric Chloride 43%; \$16,400 to Chemrite, Inc., Buford, GA for Sodium Fluoride 90-98%; \$71,000 to DuBois Chemical, Inc., Cincinnati, OH for Fluorosilicic Acid 23-25%; \$99,100 to International Dioxide, Inc., North Kingstown, RI for Sodium Chlorite 31%; \$184,600 to JCI Jones Inc., Torrance, CA for Sodium Hypochlorite 12.5%; \$9,000 to Karbonous, Industry, CA for Activated Carbon Powder; \$16,900 to Kemira Water Solutions Inc., Lawrence, KS for Ferrous Chloride 33%; \$96,900 to Polydyne, Inc., Riceboro, GA for Cationic Polymer; \$109,500 to Thatcher Company of Nevada, Inc, Salt Lake City, UT for Ton Chlorine Cylinders; \$32,000 to Univar Solutions USA, Inc., Kent, WA (\$26,100 for Citric Acid and \$5,900 for Copper Sulfate); direct staff to negotiate bid exceptions and execute contracts; and authorize the General Manager to approve cost increases for any awarded water treatment chemicals that may occur in the future that is within the General Manger's approval limit.

9. Status Update On Sweetwater Reservoir's Aeration System Project (Information Item) (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 5/18/22)  
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

### **ITEM PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

6. Consideration of Request for Quotes for Proposed Improvements to Loveland Reservoir's Boat Ramp and Anchors to the Boat Dock and Log Boom (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 5/16/22)  
Recommendation: Direct staff to reissue the Request for Qualifications for engineering design services for improvements to Loveland Reservoir's boat ramp and anchors to the boat dock and log boom, as presented.

Russell Walsh submitted written comments regarding the water levels at Loveland Reservoir and impacts of modifications to the boat dock anchors, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

**Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board direct staff to reissue the Request for Qualifications for engineering design services for improvements to Loveland Reservoir's boat ramp and anchors to the boat dock and log boom, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Action and Discussion Items**

10. Consideration of Award of Contract for the Purchase of a Meter Test Bench (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 5/18/22)  
Recommendation: Award a contract to Ferguson in the amount of \$228,500.44 for the purchase of a Ford Meter Test Bench; allocate \$25,388 from the capital contingency; and reallocate the remaining unused funds from the completed FY 2021-22 Pipeline Replacement Program - Trench Pavement (Distribution) project in the amount of \$54,162.

**Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Chair Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board award a contract to Ferguson in the amount of \$228,500.44 for the purchase of a Ford Meter Test Bench; and direct staff to allocate \$25,388 from the capital contingency; and reallocate the remaining unused funds from the completed FY 2021-22 Pipeline Replacement Program - Trench Pavement (Distribution) project in the amount of \$54,162. The motion carried unanimously.**

11. New Business

- A. Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility Operational Challenges (Information Item) (Item Requested by Director Martinez)

No action was required by the Governing Board.

- B. Consideration to Authorize Repair of National City Well #3

**Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve to utilize funds in the Water Quality Operating Expense Budget to perform inspection and repair of National City Well #3 and allow Brax of Valley Center, CA to complete the repairs in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

- A. Per diem approval for Director Martinez-Perez's meeting with Public Affairs – May 10, 2022
- B. Per diem approval for Director Rios' attendance of two CSDA webinar courses – May 12, 2022
- C. Per diem approval for Directors Castaneda, Martinez, and Martinez-Perez attending the Desalination Open House – May 31, 2022
- D. Per diem approval for Directors Martinez-Perez and Sotelo-Solis' meeting with the Citizens Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair – June 9, 2022
- E. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the ACWA Region 9 Program – Southern California Inland Region Challenges: Appeal, Growth, and Supply – Temecula, CA – June 24, 2022

**Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve per diem for item 12.A through 12.E. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

13. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard
14. Committee Minutes
15. Financial Reports – April 2022

16. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported:

- That the recent upticks in COVID-19 cases are impacting the Authority, subsequently the May 31, 2022 Community Open House and Tour at Reynolds Desalination Facility is being postponed; and
- Thanked Assistant General Manager Sabine for her work at the Authority over the last 10 years.

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

Director Preciado reported that the Water Resources and Environmental Committee will be discussing drought management, including the states response to the water conservation goals encouraged by the Governor, and policy development by the State Water Resources Control Board; and the Carlsbad Desalination Plant's water intake relocation. The Imported Water Committee will be discussing continued litigation with the Metropolitan Water District.

Director Rios reported that Engineering and Operations Committee will be reviewing several professional services contracts, including the urgent repair of pipeline 4. The Legislation Committee will take positions on three bills in the state legislature. General Manager Quintero is a member of the SDCWA member agency general managers working group regarding water rates. The SDCWA Board is in the process of hiring a General Counsel and will be interviewing recommended candidates at a Special meeting.

18. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. High School Photo Contest Artist Reception at the Bonita Museum – May 12, 2022  
Directors Calderon-Scott and Martinez provided a report.

B. Council of Water Utilities Meeting – May 17, 2022  
Directors Castaneda and Martinez provided a report.

C. California Special Districts Association – San Diego Quarterly Meeting – May 19, 2022  
Directors Calderon-Scott and Castaneda provided a report.

D. Other Events Attended  
There were none.

19. Directors' Comments

Director Rios thanked Assistant General Manager Sabine for her assistance and work at the Authority.

Vice Chair Martinez-Perez thanked Assistant General Manager for her work and dedication at the Authority.

Chair Sotelo-Solis thanked Assistant General Manager for her dedication to the Authority and wished her well on her future endeavors.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:36 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
- B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:  
Title: General Counsel
- C. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:  
Title: General Manager

There was no need for closed session on the following item:

- D. 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.

*(Note: Director Castaneda left the meeting at 8:47 p.m.)*

The Board came out of Closed Session at 9:07 p.m. and reconvened in open session with Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis present. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

20. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

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Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:

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Ligia Hoffman, Board Secretary