

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

June 8, 2022

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 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 6:04 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, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, and Board Secretary Ligia Hoffman. Staff members: Customer Service Supervisor Miguel Alvarez, 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, Safety Coordinator Doug Roberts, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others present: Chad Matkowski of the National City Chamber of Commerce.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Michael Sampsel submitted written comments regarding the status of the joint committee with Otay Water District regarding recycled water, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

- **Chair’s Presentation**

“National City Chamber of Commerce – Updates and Vision,” presented by Chad Matkowski, President and CEO, National City Chamber of Commerce

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There was none.

2. Approval of Minutes

1. Special Board Meeting of May 23, 2022

2. Regular Board Meeting of May 25, 2022

Director Martinez-Perez made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of May 23, 2022 and the Regular Board meeting of May 25, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Findings to Continue Holding Remote/Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

Recommendation: Made 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. Consideration to Authorize a Sole-source Contract to Hazen and Sawyer for Assistance with Lead and Copper Rule Revision Requirements (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 6/1/22)

Recommendation: Award a sole-source contract for assistance with Lead and Copper Rule Revision requirements to Hazen and Sawyer as presented in an amount not to exceed \$127,000.

5. Consideration to Extend the Due Date of All Single Swing-check Upgrades on Fire Service Laterals (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 6/1/22)

Recommendation: Approve a two (2) year extension of the due date until April 25, 2025, for customers with a non-compliant backflow prevention device on the fire service lateral to bring the device into compliance.

Action and Discussion Items

6. Old and Unfinished Business

A. Consideration to Approve the FY 2022-23 Budget

- a. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 22-04, Adopting a Budget for FY 2022-23
- b. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 22-06, Adopting Updated Financial Policies (Policy 517), Including Policy for Procurement of Services (Including Construction), Supplies and Equipment

Upon a motion by Chair Sotelo-Solis, seconded by Director Preciado, the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 22-04

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

and

RESOLUTION 22-06

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
ADOPTING REVISED BOARD POLICY 517 (FINANCIAL POLICIES) INCLUDING THE
BUDGET POLICY, DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY, DISCLOSURE PROCEDURES
POLICY, INVESTMENT POLICY, PROCUREMENT POLICY AND RESERVE POLICY**

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

B. Consideration to Approve the FY 2022-23 Strategic Plan Detailed Work Plan (Annual Work Plan)

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the FY 2022-23 Strategic Plan Work Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration to Implement Water Use Demand Reduction Measures in Level 2 of the Authority's Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Michael Sampsel submitted written comments regarding the implementation of Level 2 and its impacts on ratepayers, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approve to maintain Level 1 and implement the water use demand reduction measures in Level 2 of the Authority's Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Directors' Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items
 - A. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the ACWA DC 2022 Water Conference, Washington D.C. – July 12-14, 2022 (*Note: Registration deadline is 6/17/22; Hotel registration is 6/13/22*)
 - B. 2022 CSDA Annual Conference, Palm Desert, CA – August 22-25, 2022 (*Note: Early bird registration deadline is 7/22/22*)

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve per diem for items 7.A. and 7.B. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

8. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard
9. Committee Minutes
10. Report of Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel de Sousa reported on pending legislative bills related to: virtual meetings and meeting materials distribution; procedures for handling disruptive behavior at public meetings; prevailing wage job related to hauling; imposing requirements related to lead pipes; the use and disposal or surplus lands; and potential new funding for cybersecurity preparedness activities.

11. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported on:

- Thanked the Board for approving the FY 2022-23 Budget, and thanked staff for their work;
- COVID-19 infection numbers at the Authority have stabilized;
- The Authority received a summary of the recent State Water Resources Control Board meeting, and water use has increased in our region but has decreased statewide; and
- The Authority received an additional \$205,000 rebate from the San Diego County Water Authority related to attorney fees in its case with Metropolitan Water District.

12. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

- A. Other Events Attended

There were none.

13. Directors' Comments

Director Martinez thanked the Board for its unity in adopting the Budget.

Director Preciado stated he has a lot of upcoming work, particularly regarding preparation for San Diego State University's largest incoming freshman class.

Vice Chair Martinez-Perez c stated many of her former student are heading to San Diego State University.

Director Rios commented on examples of water use efficiencies, and that the efficiency actions are updated on the Authority's website.

Chair Sotelo-Solis shared that the City of National City raised the LGBT flag over City Hall; and announced that the City Attorney for the City of National City has been appointed to the judicial bench.

CLOSED SESSION – There was none.

14. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:

Ligia Hoffman, Board Secretary