

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

June 10, 2020

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 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 6:00 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 Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff Members: Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Environmental Project Manager Israel Marquez, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Director of Distribution Greg Snyder, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others Present: Matt Davis of Cushman & Wakefield, Drew Demos and Danny Obeler of sPower, and David Thomas.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Mike Sampsel submitted written comments, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

David Thomas commented on the timeline of the reopening of the fishing program at Loveland Reservoir.

- **Chair's Presentation**

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There was none.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Board Meeting of May 27, 2020

B. Special Board Meeting of May 28, 2020

After discussion on the minutes of May 27, 2020, the Governing Board concurred to table Approval of the Minutes for continued discussion at a later time in the meeting.

Consent Calendar Items

Chair Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 3 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check number 153482 and 153518) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Chair Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Cano made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – Check number 153482 and 153518
4. Approval of Demands and Warrants – Check number 153465 through 153529 and electronic fund transfers 34607 through 34841
5. Appeal of a One-time Adjustment to Customer's Water Bill (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 6/3/20)
Recommendation: Deny the customer's request for a further reduction of the water bill and authorize a twelve-month extended payment plan to pay for the remaining balance of \$927.25.
6. Consideration to Award On-call General Construction Time and Materials Contract (Operations Committee Meeting of 6/3/20)
Recommendation: Award contracts to Ortiz Corporation and El Cajon Grading & Engineering Co, Inc. to serve as the Authority's On-call General Construction Time and Materials Contractors.
7. Consideration to Renew Existing As-needed Consultants for Sweetwater and Loveland Dams or Solicit Requests for Proposals (Operations Committee Meeting of 6/3/20)
Recommendation: Direct staff to execute a two-year contract extension with GEI with an option for continued as-needed consulting services for Sweetwater and Loveland Dams.

Action and Discussion Items

8. New Business

Consideration to Explore Proposed Energy Storage Project at Loveland Reservoir (Item requested by Director Castaneda)

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board direct staff to prepare an analysis of the Proposed Energy Storage System at Loveland Reservoir and provide an overview of the analysis to the Operations Committee for recommendation to the Governing Board. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Old and Unfinished Business

A. Draft FY 2020-21 Budget for Review and Comment (Third Review)

Chair Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board refer the SVPR Consultant contract to the Communications Committee for review and consideration to change from retainer to fee for service. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board reduce the Expense Contingency to \$100,000. The motion carried with Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, and Martinez in favor, and Directors Cerda, Preciado, and Sotelo-Solis opposing.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the Employee Bi-annual Training Event budget of \$20,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Cerda made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board approve a budget of \$40,000 for the Customer Service/Developer Survey. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Cerda made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board approve the following budgets: \$8,600 for Smarty Plants Assemblies, \$11,000 for Partnerships Olivewood Garden, and \$11,000 Partnerships CV School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve the budget of \$50,000 for the SDF Well site landscaping. The motion carried unanimously.

The Governing Board concurred to defer the 2020 Water Resources Master Plan for one-year.

Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board approve the budget of \$23,000 for the 10 Gallon Potable Water Containers Application System. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Cano made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the budget of \$5,000 to develop a general information/outreach video about Sweetwater Authority, and refer conceptualization of the video to the Communications Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve a budget of \$30,000 for an Energy Audit (scope to be reviewed by Operations Committee). The motion carried, with Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, Cerda, and Martinez in favor, and Director's Preciado and Sotelo-Solis opposing.

Chair Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board reduce the budget for General Legal Services to \$350,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve a budget of \$50,000 for Security Patrol. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Cano made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve a budget of \$30,000 for a Customer Payment Kiosk at the Administration office. The motion carried unanimously.

- a. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 20-13, Adopting a Budget for FY 2020-21

This item was continued to the next meeting.

- b. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 20-14, Adopting Updated Financial Policies (Policy 517), Including Policy for Procurement of Services (Including Construction), Supplies and Equipment

Upon a motion by Director Preciado, seconded by Chair Castaneda, the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 20-14

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

15. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

Director Cerda provided a written report on his attendance at the May 27, 2020 meeting of the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce Utilities Subcommittee.

A. California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Virtual Legislative Days – May 18-22, 2020

Director Cerda provided a written report.

B. South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) – June 2, 2020

Chair Castaneda provided a report and Director Cerda provided a written report.

16. Directors' Comments

Director Cano commented on the Authority's fire hydrants and related water losses and asked the General Manager to look into the issue.

Director Cerda thanked the Board for their foresight and work on the small business vendor program.

Director Martinez commented on an experience at the City of National City offices, and thanked Director Cano for providing assistance with obtaining a permit.

Director Sotelo-Solis thanked the community for their support of the various community assistance events and encouraged their continued promotion and communication with the City of National City.

Director Calderon-Scott commented that one of the contracts for the on-call time and materials contractor was awarded to an Authority ratepayer.

Director Preciado commented on the COVID-19 pandemic including an uptick in positive cases in a local zip code, and reminded of the seriousness and gravity of COVID-19.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:25 p.m., the Board convened in closed session with legal counsel for:

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4): Three Cases

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

Agency Negotiators: Tish Berge, General Manager
Jennifer Sabine, Assistant General Manager
Dina Yorba, Director of Administrative Services

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

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 10:11 p.m., Chair Castaneda declared the meeting to be in open session. No reportable action was taken by the Governing Board.

(Note: Due to technical issues which prevented the report and adjournment from being recorded, the document, "Written Report of Action Taken in Closed Session and Notice of Time of Adjournment of Meeting (due to technical issues)" was posted to the Authority website with the materials for the meeting.)

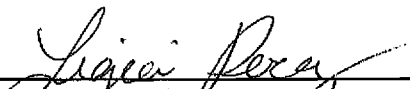
17. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 10:11 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary