

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

June 22, 2022

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 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 6:02 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 (6:06 p.m.), Hector Martinez, *Paulina Martinez-Perez (6:11 p.m.), 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: Engineering Manager Christopher Bauer, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Program Specialist Clay Clifton, Interim Director of Engineering Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Program Manager Dan Hayes, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others Present: Don Gilchrest of Thomas Walters & Associates, and Nancy Cavanah.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

(Note: Director Castaneda entered the meeting at 6:06 p.m.)

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

There was none.

- **Chair's Presentation**

A. Presentation of Sweetwater Authority's Winner of the 2022 WaterSmart Landscape Contest

(Note: Vice Chair Martinez-Perez entered the meeting at 6:11 p.m.)

B. Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There were none.

2. Approval of Minutes - Regular Board Meeting of June 8, 2022

Vice Chair Martinez-Perez made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 8, 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 157899, 157931, and 158066) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar items. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Castaneda opposing item 3.

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 – May 2022
5. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – May 2022
6. Consideration of Allocation of the Authority's Portion of the \$10.4 Million in SDCWA Attorney's Fees Being Returned to San Diego County Water Agencies (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 6/15/22)
Recommendation: Direct staff to allocate the \$205,895 received from SDCWA for the Authority's portion of the \$10.4 million in SDCWA refunded Attorney's fees to the Authority's Rate Stabilization Reserve.

7. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 22-07, Adopting Amended Rates and Rules and Supplement to the Rates and Rules (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 6/15/22)
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 22-07.

RESOLUTION 22-07

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER
AUTHORITY ADOPTING AMENDED RATES AND RULES AND THE
SUPPLEMENT AS STATED IN EXHIBIT “A” AND EXHIBIT “B” TO
THIS RESOLUTION**

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

8. Consideration of Request for Proposals for On-call Reverse Osmosis System Professional Consulting Services at the Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 6/15/22)
Recommendation: Direct staff to issue the Request for Proposals for On-call Reverse Osmosis System Professional Consulting Services as presented.

Action and Discussion Items

9. New Business
A. “Federal Legislative Update,” presentation by Don Gilchrest, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc. (Information Item)

No action was required by the Governing Board.

- B. Consideration to Approve Revised 2022 Board Calendar

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the revised 2022 Board Calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Consideration of Draft Request for Proposals for Updating the Water Resources Master Plan (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 6/13/22)
Recommendation: Direct staff to finalize and issue the Request for Proposals to update the Water Resources Master Plan; and direct staff to engage the Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee for consideration of proposals and consultant selection.

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Chair Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board direct staff to finalize and issue the Request for Proposals to update the Water Resources Master Plan; and direct staff to engage the Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee for consideration of proposals and consultant selection. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 22-05, Adopting a Salary Schedule for All Employees Effective July 1, 2022 (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 6/15/22)
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 22-05.

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

RESOLUTION 22-05

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER
AUTHORITY ADOPTING A SALARY SCHEDULE FOR ALL
EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022**

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

12. Old and Unfinished Business

Consideration to Authorize Additional Repairs of National City Wells #3

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve to allow Brax of Valley Center, CA to complete repairs of National City Well #3 in an amount not to exceed \$166,596.81; and allocate unspent funds in the amount of \$166,596.81 from the FY 2021-22 Water Quality Operating Expense Budget to the FY 2022-23 Water Quality Expense Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the Urban Water Institute Annual Conference, San Diego – August 24-26, 2022 (Note: draft agenda unavailable)

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve per diem for Directors who wish to attend the Urban Water Institute Annual Conference, San Diego – August 24-26, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

17. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported:

- Staff met with the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee (MAAC) who is managing the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Details regarding the program are still in development and a soft launch is expected near the end of July.

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

Director Rios reported on the upcoming Board meeting that includes a press conference with state water resources secretary regarding state drought conditions; the Legislation and Public Outreach Committee will adopt positions on five state legislative bills; the committee for the selection of a new general counsel continues with the Board recently completing interviews; and the Project Labor Agreement Work Group will meet for training on negotiations with PLA-involved parties.

Director Preciado reported on the state and regional progress towards Governor Newsom’s water conservation goals; review of the Lake Hodges Dam Condition Assessment; and the upcoming adoption of the new Rates and Charges for SDCWA member agencies.

19. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. Other Events Attended

There were none.

20. Directors’ Comments

Director Rios commented that the City of National City will bring back its annual Fourth of July Carnival, and noted that the fireworks will take place on July 2nd this year. She stated that her father has led the fireworks display committee for the last decade and will be celebrating his 90th birthday on June 30th.

Director Martinez commented that his father is also turning 90 years old this year, and commented on the monthly organization dashboard including the positive report of minimal pipe leaks, and thanked staff for their work.

Director Martinez-Perez thanked Director Preciado for his request of a memo on the historical background of the Otay Water District – Sweetwater Authority Ad-hoc Committee.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:40 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for:

- A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:

Title: General Counsel

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 at 7:57 p.m. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

21. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:

Ligia Hoffman, Board Secretary