

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

June 24, 2020

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 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 6:03 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, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Director of Distribution Greg Snyder, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others Present: Jen Nation of Olivewood Gardens and David Thomas

• **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Russell Walsh submitted written comments regarding the reopening of the fishing programs at Authority Reservoirs, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Mike Sampsel submitted written comments regarding the availability of paper copies of Board agenda packets, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

David Thomas addressed the Board regarding the reopening of Loveland Reservoir.

- **Chair's Presentation**

- A. "Olivewood Gardens & Learning Center," presented by Jen Nation, Executive Director, Olivewood Gardens
- B. COVID-19 Update
COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard
- C. Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

1. Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda
There was none.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Special Board Meeting of June 9, 2020
 - B. Regular Board Meeting of June 10, 2020

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of June 9, 2020 and continue the Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 10, 2020 to the next Board meeting for a verbatim review of the item 9. A. motion regarding the SVPR Consultant contract. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar Items

Chair Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 3 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check numbers 153548 and 153590) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Chair Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approve the consent calendar items 3, 5, and 6. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Calderon-Scott pulled item 4 for discussion.

3. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – Check numbers 153548 and 153590
5. Consideration to Award Time and Materials Paving and Concrete Contracting Services Contract (Operations Committee Meeting of 6/17/20)
Recommendation: Award an on-call time and materials paving and concrete construction services contract to ABC Construction Co., Inc, San Diego and Ortiz Corporation,

National City; and for the contract to include a provision for annual renewals up to a total contract duration of five years, along with discontinuance of service at any time and for any reason.

6. Consideration to Approve Change Order No. 2 for Construction of the 36-inch Transmission Main Replacement Project (Operations Committee Meeting of 6/17/20)
Recommendation: Change Order No. 2 to the contract with CCL Contracting, Inc., Escondido, for the construction of the 36-inch Transmission Main Replacement Project in the amount of \$350,698.12, including an extension of the Contract Time by 19 calendar days, and authorize the General Manager to execute the Change Order.

Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

4. Approval of Demands and Warrants – check number 153530 through 153600 and electronic fund transfers 34842 through 35081 (excluding the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants)

Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the Demands and Warrants (excluding the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants). The motion carried unanimously, with Director Cano absent.

Action and Discussion Items

7. Citizens Advisory Committee Rescission of Recommendation to Perform an Energy Audit

No action was taken by the Governing Board.

8. Consideration to Implement a Pilot of Phase 1 of a Ratepayer Assistance Program (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 6/17/20)
Recommendation: Direct staff to enter into a six-month pilot Phase 1 of a Rate Assistance Program (based on income) with Community Through Hope.

Chair Castaneda recused himself from consideration due to his spouse being a board member of Community Through Hope, which Chair Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board direct staff to enter into a six-month pilot Phase 1 of a Rate Assistance Program (based on income) with Community Through Hope. The motion carried, with Chair Castaneda recused.

9. New Business
 - A. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 20-12, Adopting the FY 2020-21 Pay Schedule for All Employees

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

RESOLUTION 20-12

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
ADOPTING A SALARY SCHEDULE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020**

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

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

- B. Consideration to Approve the South Bay Irrigation District FY 2020-21 Budget, pursuant to the Fund Transfer and Reimbursement Agreement between Sweetwater Authority and South Bay Irrigation District

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the South Bay Irrigation District FY 2020-21 Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Consideration to Extend Deadline for Fine Screening Project Evaluation Task of the Feasibility Study for Monitoring Reservoir Assets and Expanding the Local Water Supply

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board extend the entire Fine Screening Project Evaluation Task deadline for the Feasibility Study for Maximizing Reservoir Assets and Expanding the Local Water Supply to the end of September 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Old and Unfinished Business

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

Chair Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board move the \$46,000 budget for communication outreach to the Expense Contingency fund, and refer consideration of use of communication outreach consultants and staffing levels to the Communications Committee. The motion carried, with Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, Cerda, and Martinez in favor, and Directors Preciado and Sotelo-Solis opposing.

Upon a motion by Chair Castaneda, seconded by Calderon-Scott, the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 20-13

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR FY 2020-21**

was passed and adopted by the following vote to wit:

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

B. Consideration to Approve the FY 2020-21 Strategic Plan Detailed Work Plan (Annual Work Plan)

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the FY 2020-21 Strategic Plan Detailed Work Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the WELL 2020 Virtual Conference – November 13, 2020

Director Cerda made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the per diem for the Directors who wish to attend the WELL 2020 Virtual Conference – November 13, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12. Committee Minutes

13. Financial Reports

- Monthly Financials – May 2020

Chair Castaneda reordered item 15 to be heard before item 14.

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

Director Preciado reported on the upcoming Public Hearing of the rates and fees for the next fiscal year; elements include three steps - operational savings, debt management strategy, and water storage reduction; Metropolitan Water District local resource projects; CWA series of energy audits to optimize current resources; enhanced Spanish-language outreach regarding safe tap water; and a meeting with National City's SDCWA representative Mona Rios.

14. Report of Management

- Upcoming Community Events (Information Item) (No Enclosures)
 - Presentation to the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce Utilities Subcommittee – July 29, 2020

General Manager Berge reported on:

- Finalizing protocols to have in-person meetings in the Board meetings
- Website launched for the Preferential Purchasing for Local Businesses Program
- Analysis of the proposed energy storage system at Loveland Reservoir has a tentative completion of January 2021
- Constituents near Authority Reservoirs are interested in the reopening of the Fishing Programs. Staff is analyzing the requirements, risks, and costs.
- An update regarding the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Regional Conveyance System Study.
- Previewed the agenda items for the upcoming Operations, Finance and Personnel, and Board meetings.

16. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. Metropolitan Water District Integrated Water Resource Plan – June 12, 2020

Director Cerda provided a report and submitted the event presentation for the record.

B. Other Events Attended – There were none.

17. Directors' Comments

Director Sotelo-Solis commented on the synergy between National City's SDCWA representative Mona Rios and SBID's representative Director Preciado.

Director Preciado appreciated the of remarks made regarding the Board working collaboratively to advance the Authority on behalf of the ratepayers; being happy with the timeliness of the meeting; and that the SDCWA agenda packet was 1,057 pages.

Director Cerda commented that the negotiations between Board members are done with the sentiment of helping ratepayers access clean, affordable water; and seeing the progress of the 36-inch Transmission Main in Bonita.

Director Cano commented on the safety and protection of construction equipment around the Bonita area.

Director Calderon-Scott commented on her excitement of the engagement of Board members and getting things done.

Director Martinez commented on the Authority's culture and being mindful of getting the highest value for money spent; and the reopening of the fishing program.

Chair Castaneda congratulated the Board on adopting an annual budget.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:56 p.m., the Board convened in closed session with legal counsel for:

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2): One case
- B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:

Title: General Manager

There was no need for closed session on item:

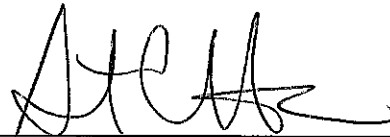
- C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1):

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 9:50 p.m., Chair Castaneda declared the meeting to be in open session. No reportable action was taken by the Governing Board.

18. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary