

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

July 14, 2021

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, July 14, 2021. Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-08-21, this meeting was held via teleconference. Chair Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

*(*Note: After calling the meeting to order, Chair Martinez 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 Martinez 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 (6:33 p.m.), Mona Rios, and *Alejandra Sotelo-Solis (6:04 p.m.).

Directors Absent: None.

Management, Staff, and Others Present: Interim 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, Distribution Manager Nathan Golder, Information Systems Manager Kevin Kasner, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Interim Director of Distribution Carl Quiram, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others present: Kip Howard, and Russell Walsh.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

(Note: Director Sotelo-Solis entered the meeting at 6:04 p.m.)

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

Russell Walsh thanked staff for their presentation at the Jamul-Dulzura Planning Group meeting; and commented on sand mining at Loveland Reservoir, the recreational pool size, shoreline, and operating hours at Loveland Reservoir's Fishing Program.

Kip Howard of Allegis Development commented on the estimated EDU calculated by the Authority, and the subsequent water capacity fee for the Gaylord Pacific development project.

Mike V. submitted written comments regarding the buoy line and operating hours of the fishing program at Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Carolyn McGavock submitted written comments regarding the plans for Loveland Reservoir and its fishing program, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Amber Recklau submitted written comments regarding the allowable fishing shoreline at Loveland Reservoir, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

- **Chair's Presentation**

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

Per Interim General Manager Sabine's request, the Governing Board concurred to withdrawn item 9 from the agenda, due to the cancellation of the Communications Committee meeting.

Director Rios requested to pull item 3 from the consent calendar for discussion.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Board Meeting of June 18, 2021

B. Regular Board Meeting of June 23, 2021

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of June 18, 2021, and the Regular Board meeting of June 23, 2021. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Preciado absent.

ITEM PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Rios pulled item 3 for discussion.

3. Request for Information on Process and Requirements for Procurement of Consultant Services (Information Item) (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 7/7/21)
Recommendation: Direct staff to return at a future meeting with modifications to the Procurement Section of Board Policy 517 (Financial Policies) that sets criteria for considering cost, as allowable by law, in selecting consultant contracts.

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board direct staff to return at a future meeting with modifications to the Procurement Section of Board Policy 517 (Financial Policies) that sets criteria for considering cost, as allowable by law, in selecting consultant contracts. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Preciado absent.

Consent Calendar Items

(Note: Director Preciado entered the meeting at 6:33 p.m.)

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve consent calendar items 4 through 8. The motion carried with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis in favor, and Director Preciado abstaining.

4. Update on Customer Outreach and Assistance for Delinquent Bills Related to COVID-19 (Information Item) (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 7/7/21)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.
5. Consideration to Augment Current Incentives for Authority Safety Program (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 7/7/21)
Recommendation: Direct staff to research and compare employee safety incentive programs and present a summary to the Finance and Personnel Committee.
6. Consideration to Award a Contract for Vactor Truck Replacement (Operations Committee Meeting of 7/7/21)
Recommendation: Award a contract in the amount of \$459,576.71 to Haaker Equipment Co., La Verne, CA for the purchase of a new Vactor truck; and return the residual funds of \$50,123.29 to the Vehicle Replacement Reserve.
7. Consideration to Award a Contract for Vehicle Replacement - Ford F-250 (07-36) (Operations Committee Meeting of 7/7/21)
Recommendation: Award a contract in the amount of \$41,557.19 to National Auto Fleet Group, Watsonville, CA for the purchase of a new Ford F-250.
8. Consideration to Procure On-call Paving and Concrete Services (Operations Committee Meeting of 7/7/21)
Recommendation: Approve the issuance of the draft Request for Proposals; and direct staff to bring proposals to the Operations Committee for consideration and recommendation the Board.

Action and Discussion Items

9. Consideration of Draft Request for Proposals for Communications Consulting Services (Communications Committee Meeting of 7/12/21)
Recommendation: Pending Committee meeting.
This item was withdrawn from the agenda.
10. Old and Unfinished Business

A. Review of Board Policies and Procedures – Policy 522

Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve Board Policy 522 with the recommended changes and refer to the Finance and Personnel Committee to include modifications to Policy 522 to consider the eligibility criteria for appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee. The motion carried with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, and Martinez-Perez in favor, and Directors Preciado, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis opposing.

B. Award of Contract to Centre for Organization Effectiveness for Citizen Advisory Committee Facilitation and Support Services

Aracelia Magana submitted written comments supporting the award of contract for facilitator services for the Citizens Advisory Committee, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Chair Martinez made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board award a contract to The Centre for Organization Effectiveness for Citizens Advisory Committee consulting services. The motion carried unanimously.

11. New Business

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) – Call for Nominations – President/Vice President for the 2022-2023 Term

No action was taken by the Governing Board.

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

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

13. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

14. Committee Minutes

15. Informational Reports

- Quarterly Report of One-time Water Bill Adjustments – Fourth Quarter FY 2020-21
- Quarterly Report of Directors' Expenses – Fourth Quarter FY 2020-21
- Quarterly Consultant Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2020-21
- Quarterly Vendor Agreement Listing – Fourth Quarter FY 2020-21

16. Report of Legal Counsel

There was none.

17. Report of Management

Interim General Manager Sabine reported on:

- Governor Newsom's expansion of the regional drought state of emergency and the responses by the San Diego County Water Authority, Sweetwater Authority, and its ratepayers;
- Authority staff presented to the Jamul-Dulzura Planning Group on the operation of Loveland Reservoir and impacts to the fishing program; and
- Previewed the agenda items for the upcoming Finance and Personnel Committee and Operations Committee meetings

18. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) Meeting – June 1, 2021

Director Castaneda provided a report.

B. Other Events Attended – There was none.

19. Directors' Comments

Director Preciado complimented staff on their coordination with the San Diego County Water Authority in highlighting and promoting Authority-related programs; commented on the impact that conservation efforts will have on Authority revenues; and the outreach and messaging of Authority investments in the service area.

Director Castaneda commented on the policies and directives coming from Sacramento; the water levels of the Colorado River and Lake Mead; and the expected state directives for the San Diego region.

Chair Martinez commented on encouraging customers not to panic and Authority ratepayers' conservation efforts.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:38 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for:

A. Potential Threat to Public Services and Facilities pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:

Consultation with: Paula de Sousa, Legal Counsel
Rich Stevenson, Director of Finance
Kevin Kasner, Information Systems Manager

B. Public Employee Appointment pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:

Title: General Manager

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

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

Agency Negotiators: Hector Martinez, Chair
Alison Alpert, Legal Counsel

Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

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.

The Board came out of Closed Session at 8:55 p.m. Legal Counsel reported that the Board met for items A and B. All Directors were present during Closed Session with the exception of Director Castaneda. The Board reconvened in open session at 8:56 p.m., with Directors Calderon-Scott, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, and Rios in attendance. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

20. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Martinez adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.



Hector Martinez, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary