

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

July 28, 2021

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, July 28, 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 6:01 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, Mona Rios, and Alejandra Sotelo-Solis* (6:53 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 Nate Golder, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, Interim Director of Distribution Carl Quiram, and Director of Administrative Services Dina Yorba. Others present: Alison Alpert of Best Best & Krieger; Special Labor Counsel Kevin Chicas of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore; Gary Phillips of Bob Murray & Associates; Tish Berge and Mike Lee of the San Diego County Water Authority; and Nick Badillo of San Diego Gas & Electric.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- **Opportunity for Public Comment** (Government Code Section 54954.3)
There were none.
- **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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda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 move agenda items 11. A. and 11. B. before item 7.

2. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Special Board Meeting of July 13, 2021
 - B. Regular Board Meeting of July 14, 2021

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of July 13, 2021, and the Regular Board meeting of July 14, 2021. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Sotelo-Solis absent.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 3 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check numbers 155761, 155800, 155833, 155865, 156000) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

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

3. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – Check numbers 155761, 155800, 155833, 155865, and 156000
4. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – June 2021
5. Consideration to Authorize a Scope of Work in an Amount not to Exceed \$388,000 to Enterprise Automation for the FY 2021-22 SCADA Expense and Capital Projects (Operations Committee Meetings of 7/21/21)
Recommendation: Authorize a scope of work in an amount not to exceed \$388,000 to the Authority's on-call SCADA consultant, Enterprise Automation, for the FY 2021-22 SCADA Expense and Capital Projects.
6. Strategic Plan Reporting - Year-end Detailed Work Plan Status Report (Information Item) (Finance and Personnel Committee and Operations Committee Meetings of 7/21/21)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

Action and Discussion Items

11. New Business
 - A. "Regional Collaboration for a Resilient Future," presented by Tish Berge, Assistant General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority
No action was required by the Governing Board.

- B. "Value of Water and Dry-Year Outreach," presented by Mike Lee, Public Affairs Manager, San Diego County Water Authority

No action was required by the Governing Board.

7. Consideration to Award a Contract to Wepa Commercial Cleaning, Chula Vista, CA for Janitorial Services (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 7/21/21)
Recommendation: Award a contract for Janitorial Services to Wepa Commercial Cleaning, Chula Vista, CA for one-year in the amount of \$76,034.88, with authorization for four one-year renewals at an annual cost increase of 5 percent.

(Note: Director Sotelo-Solis entered the meeting at 6:53 p.m.)

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board award a contract for Janitorial Services to Wepa Commercial Cleaning, Chula Vista, CA for one-year in the amount of \$76,034.88, with authorization for four one-year renewals at an annual cost increase of five percent. The motion carried unanimously.

8. "SDG&E Power Your Drive for Fleet," presentation by San Diego Gas & Electric (Information Item) (Operations Committee Meeting of 7/21/21)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

9. Consideration of Alternative Fuel Fleet Analysis and Recommendations (Operations Committee Meetings of 7/21/21)

Recommendation: Approve the green fleet plan in concept, and direct staff to return to the Governing Board with a comprehensive cost analysis and financing plan; direct staff to immediately implement the change from diesel to R-99; and staff to investigate the SDG&E Power Your Drive Grant Program and any other potential grants available.

Chair Martinez made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve the green fleet plan in concept, and directed staff to: return to the Governing Board with a comprehensive cost analysis and financing plan; immediately implement the change from diesel to R-99; investigate the SDG&E Power Your Drive Grant Program and any other potential grants available; and contact the City of Chula Vista to explore the use of their electric vehicle charging stations. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Old and Unfinished Business

Report on Sweetwater Authority Completed Acquisition of Property: Sindelar/East Property (APN: 521-020-18 and 521-020-19) – 80 Acres of Vacant Land Downstream of Loveland Dam

No action was required by the Governing Board.

11. New Business

C. Consideration of Membership to the Water Conservation Garden for FY 2022-23

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approved to maintain membership with The Water Conservation Garden Authority for FY 2022-23. The motion carried unanimously.

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 Performance Measurement Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2020-21
- Quarterly Report on Communications Plan Metrics – Fourth Quarter FY 2020-21
- Please note, the following reports will be presented in August due to the year-end accounting processes:
 - Monthly Financials – June 2021
 - Quarterly Capital Projects Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2020-21

16. Report of Management

Interim General Manager Sabine reported on:

- An update on the state's Water Bill Relief Program, including \$1 billion to assist with COVID-19 related customer bill debt, and the structure and administration of the statewide program; and
- Previewed the agenda items for the upcoming Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, and Water Quality and Distribution Committee meetings.

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

Director Rios reported on the SDCWA supporting the adoption of HR 3877 relating to the Salton Sea project improvement act; noted and filed the monthly treasury report; amendments to consultant contracts; and the approval of a change order to the Mission Trails flow control facility project resulting in additional cost and time extension.

Director Preciado reported on the upcoming meetings of the SDCWA long-term sustainability work group that will receive an overview of policies, credit ratings, capital improvement projects, water demand sales forecast, and rate forecasts; a working group of the Administration and Finance Committee will review the SDCWA Business Plan related to the Strategic Plan; DWR is reviewing policy for water use efficiencies and SDCWA engagement; and recommitted to consultant contracts related to Metropolitan Water District.

18. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. Other Events Attended – There was none.

19. Directors' Comments

Director Calderon-Scott thanked staff for the improvements to the Strategic Plan reporting, including its transparency.

Director Martinez-Perez commented on the increase of water use at school now that they are back on campus, and emphasized the importance of water use during the pandemic.

Director Rios thanked staff for quickly implementing the changes to the Strategic Plan reporting.

Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis commented on a potential partnership with schools to distribute collapsible water bottles.

Chair Martinez commented on the Authority's electric vehicle implementation efforts and their impact on climate change.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:51 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for:

A. Conference with Real Property Negotiators pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8:

Property: Grant of Easement over 520-130-11-00
Agency Negotiators: Jennifer Sabine, Interim General Manager
Ron Mosher, Director of Engineering
Negotiating Party: Christopher G. Johnson, trustee of the Johnson Revocable Trust, dated June 27, 2000
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Easement

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

Agency Negotiators: Alison Alpert, Legal Counsel
Paula de Sousa, Legal Counsel
Unrepresented Employees: Assistant General Manager
Director of Administrative Services
Director of Engineering
Director of Distribution
Director of Finance
Director of Water Quality

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

Agency Negotiator: Kevin Chicas, Special Labor Counsel
Employee Organizations: Sweetwater Authority Employees' Committee

Sweetwater Authority Middle Management Group
Sweetwater Authority Confidential Group

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

Title: General Manager

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

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

Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

There was no need for closed session on item:

F. 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.

Legal Counsel de Sousa reported that the Board came out of Closed Session at 10:35 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:36 p.m., with Directors Calderon-Scott, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Preciado, Rios, and Sotelo-Solis 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 10:36 p.m.



Director Martinez, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary