

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

September 9, 2020

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 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 6:01 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, Engineering Manager Erick Del Bosque, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Program Specialist Doug Roberts, and Director of Finance Rich Stevenson. Others present: James Halliday and Nadia Nunez of A Reason to Survive.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Jose Ramos submitted written comments regarding the grading plan at 483 Carvalos Drive, which were read onto the record by the Board Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

A member of the public commented on the potential of toxins in drinking water; and the Authority's pipeline projects.

- **Chair's Presentation**

Presentation by A Reason to Survive (ARTS) – A Avenue Mosaic Wall in National City

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There were none.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Special Board Meeting of August 25, 2020

B. Regular Board Meeting of August 26, 2020

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of August 25, 2020 and the Regular Board meeting of August 26, 2020. 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 154083 and 154111) 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. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants
4. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – Check number 154066 through 154121 and electronic fund transfers 36115 through 36350
5. Update on FY 2020-21 Pipeline Replacement Program and Douglas Street Interconnection Improvements Schedule (Operations Committee Meeting of 9/2/20)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.
6. Sweetwater Authority Grant Programs (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 8/5/20)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

Action and Discussion Items

7. Consideration of Input on Strategic Plan Detailed Work Plan Objective CS5.002.00 – Engage Services of a Landscape Architecture Firm to Design Conceptual Improvements for Various Well Sites and Implement Improvements (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 9/2/20)
Recommendation: 1) The firm be selected by the Consultant Selection Committee; 2) The scope of work be expanded to include all wells for potential beautification; 3) The selected firm confer with the appropriate land use agency on any design review standards/requirements with regard to whether the land use agency would allow

encroachment outside of the Authority's easement; 4) the firm consider collaboration with local artist communities; and 5) the Authority conduct a good faith effort to seek proposals from local and small landscape architect firms.

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board direct that the Landscape Architecture Firm be selected by the Consultant Selection Committee; the scope of work be expanded to include all wells (including National City wells) for potential beautification; the selected firm confer with the appropriate land use agency on any design review standards/requirements with regard to whether the land use agency would allow encroachment outside of the Authority's easement; the firm consider collaboration with local artist communities; and the Authority conduct a good faith effort to seek proposals from local and small landscape architect firms. The motion carried unanimously.

A member of the public commented on the selection of an artist for the potential beautification of the Authority's wells.

8. Consideration of Public Opinion Survey Consultant Selection (Communications Committee Meeting of 9/3/20)

Recommendation: Defer to staff to review proposals and select a consultant.

Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board review the proposals and select a consultant at a future Board meeting. The motion carried with Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, Martinez, and Preciado in favor, and Directors Cerda and Sotelo-Solis opposing.

9. Old and Unfinished Business

Consideration to Approve Resolution 20-15 – Authorizing the General Manager or Assistant General Manager to Approve Payment of Demands

Chair Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board refer this item to the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting for further review. The motion carried unanimously.

10. New Business

A. Consideration of Changes to Board Policy 510 – Per Diem and Reimbursement

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the recommended changes as presented. The motion carried with Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, Castaneda, Martinez, and Preciado in favor, and Directors Cerda and Sotelo-Solis opposing.

B. Consideration of Fallbrook PUD and Rainbow MWD Proposed Detachments from San Diego County Water Authority Potential Financial Impacts to Sweetwater Authority and September 18, 2020 Filing Deadline

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board offer a letter similar to the letter submitted to LAFCO by Valley Center Municipal Water District, which the Board reviewed; to acknowledge that based on current

information there is an impact to Sweetwater Authority; and that there is a process under way and that everyone involved adheres to the process. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Lower Loveland Reservoir Below Current Emergency Storage Levels Prior to Completion of the Feasibility Study and Implementation of its Recommendations (Item requested by Director Martinez)

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board authorize the General Manager to lower Loveland Reservoir below current emergency storage levels prior to completion of the Feasibility Study and implementation on its recommendations in order to maximize the value of the next water transfer. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. Council of Water Utilities Virtual Meeting – Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 8:00 a.m. – Guest Speaker Commissioner Brenda Burman.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

- B. Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the Water Education Foundation Central Valley Water Virtual Tour – October 22, 2020

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve per diem for Directors who wish to attend the Water Education Foundation Central Valley Water Virtual Tour – October 22, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

A member of the public commented on the assessment of COVID-19.

13. Committee Minutes

14. Report of Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel de Sousa reported on the Department of Water Resources guidebook for Urban Water Management Plan updates - all urban water suppliers are required to do their next update by July 1, 2021. . Comments on the guidebook are due September 21, 2020, and a final guidebook will be released in fall 2020; three bills were signed by Governor Newsom that will help small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and another bill is on the Governor's desk providing an exception to serial meeting rules related to social media.

15. Report of Management

- Recent/Upcoming Community Events (No Enclosures):
 - South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC): October 8, 2020

General Manager Berge reported on:

- Working with Chair Castaneda on the selection of an On-call Communications Consultant; discussed general approaches to developer plans; and a future meeting with the Authority's federal lobbyist;
- The Authority did not receive the FEMA grant to help cover the costs of the dam improvements required by the Division of Safety of Dams;
- Fishing and hiking programs at both reservoirs have been closed in response to the Valley Fire and the Red Flag Weather Warnings;
- General Manager will on PTO September 10-20; and
- Previewed the agenda items for the upcoming Committee and Board meetings.

16. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. National Water Resources Association Western Water Table Talks – August 27, 2020

Director Martinez provided a verbal report.

Director Calderon-Scott's announced that she would provide a report following the conclusion of the conference.

B. South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) – September 1, 2020

Director Cerda provided a written report.

Chair Castaneda provided a verbal report.

C. Other Events Attended – There were none.

17. Directors' Comments

Director Martinez commented on the local wildfire and wishes the best to those affected by the fires; was glad to see the staff parking lot with vehicles; and misses interacting with people.

Director Sotelo-Solis commented on September being Emergency Preparedness Month and suggested efforts the Authority can take to promote preparedness.

Director Preciado commented on the pandemic and its impacts on the community; encouraged continued caution; looks forward to regular engagements beyond virtual meetings; and thanked staff for their attention and efforts related to the Valley Fire.

Director Calderon-Scott commented on the wildfires; and will be attending family events in the coming weeks.

Director Cerda commented on the proximity of the Valley Fire to Chula Vista; and thanked staff for their efforts supporting CalFIRE and the Sheriff's Department.

Director Cano thanked our first responders for putting their lives on the line; City of National City Firefighter's involvement fighting fires in northern California; using the water buffalo to

supply water to residents and animals affected by the fires; commented on his experience as a volunteer during the 2007 fires; and encouraged first responders to be safe and strong.

CLOSED SESSION – There was none.

18. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary