

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

September 23, 2020

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 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, Administrative Assistant Michael Garcia, Reservoir Operations Specialist Victor Gaus, Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Director of Finance Rich Stevenson, and Engineering Manager Mike Wallace.

- **Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call**

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

There was none.

- **Chair's Presentation**

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 **Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda**

There was none.

2. Approval of Minutes – Regular Board Meeting of September 9, 2020

Director Cano made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of September 9, 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 154149 and 154175) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Chair Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Calderon-Scott pulled items 4 and 5 for discussion.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve consent calendar items 3, 6, and 7. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – Check numbers 154149 and 154175
6. Consideration to Award a Contract for On-call Habitat Maintenance (Operations Committee Meeting of 9/16/20)
Recommendation: Award a contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Urban Corps of San Diego, CA for On-call Habitat Maintenance; and for Legal Counsel to provide an opinion on the Request for Quotes
7. Consideration to Award a Contract for Roof Replacement at the Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility (Operations Committee Meeting of 9/16/20)
Recommendation: Award a contract to the lowest responsive bidder ACCI Roofing Services of Lakeside, CA in the amount of \$169,280 for roof replacements at the Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility.

Items Pulled from Consent Calendar for Discussion

4. Approval of Demands and Warrants – check number 154122 through 154181 and electronic fund transfers 36351 through 36598 (excluding the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants)

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board approve the Demands and Warrants – check number 154122 through 154181 and electronic fund transfers 36351 through 36598 (excluding the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants). The motion carried unanimously.

5. Update on COVID-19 Related Expenses and Consideration of Request for Appropriation of \$125,000 for Emergency Expenses (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 9/16/20)
Recommendation: Appropriate \$125,000 from the Operating Fund for costs associated with COVID-19 Pandemic response.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Martinez, that the Governing Board approve appropriating \$125,000 from the Operating Fund for costs associated with COVID-19 Pandemic response. The motion carried with Directors Cano, Castaneda, Cerda, Martinez, Preciado, and Sotelo-Solis in favor, and Director Calderon-Scott opposing.

Director Calderon-Scott requested for the minutes to reflect that she is not opposed to the funding of these COVID-19 related items, what she opposes is the pattern of taking from the reserves and not considering the long-term impacts of not cutting funding in other areas, noting that there are many new projects yet to fund in the coming year.

Action and Discussion Items

8. Old and Unfinished Business

- A. Consideration to Approve Resolution 20-15 of the Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority Authorizing the General Manager or Assistant General Manager to Approve Payment of Demands and Repealing Resolution Nos.80-07 and 97-14 (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 9/16/20)
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 20-15.

Upon a motion by Director Sotelo-Solis, seconded by Director Cerda, the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 20-15

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
SWEETWATER AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING
THE GENERAL MANAGER OR ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF DEMANDS
AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NOS. 80-07 AND 97-14**

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. Sweetwater and Loveland Fishing Programs

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Chair Castaneda, that the Governing Board direct staff to investigate the level of environmental review necessary to expand the Sweetwater Reservoir Fishing Program to four days per week, and develop a staffing plan to allow for a two-person crew to close the Loveland Fishing Program and/or open the fishing programs on certain holidays, including on the 4th of July. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Approval of Directors' Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items
There were none.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

11. Committee Minutes

12. Financial Reports

- Monthly Financials – July 2020
- Monthly Financials – August 2020

13. Report of Management

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

General Manager Berge reported on:

- The Authority will be presenting at the SCEDC Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on several topics, including the Preferential Purchasing for Local Businesses Program and the SCIP funding program for developers;
- The Valley Fire water usage cost was estimated at \$660. After consultation with the Chair, due to the relatively small dollar value of the water used, and since the water was used in part to protect Authority assets, staff will not be seeking reimbursement;
- Chair Castaneda and staff will be meeting with the Authority's federal lobbyist on September 29, 2020;
- The Authority's Annual Report on its Strategic Plan is now available; and
- Previewed the agenda items for the upcoming Operations Committee, Finance and Personnel Committee, and Regular and Special Board meetings.

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

Director Preciado reported on the upcoming election of new SDCWA officers; wholesale water sales are down by 13 percent; Metropolitan Water District will be voting on a budget adjustment process, including the implementation of their rates; the SDCWA will announce the adoption of a new strategic initiative San Diego Water Works, a strategy to promote careers in water and wastewater; the SDCWA will discuss late payments by retail agencies to the SDCWA; and described the process for election of Board officers.

15. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

- A. Council of Water Utilities Meeting – September 15, 2020

Director Cerda provided a written report.

Chair Castaneda and Director Calderon-Scott provided a verbal report.

B. National Water Resources Association Western Water Talk Talks – September 10, and 17, 2020

Director Martinez provided a verbal report.

C. Other Events Attended – There were none.

16. Directors' Comments

Director Sotelo-Solis commented on the City of National City's partnership with I Love A Clean San Diego, Caltrans, and EDCO for residents to participate in city beautification efforts.

Director Cano commented on EDCO providing additional trash bins around the City of National City; flu shots were offered by the City of National City Fire Department and 121 flu shots were given; and encouraged all to stay safe.

Director Calderon-Scott commented on her review of the Authority's vendor/consultant list and the number of ratepayer businesses on the list; and the potential of using ratepayer businesses to meet Authority needs.

Director Cerda thanked Authority staff for their assistance in resolving a local development issue.

Director Martinez gave kudos to the City of National City for their beautification efforts; and misses interacting with fellow Board members and staff.

Chair Castaneda thanked the Board for accomplishing one of the fastest open session meetings they've had.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:35 p.m., Chair Castaneda called for a short recess. At 7:40 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): Two cases

There was no need for closed session on items

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

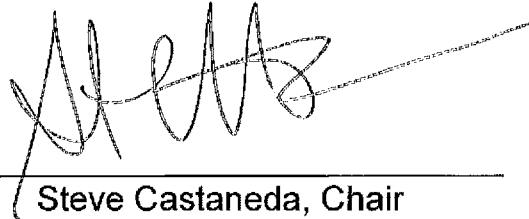
United States, et al. ex rel John Hendrix v. J-M Manufacturing Company Inc., and Formosa Plastics Corporation, U.S.A., Case No. ED CV06-00055-GW

There were no minutes taken, and the session was not audio-recorded.

At 8:36 p.m. Chair Castaneda declared the meeting to be in open session. Directors Castaneda, Martinez, Preciado, Cano and Sotelo-Solis reconvened at 8:38 p.m. after coming out of closed session. There was no reportable action.

17. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary