

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

September 25, 2019

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at the Sweetwater Authority Administrative Office, 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, California. Chair Castaneda called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Directors Calderon-Scott, Cano, and Martinez participated in the meeting via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953, from the following location:
Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort
616 Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802
Room: California 2

*(*Note: After calling the meeting to order, Legal Counsel de Sousa Mills established for the record that all Directors participating by teleconference 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.)*

- **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 Mills, and Board Secretary Ligia Perez. Staff Members: Director of Engineering Ron Mosher, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, and Director of Finance Rich Stevenson. Others present: Mike Sampsel and Dave Schlesinger

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

Mike Sampsel commented on a water rate discussion he had; and the fleet vehicle maintenance proposals.

Dave Schlesinger commented on the Authority's rates; water supply rates by respective water districts; employee salaries; and submitted written comments for the record.

- **Chair's Presentation**

Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

Per General Manager Berge's request, the Governing Board concurred to move agenda item 9 before item 7, and reorder all subsequent agenda items.

(Director Cano left the meeting at 6:11 p.m.)

2. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting of September 11, 2019

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Sotelo-Solis, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the September 11, 2019 Regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Cano absent.

Consent Calendar Items

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board approve consent item 3. Director Calderon-Scott pulled item 4 and Director Preciado pulled item 5 for discussion. Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of warrant number 151943 due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record. The motion carried unanimously, with Director Cano absent.

3. Approval of Demands and Warrants – Check numbers 151915 through 151987 and electronic fund transfers 30026 through 30066

Item Pulled from Consent Calendar for Discussion

4. Materials for Citizens Advisory Committee Members and Alternates (Communications Committee Meeting of 9/16/19, Item 4. B.)

Recommendation: Approve the materials as presented.

(Director Cano reentered the meeting at 6:14 p.m.)

Mike Sampsel commented on the Citizens Advisory Committee and submitted written comments for the record.

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board approve the materials as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of Creating a Developer Payment Plan Policy (Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting of 9/18/19, Item 4.)

Recommendation: Direct staff to develop a policy stating that payment plans are limited to customer water bills only and developers' costs are not eligible for a payment plan; and direct staff to further explore allowing developers to pay costs with

a credit card.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Cano, that the Governing Board direct staff to develop a policy stating that payment plans are limited to customer water bills only and developers' costs are not eligible for a payment plan; and directed staff to further explore allowing developers to pay costs with a credit card. The motion carried unanimously.

At 6:40 p.m. Chair Castaneda called for a short recess. The meeting was called back to order at 6:44 p.m., with all Board members present.

Action and Discussion Items

6. Consideration of the Five-year Strategic Communications Plan Recommendations for Communications Committee Meetings, Metrics, and Future Strategic Plan Work Plan Objective Areas (Communications Committee Meeting of 9/16/19, Item 4. A.)
Recommendation: The Communications Committee to meet quarterly; staff to provide a summary of outreach items performed the previous quarter at each meeting; concurs with the Communications Plan Metrics provided by staff; and concurs with the FY 2019-20 Strategy Framework provided by staff to be considered during development of the FY 2020-21 Strategic Plan Detailed Work Plan and Budget.

Mike Sampsel commented on the Five-year Strategic Communications Plan, associated costs, and the impact to ratepayers.

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve that the Communications Committee meet quarterly; staff provide a summary of outreach items performed the previous quarter at each meeting; concurred with the Communications Plan Metrics; and concurred with the FY 2019-20 Strategy Framework provided by staff to be considered during development of the FY 2020-21 Strategic Plan Detailed Work Plan and Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

7. FY 2018-19 Annual Performance Report
General Manager Berge provided a review.

8. Old Business

Explore the Feasibility of not Funding, or Funding at a Reduced Rate, the Rate Stabilization Reserve and Review the 2018 Five-year Water Rate Study (Strategic Plan Work Plan Task FV1 003.01)

Mike Sampsel commented on the Rate Stabilization Fund.

Director Sotelo-Solis made a motion, seconded by Director Cerda, that the Governing Board continue funding the Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund as is and directed staff to continue with the rate changes scheduled for January 1, 2020 as established by Resolution 18-15 and the adopted FY 2019-20 Budget.

Director Martinez made a substitute motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve to decrease funding to the Rate Stabilization Reserve by reducing the Wholesale Water Purchase Rate by 25 percent. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) Fall Conference, Tucson, AZ – October 23-25, 2019

No action was required by the Governing Board.

- B. National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Annual Conference, Houston, TX – November 6-8, 2019

No action was required by the Governing Board.

- C. Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Fall Conference, San Diego – December 3-6, 2019

No action was required by the Governing Board.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. July and August Financial Reports

11. Management Report

- A. Report of Assistant General Manager

There was none.

Mike Sampsel commented on the monthly report regarding zero incidents of main leaks caused by natural aging and that the replacement of mains should be tied to leak occurrences.

- B. Report of General Manager

General Manager Berge commented on joining Chair Castaneda as he received recognition from the Cities of Chula Vista and National City on behalf of Sweetwater Authority and the visit to the flushing program by David Hernandez of the San Diego Union-Tribune.

12. Report of the South Bay Irrigation District Representative and the City of National City Representative to the San Diego County Water Authority

Director Preciado reported on a letter to the San Diego Local Area Formation Commission inviting them to facilitate the potential de-annexation of two water agencies from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and analyze the associated costs; an email discussion between SDCWA staff and Metropolitan Water District regarding rates; changes to the Colorado River basin; and provided SDCWA documents for the Board's review.

13. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. South County Economic Development Council 29th Economic Summit – September 13, 2019

Directors Martinez and Castaneda provided a report.

B. Interview with the Association of California Water Agencies Nominating Committee – September 16, 2019

Director Martinez provided a report.

C. Council of Water Utilities – September 17, 2019

Directors Castaneda, Cerda, and Martinez provided a report.

14. Directors' Comments

Director Cerda thanked the SDCWA's Water News Network for allowing him to take part in an interview.

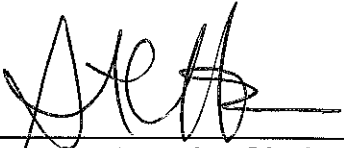
Director Martinez commented that he is very happy that the Authority will not have a water rate increase.

Director Calderon-Scott commented she is grateful and thankful to be passing the rewards of a wet year onto ratepayers.

CLOSED SESSION – There was none.

15. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



Steve Castaneda, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Perez, Board Secretary