

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

October 26, 2022

The Governing Board of Sweetwater Authority held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2022. Pursuant to provisions provided for by Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was held via teleconference. Vice Chair Martinez-Perez called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

*(*Note: After calling the meeting to order, Vice Chair Martinez-Perez 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. Vice Chair Martinez-Perez 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 (6:06 p.m.)

Directors Absent: None.

Management, Staff, and Others Present: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, and Board Secretary Ligia Hoffman. Staff members: Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Director of Engineering and Operations Erick Del Bosque, Accounting Manager Karim Galeana, Assistant Board Secretary Michael Garcia, Public Affairs Manager Leslie Payne, and Director of Finance Rich Stevenson. Others present: Andrew Heinemann and Bruce Steubing of Benchmark Resources; Seth Merewitz of Best, Best, & Krieger; Crystal Howard of Crystal Waters Consulting; and Coley Delaney of The Pun Group.

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

There were none.

- **Chair's Presentation**

Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

(Note: Chair Sotelo-Solis entered the meeting at 6:06 p.m.)

Per General Manager Quintero's request, the Board concurred to reorder Item 8 before Item 7.

2. Approval of Minutes - Regular Board Meeting of October 12, 2022

Director Rios made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Martinez-Perez, that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of October 12, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar Items

Item 3 was pulled for public comment.

Director Calderon-Scott pulled Item 5 for discussion.

Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 4 (approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – check number 158696) due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Vice Chair Martinez-Perez made a motion, seconded by Director Calderon-Scott, that the Governing Board approve consent calendar items 4 and 6. The motion carried unanimously with Director Castaneda recusing himself from Agenda Item 4.

4. Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – September 2022
6. Consideration to Award a Contract for Cartridge Pre-Filters at the Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 10/17/22)
Recommendation: Award a contract for cartridge prefilters to Valin Corporation, San Jose, CA, for one year in an amount not to exceed \$144,536.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Findings to Continue Holding Remote/Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361
Recommendation: Make the following findings: 1) The Governor-declared COVID-19 State of Emergency remains in effect and the Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the COVID-19 State of Emergency; 2) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and 3) For the next thirty (30) days, the meetings of the Board, its committees, and any other Authority legislative bodies including the Citizens Advisory Committee, shall be held pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 54953(e), allowing legislative body members and members of the public to participate in meetings remotely in accordance with that section.

Mary Davis submitted written comments regarding the reopening of public meetings for in-person attendance, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board make the following findings: 1) The Governor-declared COVID-19 State of Emergency remains in effect and the Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the COVID-19 State of Emergency; 2) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and 3) For the next thirty (30) days, the meetings of the Board, its committees, and any other Authority legislative bodies including the Citizens Advisory Committee, shall be held pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 54953(e), allowing legislative body members and members of the public to participate in meetings remotely in accordance with that section. **The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – September 2022

Director Calderon-Scott made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board approve the Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) – September 2022. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Action and Discussion Items

7. Old Business

Consideration of Preliminary Economic Feasibility and Risk Analysis, Project Alternatives for Sweetwater Reservoir Enhancement Project, and Recommendation for Next Steps (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 10/17/22)
Recommendation: Accept the findings of Task 5 – Develop Project Scenarios and Preliminary Economic Feasibility and Risk Analysis; direct staff to execute a contract amendment with the Benchmark Resources consulting team for an amount not to exceed \$160,915 to proceed with the next tasks as presented in Attachment D of its memorandum dated October 7, 2022; and direct staff to use the Capital Contingency to fund the next tasks.

Mike Sampsel submitted written comments regarding the status of the Reservoir Enhancement project and to consider hearing more frequent updates regarding its progress, which were read onto the record by the Secretary pursuant to the Authority's established process for public comments.

Director Martinez made a motion, seconded by Director Preciado, that the Governing Board accept the findings of Task 5 – Develop Project Scenarios and Preliminary Economic Feasibility and Risk Analysis; direct staff to execute a contract amendment with the Benchmark Resources consulting team for an amount not to exceed \$160,915 to proceed with the next tasks as presented in Attachment D of its memorandum dated October 7, 2022; and direct staff to use the Capital Contingency to fund the next tasks. **The motion carried with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez, Martinez-Perez, Preciado, and Sotelo-Solis in favor, and Director Rios opposing.**

8. Consideration to Receive the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 10/17/22)
Recommendation: Receive the FY 2021-22 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report as presented.

Director Preciado made a motion, seconded by Director Castaneda, that the Governing Board receive the FY 2021-22 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Per diem approval for Director Martinez-Perez to attend the US-Israel Collaboration on Water Reuse Mission to Israel – October 30 – November 3, 2022

Director Castaneda made a motion, seconded by Director Rios, that the Governing Board approve per diem for Director Martinez-Perez to attend the US-Israel Collaboration on Water Reuse Mission to Israel – October 30 – November 3, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. COVID-19 Pandemic Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

11. Committee Minutes

12. Committee Look Ahead

- Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Six-Month Look Ahead FY 2022-23 Q2 and Q3 (Information Item) (Engineering, Capital, and Development Services Committee Meeting of 10/17/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

- Finance and Administration Committee Six-Month Look Ahead FY 2022-23 Q2 and Q3 (Information Item) (Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 10/19/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.

- Water Quality and Distribution Committee Six-Month Look Ahead FY 2022-23 Q2 and Q3 (Information Item) (Water Quality and Distribution Committee Meeting of 10/19/22)

Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board

13. Informational Reports

- Financial Reports – September 2022
- Quarterly Capital Projects Report – First Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Performance Measurement Report – First Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Report of Directors' Expenses – First Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Report on Communications Plan Metrics – First Quarter FY 2022-23
- Quarterly Water Treatment Chemical Update

14. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported:

- The Authority's IS team received an award from the Municipal Information Systems Association of California (MISAC) for excellent practices;
- The Authority continues to receive payments from the Low-Income Households Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Over \$24,000 has been received to-date; and

- The San Diego County Water Authority aqueduct that transports untreated water is back online and the Authority will begin purchasing untreated water again. The Authority had to purchase treated water for 10 days and there is approximately 500 acre-feet of usable water in Sweetwater Reservoir.

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

Director Rios reported that the upcoming SDCWA meeting will discuss Project Labor Agreements, terms and targets; and a series of webinars regarding drought-proofing your garden.

Director Preciado reported that at its upcoming meeting, the SDCWA Board will hear an update on the drought, including how Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is implementing regional water allocations in the new calendar year based on various contingencies, water restrictions around the state, and the region's efforts to support the Governor's 15 percent voluntary water conservation cuts; the SDCWA Board will begin evaluations of its representatives to the MWD; review of updates to the legislative agenda; and anticipates the Sweetwater Authority Board receiving an update from SDCWA staff regarding the drought at a future meeting.

16. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

A. Old Town / National City Reunion – September 24, 2022

Directors Martinez provided a report.

B. Other Events Attended

There were none.

17. Directors' Comments

Director Preciado thanked staff for providing water at the Beautify Chula Vista event.

Director Martinez-Perez thanked the Board for its support in her attendance at the US-Israel Collaboration on Water Reuse Mission to Israel

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:09 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for:

A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:

Title: General Manager

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

Agency Negotiators: Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair
Paula de Sousa, Legal Counsel

Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

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

C. 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 reconvened in open session at 9:45 p.m., with Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Martinez-Perez, and Sotelo-Solis present. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

18. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Sotelo-Solis adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.



Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Chair

Attest:



Ligia Hoffman, Board Secretary