

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – October 3, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency was held at Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes. The meeting recording can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [Board Meeting Recording](#).

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathye Armitage, Beth Braunstein, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Ed Colley and William Cooper.

Also present: Administrative Services Manager Kim Grass, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael (Virtually), Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Communications Manager Kevin Strauss, Fleet and Warehousing Supervisor Jesus Martinez Ramirez, General Counsel Joe Byrne, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Best Best and Kriger Attorney Lutfi Kharuf (Virtually), as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff (Virtually), and members of the public (In Person and Virtually).

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present.

There were no changes to the October 3, 2023 Board Amended Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:08 PM to discuss the following item:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d)
of Section 54956.9: (One Case)

The Zoom meeting was put on hold while the Board went into Closed Session. President Martin advised the public and staff for those who wanted to stay, to remain on the current teleconference line and once Closed Session ends, the Board would reconvene for Closed Session announcements and the conclusion of the meeting.

President Martin reconvened the Open Session at 6:51 PM.

Joe Byrne, Esq., reported that there were no actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Upon motion of Director Armitage, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution Nos. SCV-384 and SCV-385 by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

Director Armitage

Yes

Director Braunstein

Yes

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Director Colley | Absent | Director Cooper | Absent |
| Vice President Gutzeit | Yes | Director Marks | Yes |
| President Martin | Yes | Vice President Orzechowski | Yes |
| Director Petersen | Yes | | |

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-384

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY TO AUTHORIZE A PURCHASE ORDER TO KENNEDY JENKS CONSULTANTS, INC FOR PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE NORTH OAKS CENTRAL, EAST AND SIERRA WELLS GROUNDWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND FINDING THAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED ACTION IS EXEMPT FROM CEQA REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15262

[Link to Resolution No. SCV-384](#)

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-385

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY TO AUTHORIZE A PURCHASE ORDER TO WOODARD & CURRAN, INC FOR PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE LOST CANYON, SAND CANYON, AND MITCHELL 5B GROUNDWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND FINDING THAT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED ACTION IS EXEMPT FROM CEQA REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15262

[Link to Resolution No. SCV-385](#)

Upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-386 establishing the Valencia Service Area Retail Capacity Fees by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Director Armitage | Yes | Director Braunstein | Yes |
| Director Colley | Absent | Director Cooper | Absent |
| Vice President Gutzeit | Yes | Director Marks | Yes |
| President Martin | Yes | Vice President Orzechowski | Yes |
| Director Petersen | Yes | | |

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-386

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY ESTABLISHING THE RATES OF RETAIL CAPACITY FEES FOR THE VALENCIA SERVICE AREA

[Link to Resolution No. SCV-386](#)

Fleet and Warehousing Supervisor Jesus Martinez Ramirez gave a Fleet Warehousing Presentation (Item 7).

General Manager's Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 8).

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

He reported that he attended the September 20-21, 2023 Board meetings of the State Water Contractors Board and Delta Conveyance Finance Authority. He mentioned that at the State Water Contractors meeting, there was a presentation from Deputy DWR Director Ted Craddock on operational issues and DWR's strategic plan. He advised that he shared that information with the SCV Water Executive Team at their meeting on September 26, 2023. Additionally at that meeting, he mentioned that the Executive Team received an excellent presentation from SCV Water's Human Resources staff regarding potential resources for staff training and development. Lastly, he mentioned that the SCV Water Health and Wellness Fair was on September 27, 2023 and that due to an illness he was unable to attend but heard it went well and was well attended.

To hear the full report, please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water Website.

Committee Meeting Recap Report for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).

There were no comments on the recap report.

Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 10).

Director Armitage made comments on the Finance, Administration and Technology Services Section Report pertaining to centralized purchasing of supplies, the Rate Payer Assistance Program and the recruitment of additional interns. She also commented on the Treatment, Distribution, Operations and Maintenance Section Report regarding the reportable incidences during the month of August 2023 being at zero. And lastly, she commented on the Water Resources and Outreach Section report regarding the continued outreach to the HOA's and staff's attendance at the Bark Park event held at the Promenade Apartments at Town Center.

Vice President Orzechowski asked about staff's attendance at the California Water Data Summit.

To hear the full comments, please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water Website.

There were no other comments on the written reports.

President's Report (Item 11).

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).

Director Armitage reported that she virtually attended the Executive Committee meeting of the Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County on September 20, 2023.

Director Marks reported that he attended the VIA Tour of the Sheriff's Station on Newhall Ranch Road on September 28, 2023.

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he attended the SCV GSA Board meeting held at the RVWTP in the Boardroom on October 2, 2023 and virtually attended the Southern California Water Innovation Matters Webinar on September 21, 2023.

Director Braunstein reported that she virtually attended a One-on-One meeting with the General Manager on October 3, 2023.

President Martin reported that he attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at the RVWTP in the Boardroom on October 2, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 13).

Director Armitage was happy to hear that SCV Water participated in the 29th Annual Pow Wow held at Hart Park this past weekend. She thanked staff for their presence and being a face in the community.

Director Martin asked Assistant General Manager (AGM) Steve Cole about the upcoming meeting on the Bouquet Creek Project. The AGM stated that on October 4, 2023 at Grace Baptist Church from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, the Los Angeles County Supervisor's office will be presenting an update to the community on the Bouquet Creek Project.

To hear the Directors report in their entirety, please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water Website.

There were no other Director reports.

Director Requests For Approval for Event Attendance (Item 14).

There were no requests for future Agenda Items.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM (Item 15).

April Jacobs

April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Gary R Martin

President of the Board

