

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – December 19, 2023

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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, December 19, 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, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Beth Braunstein.

Also present: Administrative Services Manager Kim Grass, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Communications Manager Kevin Strauss, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Tom Bunn (virtually), General Manager Matthew Stone, Human Resources Manager Ari Mantis, Information Technology Technician I Oliver Molina, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Means Consulting President Ed Means, 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 December 19, 2023 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

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President Martin opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 PM regarding an Ordinance to increase the Director’s compensation rate. President Martin presented the report, attachments and revised Ordinance for consideration. (Item 5.1).

President Martin closed the Public Hearing at 6:22 PM.

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board approved the revised Ordinance No. 03 increasing the Directors compensation by 6.7 percent, rounded down to the nearest dollar, bringing the monthly stipend from \$239 per meeting to \$255 per meeting, maximum of 10 meetings per month, one meeting per day, taking effect in 60 days from today by the following roll call votes (Item 5.1):

Director Armitage	No	Director Braunstein	Absent
Director Colley	No	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	No		

**ORDINANCE NO. 03**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
TO INCREASE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

**FULL ORDINANCE MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE**

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Upon motion of Director Armitage, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution No. SCV-396 and with the addition of the following language to the December 5, 2023 regular Board meeting minutes under Item 6.6:

- Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved moving forward with issuing a Request for Proposals to remodel the existing Boardroom **which would include the addition of a multipurpose room to be used by the Board for Closed Session and staff for meetings during the day** by the following roll call votes (Item 6.6):

by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

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

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-396**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
PURSUANT TO A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION UNDER CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION  
15301, AND A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION UNDER NEPA, FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE  
PURCHASE OF A DENORA CLORTEC ONSITE SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE GENERATION  
SYSTEM FOR THE LOWER HERON RESIDUAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LHRMS)**

**FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE**

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Upon motion of Director Petersen, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved the HCM Implementation project costs of \$2,217,235 and authorized the General Manager to enter into a contract with Apps Associates for a fixed contract cost of \$1,791,460 by the following roll call votes (Item 7.1):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Absent
Director Colley	No	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes

President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Petersen and carried, the Board approved receiving and filing of the SCV Water Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 by the following roll call votes (Item 7.2):

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

Upon motion of Director Colley, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved adopting Resolution No. SCV-397 declaring pursuant to Government Code section 54221 that certain real property located on the border of Kings County and Kern County along State Highway 33 comprising approximately 182 parcels is exempt surplus land and finding that such declaration is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act by the following roll call votes (Item 7.3):

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

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-397**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54221 DECLARING THAT CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE BORDER OF KINGS COUNTY AND KERN COUNTY ALONG STATE HIGHWAY 33 COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 182 PARCELS IS EXEMPT SURPLUS LAND, AND FINDING THAT SUCH DECLARATION IS EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**[FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE](#)**

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Means Consulting President Ed Means presented the Draft 2024-2028 Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Strategic Plan (Item 8).

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**General Manager's Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 9).**

The General Manager reported on the following:

He congratulated Rochelle Patterson and staff for the successful annual audit that just took place.

He mentioned the following meetings in which he participated which included, attendance at the Safe Clean Water Program Scoring Committee; by-Weekly PFAS Team meeting this past Friday; SCV Water Agency's Holiday Party; follow-up meeting with Mitch Rosenberg and Erin Hastey on his recent review; One-on-One meeting with Vice President Orzechowski; and a meeting with Steve Cole, Mike Alvord, and Keith Abercrombie who met with Counsel for the PFAS Class Action Lawsuit preparing for the upcoming potential claim settlement submissions

He advised the Board on the potential utilization of the Devil's Den Water District Property in which the Board acted on tonight. He stated that they set in motion necessary steps for staff to start the process and potential options will be coming back to the Board at a future meeting.

He informed the Board that due to the Treasurer of the Urban Water Institute becoming ill, there was a need to have someone step into his position which created some banking issues and as a result there was an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee and subsequent emergency meeting of the Board.

Finally, he updated the Board on the February 21-23, 2024 Urban Water Institute upcoming conference.

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.

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**Committee Meeting Recap Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 10).**

There were no comments on the recap reports.

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**President's Report (Item 11).**

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

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**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 December 13, 2023.

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he virtually attended a One-on-One meeting with the General Manager on December 11, 2023.

President Martin reported that he virtually attended the monthly meeting with DCA Executive Director Graham Bradner on December 8, 2023, attended the City of Santa Clarita's City Council's Organizational meeting held at the City of Santa Clarita on December 12, 2023 where he presented a certificate to the outgoing Mayor Jason Gibb and attended the DCA Board meeting in Sacramento on December 14, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

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**Director Reports (Item 13).**

Director Armitage wished everyone a happy holiday season.

There were no other Director reports.

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The Board went into Closed Session at 8:06 PM to discuss Item 14.1:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Enrique Morales Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Personal Injury and Property Damage, Date of Claim December 5, 2023.

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 8:11 PM.

Tom Bunn, Esq., reported that regarding Item 14.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Enrique Morales Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Personal Injury and Property Damage, Date of Claim December 5, 2023, the Board unanimously voted to reject the claim and submit it to the Agency's Joint Powers Insurance Authority, upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Marks and carried, by the following roll call votes:

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

There were no other actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 15).

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**Director Requests for Future Agenda Items (Item 16).**

There were no requests for future Agenda items.

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The meeting was adjourned in memory of Elinor A. Bunn at 8:17 PM (Item 17).

Signature on File

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April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signature on File  
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President of the Board

