

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – January 16, 2024

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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, January 16, 2024. 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, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

Also present: 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, General Counsel Tom Bunn, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Department of Water Resources Environmental Program Manager Carrie Buckman, Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Executive Director Graham Bradner, as well as additional Consultants (Virtually), 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 January 16, 2024 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

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Assistant General Manager Steve Cole gave a preliminary presentation and introduced the Department of Water Resources Environmental Program Manager Carrie Buckman and Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Executive Director Graham Bradner who gave the Board an update on the Delta Conveyance Project. Public Comment was received in writing and verbally regarding this item (Item 5).

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Upon motion of Director Marks, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board pulled Item 6.4 for further discussion and approved the remaining Consent Calendar which included Resolution Nos. SCV-398, SCV-400, SCV-401, SCV-402, SCV-403 and SCV-404 by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
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-398**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
AUTHORIZING SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY TO  
EXECUTE A NON-EXCLUSIVE ACCESS LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES  
SMSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS AND FINDING THAT THE  
CONTRACT IS EXEMPT FROM CEQA PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION  
5061(b)(3)**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-400**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
PURSUANT TO A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION UNDER CEQA  
GUIDELINE SECTION 15301, AND A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
UNDER NEPA, AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR BELDOVE  
(COPPER HILL) 2 WATER STORAGE TANK COATING PROJECT TO  
SIMPSON SANDBLASTING & SPECIAL COATINGS, INC.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV- 401**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER TO KENNEDY JENKS CONSULTANTS  
FOR FINAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN PIPELINE (PHASES 1–3)  
INSPECTION ACCESS MODIFICATIONS PROJECT; AND FINDING THE PROJECT  
CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTIONS 15301 AND 15303**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-402**

**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, AWARDED A CONTRACT  
FOR RIO VISTA WATER TREATMENT PLANT PLC CONTROLLER UPGRADE PROJECT  
TO ROYAL INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-403**

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ACTING IN BEHALF OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL FUND, LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY, SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND THE GOVERNING BODIES OF GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT, CITY OF SANTA CLARITA, SANTA CLARITA STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 2, SANTA CLARITA LIBRARY, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY RESULTING FROM ANNEXATION TO SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT ANNEXATION NO. 1135**

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

**RESOLUTION SCV-404**

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ACTING IN BEHALF OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL FUND, LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND THE GOVERNING BODIES OF GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT, ANTELOPE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CITY OF SANTA CLARITA SANTA CLARITA LIBRARY, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY APPROVING AND ACCEPTING NEGOTIATED EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES RESULTING FROM ANNEXATION TO SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT. ANNEXATION NO. 1136**

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

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Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-399 adopting the Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program under the California Environmental Quality Act and approved authorizing a purchase order to Kennedy Jenks Consultants Inc for an amount not to exceed of \$370,000 for final engineering services for the Honby Tank Pipeline Improvement Project by the following roll call votes (Item 6.4):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
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-399**

**RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTING THE FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (SCH # 2023090505) AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM AND**

**APPROVAL OF A PURCHASE ORDER FOR FINAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR HONBY TANK  
PIPELINE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

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

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**General Manager's Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 7).**

The General Manager reported on the following:

He provided a brief update on the status of the SCVWA vs. Whittaker case.

He advised the Board that he had an opportunity to meet with MWD General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, where they provided updates of their respective Agencies, discussed a number of water resource issues including projects of mutual interest.

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 Report for Informational Purposes Only (Item 8).**

There were no comments on the recap report.

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**President's Report (Item 9).**

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

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**AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 10).**

A written report was submitted by Vice President Gutzeit which was included in the Board packet and is part of the record.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at the RVWTP in the Boardroom on January 8, 2024 and attended the ACWA Region 8 Board meeting held at the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District on January 11, 2024.

Director Marks reported that he attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at the RVWTP in the Boardroom on January 8, 2024 and virtually attended the ACWA SGMA Implementation Sub-Committee on January 16, 2024.

Director Armitage reported that she virtually attended a meeting with another member of the Executive Committee of the Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County on January 9, 2024 regarding their Strategic Plan and attended a One-on-One meeting with General Manager Stone held at the Agency on January 16, 2024.

President Martin reported that he attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at the RVWTP in the Boardroom on January 8, 2024, virtually attended his monthly meeting with Graham Bradner on January 9, 2023 and virtually attended the DCA Board Prep meeting on January 12, 2024.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

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### **Director Reports (Item 11).**

Director Armitage stated she felt that the Popular Annual Financial Report was a great document with a lot of great information and is looking forward to getting a hard copy.

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 Director reports.

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The Board went into Closed Session at 8:31 PM to discuss Item 12.1:

#### **Conference with Real Property Negotiators**

**Property:** Devil's Den Water District Property Encompassing Approx. 7,961 Acres Located in Kings and Kern Counties Along Hwy 33 North of Twisselman Road and South of Route 41

**Agency Negotiators:** Assistant General Manager Stephen L. Cole, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, and Water Resources Planner Rick Vasilopoulos

**Negotiating Parties:** Intersect Power

**Under Negotiation:** Price and Terms of Payment

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 9:25 PM.

Tom Bunn, Esq., reported that there were no actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 13).

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### **Director Requests for Future Agenda Items (Item 14).**

There were no requests for future Agenda items.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 PM (Item 15).

Signature on File  
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April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signature on File  
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President of the Board

