

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – March 7, 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, March 7, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Ed Colley.

Also present: Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael (Via Zoom), Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Tom Bunn (Via Zoom) and Joe Byrne, Engineer Mark Aumentado (Via Zoom), General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Principal Engineer Jason Yim, Attorney from Fozi Dwork & Modafferi, LLP Golnar Fozi, as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff and members of the public.

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

There were no changes to the March 7, 2023 Amended Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution No. SCV-335 by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

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

*Director Petersen abstained from voting on Item 5.1.

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-335

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
TO DECLARE INTENT TO REIMBURSE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
FOR A GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PROJECT
USING INCENTIVE GRANT AND LOAN FUNDS
FROM THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
TO COMPLY WITH INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE REGULATIONS**

<https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/approved-resolutions/scv/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-030723-Resolution-SCV-335.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Gutzeit and carried, the Board adopted (1) Resolution No. SCV-336 adopting the Addendum to the Mission Village EIR, approving the Backcountry Reservoir and Backcountry Pump Station Projects, and adopting the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Backcountry Reservoir and Backcountry Pump Station projects and (2) Resolution No. SCV-337 authorizing a purchase order to Michael Baker International, Inc., for an amount not-to-exceed \$1,500,000 for final design services for the Backcountry Reservoir project and purchase order to Cannon Corporation for an amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000 for final design services for the Backcountry Pump Station project by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

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

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-336

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
ADOPTING THE ADDENDUM TO THE MISSION VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT, APPROVING THE BACKCOUNTRY RESERVOIR AND BACKCOUNTRY PUMP
STATION PROJECT, AND ADOPTING THE MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING
PROGRAM UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
FOR THE PROJECT**

<https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/approved-resolutions/scv/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-030723-Resolution-SCV-336.pdf>

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-337

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER TO CANNON CORPORATION FOR
FINAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY PUMP STATION PROJECT AND
PURCHASE ORDER TO MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC. FOR
FINAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY RESERVOIR**

<https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/approved-resolutions/scv/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-030723-Resolution-SCV-337.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Petersen, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board received and filed the December 2022 Monthly and FY 2022/23 Midyear and Second Quarter Financial Report by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Absent	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes

President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

Upon motion of Vice President Gutzeit, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved amending the Board Policies and Procedures Manual to add the following sentence to the end of Section III(A)(1), "Directors may participate in a Board meeting remotely for just cause or due to emergency circumstances pursuant to the provision of Government Code Section 54953(f)", the Board also asked staff to prepare a clarifying fact sheet distributed to the Board and note that this approval does not apply to Committee meetings by the following roll call votes (Item 6.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Absent	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 Marks and carried, the Board approved amending the Board Policies and Procedures Manual, Directors Compensation and Expense Reimbursement Section (IV(G)(2 and 3) – Category 2, Single Day Events, removing the 12 day limits on attendance for single day events and allowing Directors to attend as many single day events, from the approved list, as they would like by the following roll call votes (Item 6.4):

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

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

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

He gave the Board a report on his participation in the Urban Water Institute Conference, which took place in Palm Springs from February 22–24, 2023. He noted that there were a number of worthwhile panels, and that he took part in one as a panelist alongside the General Managers of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Rancho California Water District, and San Juan Water District. He gave a brief update on the conference.

Finally, he mentioned the Board's Team Building Workshop that took place on March 3, 2023, expressing his gratitude for everyone on the Board's openness and readiness to engage and participate. To hear the full report please refer to the Board recording at <https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-030723.mp3>.

Committee Meeting Recap Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 8).

Vice President Orzechowski had a question regarding Item 8.2, the February 16, 2023 Public Outreach and Legislation Committee Meeting recap report, pertaining to the Crisis Communication Plan.

Director Armitage had a few comments regarding Item 8.1, the February 8, 2023 Water Resources and Watershed Committee Meeting Recap Report regarding, the GoldSim Model Development.

To hear Vice President Orzechowski and Director Armitage's full comments in their entirety, please refer to the Board recording at <https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-030723.mp3>.

There were no other comments on the recap reports.

Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).

Vice President Orzechowski had a question on Item 9.2, the Finance, Administration and Information Technology Section Report, regarding soft training skills for employees.

Director Armitage had a few questions and comments on Item 9.2, the Finance, Administration and Information Technology Section Report, commenting on (1) the outreach to residential customers who have had their water services disconnected more than once, (2) IT's team work on cyber security, (3) acknowledged the first College of the Canyons student chosen for the Automotive Internship Program, and (4) expressed her satisfaction with the installation of ADA operators and push plates at Rio Vista and Rockefeller's main entrance.

For the Water Resources and Outreach Section report she had questions on the Conservation Communications Study and commented on the HOA's converting their large areas to turf and drought tolerant and native plants in their landscaping.

To hear Vice President Orzechowski and Director Armitage's full comments in their entirety, please refer to the Board recording at <https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-030723.mp3>.

There were no other comments on the written reports.

President's Report (Item 10).

The President updated the Board on upcoming meetings, events and miscellaneous items.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).

A written report was submitted by President Martin which was included in the Board packet. Additional written reports were submitted by Vice President Gutzeit and Director Petersen which were posted to the SCV Water website and are part of the record.

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he attended the SCV Chamber Centennial Celebration Awards and Installation held at the Valencia Hyatt on February 23, 2023 and attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant on March 6, 2023.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant on March 6, 2023.

Vice President Gutzeit reported that she attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant on March 6, 2023.

President Martin reported that he attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant on March 6, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 12).

Director Braunstein acknowledged the new SCV Water website, she stated it is “phenomenal”.

Director Armitage mentioned that last week was International Engineers Week and asked that staff pass on the Board’s appreciation to the SCV Water Engineers.

To hear the Directors report in their entity, please refer to the Board meeting recording at <https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-030723.mp3>.

There were no other Director reports.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:36 PM to discuss Item 13.1 (Item 13).

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.

Joe Byrne, Esq., reported that there were no actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 14).

Director Requests For Approval For Event Attendance (Item 15).

Director Marks asked for permission to attend the Council for Watershed Health's Water Talks Workshop 3: Tour of Santa Clara River Projects for Municipalities, Agencies and Elected's being held on March 15, 2023. Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Braunstein, the Board approved full Board participation for this event by the following roll call votes:

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

There were no other requests for approval for event attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM (Item 16).



April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:



President of the Board

