

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – April 5, 2022

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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 6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Armitage (Via Zoom), B. J. Atkins, Beth Braunstein (Via Zoom), William Cooper, Jeff Ford, Jerry Gladbach, R. J. Kelly, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Lynne Plambeck.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Ed Colley.

Also present: Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Alvord, Director of Technology Services Cris Perez, Engineer Robert Banuelos, General Counsel Tom Bunn and Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Supervisor Jeff Herbert, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Interim Director of Water Resources Dirk Marks, Water Resources Planner Rick Vasilopoulos, several SCV Water Agency staff and members of the public.

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present.

President Martin announced that there were no changes to the April 5, 2022 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown. However, he did mention that there was a revised staff report on Item 6.4 and a staff report and PowerPoint handed out for Item 7 all of which were posted to the SCV Water Website and sent out via email (Item 4).

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Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar with the following two additions to the March 15, 2022 meeting minutes:

Under Item 7.4 – Add the wording **“with the public having the option to participate in-person or hybrid”**, after the wording “with SCV Water’s first anticipated in-person meeting being the April 5, 2022 regular Board meeting”.

Under Item 12 – Add, **“Director Armitage asked for information on what the process is for filing a seat for Directors who resign in their first two years of their term.”**

by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Absent
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

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Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Orzechowski and carried, the Board (1) approved Resolution No. SCV-268 awarding funding in an amount not to exceed \$12,751,494 for construction costs to Zim Industries, Inc., (2) authorized the General Manager to issue a purchase order for an amount not to exceed \$343,000 for engineering during construction and inspection services to Richard C. Slade & Associates LLC and (3) issued a purchase order for an amount not to exceed \$914,000 for construction management services to Black & Veatch for the Saugus #3 and #4 Wells Construction (Replacement Wells) Project by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	No
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Absent
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-268**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
APPROVING FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO  
THE ZIM INDUSTRIES, INC., FOR THE SAUGUS #3 & #4 WELLS  
CONSTRUCTION (REPLACEMENT WELLS) PROJECT**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-040522-Resolution-SCV-268-2.pdf>**

Upon motion of Director Ford, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. SCV-269 approving the Water Supply Assessment for the Castaic Mountainview Apartment Project and directed staff to forward the WSA to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning with the addition to the transmittal letter a statement that would emphasize the importance of the County and City to enforce AB 1881 Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance provision and the conditions of development by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

Director Armitage	No	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	No	Director Colley	Absent
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	No		

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-269**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
ADOPTING THE SB 610 WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT  
FOR CASTAIC MOUNTAINVIEW APARTMENT PROJECT**

**(COUNTY PROJECT NO. R2014-01512-(5))**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-040522-Resolution-SCV-269-2.pdf>**

Upon motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Ford and carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. SCV-270 approving the Water Supply Assessment for the Lyons Canyon Development and directed staff to forward the WSA to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning with the addition to the transmittal letter a statement that would emphasize the importance of the County and City to enforce AB 1881 Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance provision and the conditions of development by the following roll call votes (Item 6.3):

Director Armitage	No	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	No	Director Colley	Absent
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	No		

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-270**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
ADOPTING THE SB 610 WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE LYONS CANYON DEVELOPMENT  
(COUNTY PROJECT NO. 2021-001195)**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-040522-Resolution-SCV-270-2.pdf>**

Upon motion of Director Kelly, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved a cost-of-living adjustment of a 5.5% increase for FY 2022/23 for all employees except the General Manager by the following roll call votes (Item 6.4):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Absent
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

Upon motion of Director Plambeck, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. SCV-271 authorizing the time change of regular Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Board meetings from 6:30 PM to 6:00 PM effective at the April 19, 2022 regular Board meeting with the addition of a recital that states "WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board that Board meetings end at a more reasonable time" by the following roll call votes (Item 6.5):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Absent
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes

Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

### RESOLUTION NO. SCV-271

#### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE TIME CHANGE OF THE REGULAR SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-040522-Resolution-SCV-271-1.pdf>

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Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell gave an informational report on examples of Ratepayer Assistance Programs. Directors discussed and gave staff some suggestions and guidance (Item 7).

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

There were no comments on the recap reports.

#### **Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).**

Director Armitage raised questions about the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program's that was mentioned in the Finance, Administration, and Information Technology Section Report. She also provided some thoughts on the report from the Water Resources and Outreach Section report. She expressed her enthusiasm for the lawn replacement program, stating that she had recently completed it, and that she was pleased to see the outreach to Homeowners Associations to promote the Purple Prep Recycled Water Conservation Program. Finally, she expressed her delight to see that we are not only involved with the SCV Home & Garden Show and ACWA Conference, but also with the Placerita Canyon Open House.

There were no other comments on the written reports.

#### **General Manager's Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 10)**

The General Manager reported the following:

First, he welcomed the Board back to live meetings.

He mentioned his short vacation last week and wanted to thank Assistant Manager Steve Cole and the entire team for handling things while he was away.

Next, he advised the Board that staff returned to their regular workplace schedules this week. Informing the Board that in the last several weeks SCV Water had received no additional COVID cases, although County Health reported numbers have bounced up a bit and the decline in hospitalizations has slowed in recent days. He remains cautiously optimistic, and glad for the reprieve after just over two years of various operational adjustments. He stated that it is nice to see people in 3D again.

He then updated the Board on the drought in California, stating that despite a stormy Monday last week, the Governor took further action to call on local water agencies to go to the 20% stage of their water shortage contingency plans, in light of the alarmingly dry spring and disappearing snowpack. Staff will be bringing an item related to this request to the Water Resources and Watershed Committee next week, and then to the full Board for consideration.

Next, he said on somewhat of a more hopeful note, after several years of efforts to put together a package of measures that would provide an alternative to proposed flow reductions as part of the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed updated Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, the State and Federal administrations and key water rights holders announced a milestone in developing a Term Sheet for the Voluntary Agreements Program to Update and Implement the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

He explained that the State Water Resources Control Board is required to update its Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan to protect native fish, wildlife and other "beneficial uses" of water, including municipal, domestic and agricultural water supplies, stating that the MOU signed last week seeks to meet those objectives through an integrated program that includes habitat creation, new flows for the environment above existing regulatory requirements, funding for environmental improvements and water purchases, and a new collaborative science program for monitoring and adaptive management. Habitat creation would range from targeted improvements in tributaries to large landscape-level restoration in the Sacramento Valley. Improvements include creation of spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and smelt, completion of high priority fish screen projects, restoration and reactivation of flood plains, projects to address predation, and fish passage improvements.

Further he mentioned that the local water agency managers who signed the MOU have committed to bring the terms of the MOU to their Boards of Directors for their endorsement and to work to settle litigation over endangered species protections in the Delta. While this is a milestone in the process, it is not the end point. He informed the Board that staff will be providing an update to the Water Resources and Watershed Committee or the Board at the appropriate time.

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

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

He updated the Board on Director Armitage's request pertaining to timing of vacancies and appointments. He stated that the general rule is that if a vacancy occurs on the Board in the first two years of a four year term, and it occurs 130 days or more before the next general election, the vacant seat would be on that next election. If someone were appointed to fill the

vacancy, they would serve until the end of that year. For example, if an elected director were to resign today who's term ends in 2024, that seat would be up for election on the 2022 November ballot. If someone was appointed to fill the seat, that person would serve until the end of 2022. If the vacancy occurs less than 130 days before the next general election or anytime in the second half of a 4-year term, whomever is appointed would serve the remainder of the 4-year term.

In response to Director Armitage's question on timeline, the information received was that "as for the occurrence of a vacancy prior to the November 8, 2022 General Election and pursuant to GC 1780(d)(2), the 130<sup>th</sup> day includes July 1, 2022." Based on the Los Angeles County Registrar Records office, "the long-standing interpretation of such statutory language, the last moment a Director may resign in this timeline is 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2022."

President Martin also advised the Board that the Notice of Vacancy for the Division 3 seat would be published on April 6, 2022 in *The Signal* and several other media outlets will receive a press release on the vacancy. It will also be posted to the SCV Water website, all SCV Water locations, will appear on our social media accounts and emailed to those who receive the Water Currents

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#### **AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).**

A written report was submitted by Director Plambeck which was included in the Board packet. Additional written reports were submitted by President Martin, Vice President Gladbach and Director Armitage which were posted on the SCV Water website and are part of the record.

Director Atkins reported that he attended the Southern California Water Dialogue meeting held virtually on March 23, 2022.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the SCV Chamber of Commerce 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards and Installation held at the Valencia Hyatt on March 18, 2022, attended the ACWA Board meeting in Sacramento on March 24 and 25, 2022 and attended the special SCV GSA Board meeting held at the Agency on March 30, 2022.

President Martin reported that he attended the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Board of Directors meeting held virtually on March 17, 2022, attended the SCV Chamber of Commerce 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards and Installation held at the Valencia Hyatt on March 18, 2022 and attended the special SCV GSA Board meeting held at the Agency on March 30, 2022.

Director Orzechowski reported that he attended the SCV Chamber of Commerce 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards and Installation held at the Valencia Hyatt on March 18, 2022.

Director Kelly reported that he attended the SCV Chamber of Commerce 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards and Installation held at the Valencia Hyatt on March 18, 2022.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

**Director Reports (Item 13).**

Director Armitage thanked staff for getting the Hybrid meetings in place and shared information on the Special District Leadership Foundations District Transparency Certificate of Excellence and how happy she is we are a certificate holder. Lastly, she advised staff while attending the Special District Leadership Academy this week, they were giving homework assignments so they will be coming back to staff with questions.

Vice President Gladbach thanked both Directors Armitage and Braunstein on attending the SDLF Leadership Academy this week and was glad they were getting a lot from their attendance, he mentioned that he was a member of the six member task force that put that together.

There were no other Director reports.

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

There were no Director requests for event attendance.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM (Item 15).

  
April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
President of the Board

