

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – May 2, 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, May 2, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Armitage, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Maria Gutzeit and Dirk Marks.

Also present: Assistant General Manager Steve Cole (Via Zoom), Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Alvord (Via Zoom), Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Engineer Wai Lan Lee (Via Zoom), General Counsel Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Attorney from Best Best & Krieger Lufti Kharuf, as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff (Via Zoom) and members of the public (both in person and Via Zoom).

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. A quorum was present.

There were no changes to the May 2, 2023 Board Amended Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

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Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

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

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Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Petersen and carried, the Board approved (1) adopting Resolution No. SCV-346 authorizing a purchase order to Hunsaker & Associates Los Angeles, Inc. for an amount not to exceed of \$140,000 for planning services for the N-Wells Drainage Improvements Project and (2) found that approval of the proposed action is exempt from the CEQA review, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15262, because the project only involves feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the Agency has not approved, adopted, or funded by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

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

President Martin  
Director Petersen

Yes  
Yes

Vice President Orzechowski Yes

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-346**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY,  
AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER  
TO HUNSAKER & ASSOCIATES LOS ANGELES, INC.  
FOR PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE  
N WELLS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT,  
AND FINDING THAT THE AUTHORIZATION IS NOT A PROJECT  
SUBJECT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15262**

**<https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/approved-resolutions/scv/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-050223-Resolution-SCV-346.pdf>**

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

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

He updated the Board on the April 19-20, 2023 State Water Contractors meeting which was held in Kern County this past month. He advised that DWR provided a tour of the Edmonston Pumping Plant, which lifts water over 2,000 feet over the Tehachapi's. They were also able to visit DWR's apprenticeship training facility where they partner with community colleges to develop the specialized technical skills required to operate and maintain the massive equipment and system on the aqueduct and pumping plants.

He then mentioned that on March 26, 2023, he and President Martin, Director Marks and Assistant General Manager Steve Cole took a tour of some of the alignments and potential facility sites for the Delta Conveyance Facility. He shared that the tour included stops at the Bethany Reservoir as well as the Twin Lakes Road region where a tunnel portal shaft may be located, and where a rotating fish screen manufacturer who explained some of the potential benefits of that particular screening system. They also saw videos about the State Water Project and the potential facilities.

To hear the full report in its entirety, please refer to the Board recording at **<https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-050223.mp3>**.

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

Director Armitage had a comment on the April 20, 2023 Public Outreach and Legislative Committee Recap Report pertaining to the recent Agency hosted Arundo Tour with the City.

Vice President Orzechowski had a comment on the April 20, 2023 Public Outreach and Legislative Committee Recap Report pertaining to the water refill stations that were at both the

Cowboy Festival and the Home and Garden Show. He asked about attaching a flow meter to the refill stations so that we can capture the volume served and how that compares to how many 16 fluid oz. plastics bottles would have been used.

To hear the Directors full comments in their entity, please refer to the Board recording at <https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-050223.mp3>.

There were no other comments on the recap reports.

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**Written reports for informational purposes only (Item 9).**

Director Armitage had comments on Item 9.2 Finance, Administration and Information Technology Services Section Report pertaining to the collection of data and outreach to customers who fall in the low income category and making sure those customers are aware of the low income housing assistance program. Next, she mentioned that she was happy to see the customer care team at the Famers Market in Canyon Country and Newhall. Lastly, she had comments on Item 9.4 Water Resources and Outreach Section report relating to the Garden Smarter Publication.

Vice President Orzechowski had comments on Item 9.2 Finance, Administration and Information Technology Services Section Report relating to shut offs. He would like to see a graph for the entire year that displays the monthly number along with an asterisk to indicate accounts that are repeating. He is interested in how that changes from fiscal year to fiscal year over the course of a 12-month period. Additionally, he wants staff to contact lawmakers about the rate increase that will take effect on July 1, 2023.

To hear the Directors 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-050223.mp3>.

There were no other comments on the recap reports.

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**President's Report (Item 10).**

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

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**AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).**

A written report was submitted by President Martin which was posted to the SCV Water website and is part of the record.

Director Armitage reported that she virtually attended the Executive Committee Meeting of the Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County on April 19, 2023 and attended a

rescheduled field trip from the Water Talks Webinar hosted by the Tree People of the Santa Clara River Arundo on April 20, 2023.  
There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

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The Board went into Closed Session at 6:51 PM to discuss Item 12.1 (Item 12).

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 7:49 PM.

Joie Byrne, 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 Reports (Item 14).**

Director Armitage shared that the Tree People have been hosting informative and valuable events in our area and recommends that the Board, if interested, should get on their email list so that they can be notified of upcoming events.

Director Braunstein thanked staff for their presence at both the Cowboy Festival and the Home and Garden show both were amazing, and staff did a great job.

There were no other Director reports.

To hear the Directors 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-050223.mp3>.

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

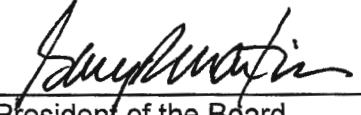
There were no requests for approval for event attendance.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM (Item 16).

  
April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
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President of the Board

