

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – December 5, 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, December 5, 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, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

Also present: Administrative Services Manager Kim Grass, Administrative Technician Terri Bell, 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, Customer Services Manager Kathleen Willson, Director of Technology Services Cris Perez, Facilities Supervisor Roland Valiente, Fleet and Warehousing Supervisor Jesus Martinez Ramiez, General Counsel Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Human Resources Manager Ari Mantis, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Senior Engineer Orlando Moreno, 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 6:02 PM. A quorum was present.

There were no changes to the December 5, 2023 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar excluding Item 5.2 Approve a Revised Employee Manual No. 10.0 – Overtime Policy, which was pulled for further discussion, by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

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		

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved revising Employee Manual No. 10 – Overtime Policy by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

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		

Upon motion of Director Armitage, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved the November 21, 2023 regular Board meeting minutes by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

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

Upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. SCV-395 approving the SB 221 Water Supply Verification for the Tesoro Del Valle (Areas B & C) Development and directed staff to forward the Water Supply Verification to the City of Santa Clarita Planning Department by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

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-395

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
ADOPTING THE SB 221 WATER SUPPLY VERIFICATION
FOR TESORO DEL VALLE (AREAS B & C)
(TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 51644-1)**

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

Upon motion of Director Petersen, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board authorized the General Manager to approve a \$2.5 million purchase order to Salinas Valley Ford replace up to 37 vehicles as part of the Agency’s compliance plan with the new Advanced Clean Fleets regulation by the following roll call votes (Item 6.3):

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		

Upon motion of Director Petersen, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a one-year maintenance and support agreement with S&S in the amount of \$537,323 for enQuesta customer service system maintenance and support 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		

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board received and filed the September 2023 Monthly and FY 2023/24 First Quarter Financial Report by the following roll call votes (Item 6.5):

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		

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 both the Board for Closed Session and staff for meetings during the day by the following roll call votes (Item 6.6):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	No
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 Petersen, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved an increase in the General Manager's salary from \$27,000 per month to \$30,000 per month, annual salary increased to \$360,000 which is an 11.11 percent increase effective December 30, 2023, by the following roll call votes (Item 7.1):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	No	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 8).

The General Manager reported on the following:

He thanked the Board for consideration and discussion on his increase this evening and thanked the staff for their presentations tonight.

He mentioned that previously, SCV Water had joined a group of water agencies from across California and the west as part of the Water Advisory Group for the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at Scripps Institute for Oceanography in San Diego. Both him and Najwa Pitois had an opportunity to attend a fall WAG meeting last Monday afternoon where they received updates from the Director of the National Weather Service office of Weather Prediction on a winter precipitation preview and atmospheric river reconnaissance briefing from two (2) C3WE staff researchers.

He stated that this year there may be a period where flights out of Hawaii are further augmented with flights out of Guam (contingent on resources and Air Force priorities at the time), which could give them a glimpse into whether further westward measurements could enhance forecasting horizons.

He then updated the Board on staff and the Boards attendance at the ACWA 2023 Fall Conference in Indian Wells. He told the Board that he attended a briefing on the status of the Delta Conveyance project hosted by DWR and the DCA. He informed them that the final EIR for the project should be released sometime this month. He further mentioned that later in 2024, the federal EIS and record of decision would be completed and upcoming activities expected in 2024, include initiation of the required change petition to the State Water Board for the existing water rights permit (to address the additional diversion point), completion of an updated cost estimate and economic analysis.

In addition, while at ACWA our water resources team, including Steve Cole, Ali Elhassan and Najwa Pitois set up a series of meetings with some of SCV Water's key partners in water transfers, exchanges and banking projects. These included meetings with AVEK, Rosedale-Rio Bravo, the Westside Water Agencies, and others.

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.

Committee Meeting Recap Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).

There were no comments on the Committee Meeting Recap Reports.

Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 10).

Director Armitage had comments on the Water Resources and Outreach Section Report which included a question on the Recycled Water Master Plan Stakeholder engagement, commented on staff's new effort on highlighting various customers and customer groups for all they do to conserve water, staff working with the HOA's hosting the "Coffee and Conservation" pop-ups, and how glad she was that staff met with three native plant experts to determine support needs for the Bridgeport Park Sustainability Demonstration Garden.

To hear the full comment(s), 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 comments on the written reports.

President's Report (Item 11).

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).

There were two reports submitted by Vice President Gutzeit that were posted to the SCV Water website, handed out at tonight's meeting and are part of the record.

Director Braunstein reported that she attended the ACWA 2023 Fall Conference held in Indian Wells on November 28-30,2023.

Director Armitage reported that she attended the ACWA 2023 Fall Conference held in Indian Wells on November 28-30,2023.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the ACWA 2023 Fall Conference held in Indian Wells on November 28-30,2023 and attended a virtual meeting with ACWA on the GM Evaluation on December 4, 2023.

Director Marks reported that he attended the ACWA 2023 Fall Conference held in Indian Wells on November 28-30,2023.

President Martin reported that he attended the ACWA 2023 Fall Conference held in Indian Wells on November 27-30,2023 which included a meeting with the JPIA Board of Directors on November 27, 2023, and an ACWA Groundwater Committee meeting and ACWA Region meeting on November 28, 2023 and lastly attended a virtual one-on-one meeting with the General Manager on December 4, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 13).

Director Branstein thanked all the presenters for their presentations tonight, thanked the Green Team for their emails and mentioned the Annual Tamale Festive that was held in Indian Wells at ACWA where she visited the Indio's Water Authority booth. She also asked staff about the tablets for leak detection and wanted to know if the Agency does that. Staff mentioned that we do give out the tablets. And lastly, she wished all those who celebrate Hanukkah a very happy Hanukkah.

Director Colley shared a recent story about his daughter's father-in-law relating to great customer service he had received from our staff on a repair he needed done relating to his irrigation system. He was pleased by the excellent customer service that was provided by the Agency.

Director Armitage mentioned that she was a guest speaker at the Community Gardens of Santa Clarita where she talked about native plants and how important it is to include them in your green spaces. She mentioned that she also talked about how they can apply for rebates in their yards at home. She thanked Matt Dickens for his help in preparing her for the presentation.

To hear the Directors report in their entirety, 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.

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

There were no requests for event attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM in memory of Joseph Perry Irelan (Item 15).

Signature on File

April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signature on File

President of the Board

