

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – January 2, 2024

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 2, 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 (Virtually (AB 2449) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(f)(2)(i), “Just Cause”), Beth Braunstein, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit (Arrived at 6:05 PM), 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, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, Communications Manager Kevin Strauss, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Right A Way Agent Kristina Jacob (Virtually), Water Resources Planner Rick Vasilopoulos (Virtually), as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff (Virtually), and members of the public (Virtually).

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

There were no changes to the January 2, 2024 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 by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Absent	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Not Present	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 authorized the General Manager to execute a Third Amendment to the Deposit and Funding Agreement with DACA-Castaic, LLC through 2024 requiring a \$1 Million paydown of past carrying costs, final payment of all past carrying cost by December 2024, and continued payments of Interest on unpaid past carrying costs, current carry costs and option payments with CEQA Certification by end of 2025 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		

Upon motion of Director Marks, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved amending Section IV(D)(15) & (16) of the Board of Directors Policies and Procedures to increase the General Manager’s authority to grant easements, accept and acquire real property, and enter into license agreements that have a fair market value of \$150,000 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		

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

The General Manager reported on the following:

He wanted to alert the Board that on the SCV Water Website, the “Popular Annual Financial Report” is now available for viewing. It highlights important financial information on the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. He complimented the team that worked on the report.

He mentioned the beginning of the year snowpack and our banking programs. He stated updates will be coming to both the Water Resources and Watershed Committee and the Board as the year progresses.

He briefly stated that DWR recently certified its EIR for the Delta Conveyance Project, he said it will now move to the next steps and there will be updated cost estimates as well as cash flow projections. He advised the Board that probably sometime this spring this item will be coming back to the Board to determine if it wants to continue contribution/participation in this project. He added that all the participating contractors will be accessing that information and determining their continued participation at that time as well.

He briefly mentioned a video presentation that will be coming to the Board on what the Center for Western Water and Weather Extremes are doing.

Lastly, he wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

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 Report for Informational Purposes Only (Item 8).

There were no comments on the recap report.

Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).

President Orzechowski had comments on the Finance, Administrative and Information Technology Services Section Report pertaining to repeat shutoffs; staff's participation in the California Air Resources Board meeting (CARB); the online auction's for Agency's vehicles and equipment for disposal; and the fencing around the parking area at the Rockefeller location. He also had a question on Treatment, Distribution, Operations and Maintenance Section Report relating to upgrading wells with variable frequency drives (VFD).

There were no other comments on the written reports.

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.

President's Report (Item 10).

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).

President Martin reported that he attended the Urban Water Institutes Strategic Planning Workshop held in San Deigo on December 20-21, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 12).

Director Armitage wished everyone a happy and healthy 2024.

There were no other Director reports.

Director Requests for Approval for Event Attendance (Item 13).

There were no requests for approval for event attendance.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of David L. Brown at 6:41 PM (Item 14).

Signature on File

April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signature on File

President of the Board

