

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – February 7, 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, February 7, 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, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

Also present: 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 Kathie Martin, Customer Service Manager Kathleen Willson, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Human Resources Manager Ari Mantis, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates Consultant Lora Carpenter, as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff and members of the public.

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

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

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Upon motion of Vice President Gutzeit, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar excluding Item 5.4 "Approval of a resolution establishing a health reimbursement arrangement with IGOE for retired employees", 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 Resolution No. SCV-332 establishing the Agency's health reimbursement arrangement for Agency retirees with IGOE and authorized the General Manager to execute the agreement by the following roll call votes (Item 5.4):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	No	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Not Present*
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

\*Due to a possible conflict of interest Director Marks left the room during discussion and voting on this item.

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-332**

**A RESOLUTION  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
ESTABLISHING A HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT  
ARRANGEMENT (HRA) WITH IGOE FOR RETIRED  
EMPLOYEES**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-020723-Resolution-SCV-332a.pdf>**

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Upon motion of Director Petersen, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved the single financing plan scenario (Scenario 3A), financing schedule and to begin preparing legal documentation to issue a \$75 million bond in 2023 by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

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		

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

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

- On January 24, 2023, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan and himself visited the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency to discuss the Phase 2 High Desert Water Bank concept and review information on possible participation. He stated it was a very informative afternoon and staff will be providing some information to the Water Resources and Watershed Committee and ultimately the Board as the concept comes together over the next few months.
- On January 26, 2023, the Department of Water Resources announced that it was increasing the Table A water deliveries to State Water contracting agencies from the initial 5% to 30%. This allocation factored in the rainfall and reservoir storage levels with a degree of conservative hedging for the remaining season. It did not yet reflect the snowpack.
- On February 2 and 3, 2023, he participated in the State Water Contractors' Board strategic planning workshop, saying it was a good opportunity to focus on their successes and looking forward to coming challenges. The high-level priority categories

for the State Water Contractors include items related to water supply, energy, infrastructure, business processes, State Water Project Management, science and outreach.

- Lastly, he shared the SCV Water Agency 5-year anniversary video that was shown at the February 1, 2023 All Employee Meeting.

To hear the full report please refer to the Board recording at <https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/February-7-2023-SCV-Water-Regular-Board-Meeting.mp3>.

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

Director Braunstein thanked staff for the well written recap reports.

There were no other comments on the recap reports.

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

Director Armitage had a comment and a question on the Water Resources and Watershed Section Report. To hear Director Armitage's comments and question please refer to the Board recording at <https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/February-7-2023-SCV-Water-Regular-Board-Meeting.mp3>.

There were no other comments on the written reports.

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

The President updated the Board on upcoming meetings, events and miscellaneous items. To hear the full report please refer to the Board recording at <https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/February-7-2023-SCV-Water-Regular-Board-Meeting.mp3>

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

Written reports were submitted by President Martin, Vice President Gutzeit and Directors Marks and Petersen which were included in the Board packet.

Director Cooper reported that he attended a One-on-One meeting with the General Manager held in the General Manager's Conference Room at the RVWTP on January 9, 2023 and attended the ACWA Workshop held in Sacramento on February 2-3, 2023.

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he virtually attended the Southern California Water Dialogue meeting held on January 25, 2023.

Director Armitage reported that she virtually attended the Executive Committee Meeting of the Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County on January 19, 2023 and the General Membership meeting of the Special District Association of North Los Angeles County held at The Centre in Santa Clarita on January 25, 2023.

Director Braunstein reported that she virtually attended a One-on-One with the General Manager on January 23, 2023 and attended the General Membership meeting of the Special District Association of North Los Angeles County held at The Centre in Santa Clarita on January 25, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

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### **Director Reports (Item 12).**

Director Cooper gave a report on his attendance at the ACWA Workshop mentioning several items of interest.

- He discussed SB 23 which streamlines the permitting process.
- Updated the Board on the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Foundation that ACWA has helped establish.
- Mentioned that ACWA is working on a program similar to CSDA's Governance Program, advising that it will be more geared towards senior staff, will be a two-day program, and no Directors will be attending.
- Advised the Board on the ACWA DC Trip saying that it is closed and has 140 people registered to attend.
- Briefly discussed the 2024 Water Bond.
- Advised the Board that ACWA is asking attendees who register for the ACWA Conference's to sign a Code of Conduct.
- Lastly, informed the Board that the Agency will not be receiving any money back from the ACWA JPIA this year due to some recent big settlements but rates will not be going up.

Vice President Gutzeit mentioned two upcoming events she thought might be of interest to the Board, (1) the St. Francis Dam Tour on March 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM and (2) Earth Day Clean up being held on April 22, 2023. She will send the information on both events to the Board Secretary to send to the Board.

Director Armitage mentioned the CSDA Leadership Academy is coming up on February 26 through March 1, 2023. She stated that she attended the swearing in ceremony of Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo and there were several legislative representatives in attendance presenting certificates, she thought maybe we would like to do the same for future swearing in events such as these. She also wanted to recognize Eagle Scout Celeste at Saugus High School whose Eagle Scout project was installing 35 native plants on the school campus to help out local pollinators which also helps save water. Lastly, she mentioned the fun new website promoted by DWR that the teachers may be interested in looking into.

There were no other Director Reports.

To hear the Directors report in their entity, please refer to the Board meeting recording at <https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/February-7-2023-SCV-Water-Regular-Board-Meeting.mp3>.

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**Director Requests For Approval For Event Attendance (Item 13).**

Vice President Orzechowski mentioned that there is an Emergent Containment Summit in October 2023 and wanted to know if we have any staff that attend conferences pertaining to these topics. General Manager Stone addressed the issue saying that we try to stay informed on anything that is coming up in relation to contaminants and send staff to conferences/summits when appropriate.

There were no requests for approval for event attendance.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM (Item 14).

  
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April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
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President of the Board

