

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – February 6, 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, February 6, 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, Beth Braunstein, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Ed Colley.

Also present: Administrative Services Manager Kim Grass, 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, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Facilities Supervisor Roland Valiente, General Counsel Tom Bunn (Virtually), General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Principal Water Resources Planner Rick Viergutz, John Wright from Raftelis and Anthony Elowsky, Ichiko Kido and Jack Lyon (Virtually) from RDN, 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 February 6, 2024 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Armitage and carried, the Board pulled Item 5.2 and approved the remaining Consent Calendar items by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

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 Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-405 authorizing the General Manager to Execute an Administrative Services Agreement between SCV Water Agency and SCV-GSA to provide Administrative, Management and Technical Services with the modification to Attachment 2, Section 2.5, last sentence to reflect \$150,000, instead of the previous GM threshold of \$100,000 by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

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

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-405

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO RENEW THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE SCV-GSA TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGEMENT, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE

Upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved (1) reconfiguring/remodeling the existing SCV Water Boardroom and (2) directed the General Manager to enter into a construction contract in the amount not to exceed \$513,520 to BR Builders to reconfiguring/remodel the existing Boardroom with a budget amount for the full project in the amount not to exceed \$733,385 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 Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board selected RDN as the ratepayer advocate and approved the General Manager to enter into a Professional Services contract with RDN for a period of up to three (3) years by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

Director Armitage	No	Director Braunstein	No
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 thanked the two rate payer advocate firms for coming in tonight to present their proposals to the Board.

He gave a brief update on the presentation that was given by the Executive Staff as well as the financial advisors to the EPA on the WIFIA Loan package.

He mentioned his recent January 22, 2024 One-on-One meeting with Director Braunstein. He advised the Board about the January 22, 2024 All employee meeting.

He updated the Board on the recent Annual State Water Contractors Board Retreat held February 1-2, 2024.

Lastly, he thanked staff for their work on putting together the presentation regarding the Board reconfiguration/remodel project.

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 8).

There were no comments on the recap reports.

Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).

Vice President Orzechowski mentioned the finalization of the P-Card Agreement with CalCards and the savings that the Agency will be getting as well as the improved rebates.

Director Armitage commented on the Finance, Administration, and Information Technology Services Section Report, she stated that she was happy to see that staff will be working with the IT Department to configure an additional queue in the Customer Call Center that will be dedicated to Spanish-only callers and was excited to see the additional interns being brought on board. She also had comments on the Treatment, Distribution, Operations and Maintenance Section Report stating that she was happy to see that under the Safety/Emergency/Risk Management Section of the report we had no reportable incidents for the month of December 2023. Lastly, she commented on the Water Resources Section Report and was glad to see that the "Lunch and Learns" were being brought back for staff and that there was a hybrid option offered.

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).

A written report was submitted by Vice President Gutzeit which was emailed, posted to the website and is part of the record.

Director Cooper reported that he was virtually interviewed on the KHTS Radio's morning show on January 19, 2024, attended the ACWA Board Workshop on February 1, 2024 and attended the ACWA Board meeting on February 2, 2024, which were both held in Sacramento.

Director Armitage reported that she virtually attended a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County on January 17, 2024.

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he attended the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce 2024 Employment Law Update held at the College of the Canyons on January 18, 2024 and attended the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards and Installation Dinner held at the Valencia Hyatt on February 2, 2024.

President Martin reported that he attended a special meeting of the DCA Board of Directors held in Sacramento on January 24, 2024 and attended the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards and Installation Dinner held at the Valencia Hyatt on February 2, 2024.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 12).

There were no Director reports.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:44 PM to discuss Item 13.1:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Michael Schaefer, Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Property Damage, Date of Claim January 11, 2024

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 7:58 PM.

Tom Bunn, Esq., reported that pertaining to Item 13.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Michael Schaefer, Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Property Damage, Date of Claim January 11, 2024, the Board unanimously voted to reject the claim and submit it to the Agency's Joint Powers Insurance

Authority, upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, by the following roll call votes:

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		

There were no other actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 14).

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

Upon motion of President Martin, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved Director Marks attendance at the May 7-9, 2024 ACWA 2024 Spring Conference in Sacramento by the following roll call votes (Item 15.1):

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		

There were no other requests for approval for event attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM (Item 16).

Signature on File

April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signature on File

President of the Board

