

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – February 20, 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 20, 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, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit (Arrived at 6:05 PM), 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 Kevin Strauss, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Joe Byrne, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Senior Water Resources and Data Scientist Najwas Pitois, Water Resources Planner Rick Vasilopoulos, Water Systems Supervisor James Saenz, Means Consulting President Ed Means, 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 6:01 PM. A quorum was present.

There were no changes to the February 20, 2024 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 including Resolution Nos. SCV-406, SCV-407 and SCV-408 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		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-406

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY LOCATION CHANGE FOR THE
REGULAR SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
BOARD MEETINGS**

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

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-407

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY ADOPTING AN
AMENDED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE PURSUANT TO
THE POLITICAL REFORM ACT OF 1974**

FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-408

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ACTING IN BEHALF OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL FUND, LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND THE GOVERNING BODIES OF GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT, ANTELOPE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CITY OF SANTA CLARITA, SANTA CLARITA LIBRARY, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY, APPROVING AND ACCEPTING NEGOTIATED EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES RESULTING FROM ANNEXATION TO SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT "ANNEXATION NO. 1132"

FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Colley and carried, the Board approved the 2024-2028 Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Strategic Plan with a change to the wording on Page 23, Strategy C.2, C.2.2 to say "Participate in planning, financing, development and potential participation in the Delta Conveyance Project" by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

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 Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-409 authorizing the General Manager to execute a change order in an amount not to exceed \$95,871.36 and provide the General Manager authority to execute additional changes for up to \$40,000 without returning to the Board, if necessary, for a total of \$135,871.36 over the 5% change order authority for the Olympian (North Oaks) Water Storage Tanks 1 and 4 Coating Project with the correction to the resolution in the first "Whereas" to say "on September 19, 2023" instead of "on November 11, 2023" 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-409

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER AUTHORITY TO
THE GENERAL MANAGER FOR OLYMPIAN (NORTH OAKS)
WATER STORAGE TANKS 1 AND 4 COATING PROJECT**

FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE

Upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a contract with INTERA Incorporated for Groundwater Flow Model Improvements in the amount of \$195,788 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 Braunstein, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved the Nomination of Director Marks for the Independent Special District Voting Member to the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission 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		

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

The Assistant General Manager reported on the following:

He thanked the Board for their action this evening on the Strategic Plan, the process and the discussion. He stated this is a very important document for the Agency and appreciated the feedback from the Board.

He informed the Board that the Groundwater Sustainability Plan was approved by the Department of Water Resources, saying that this is a huge accomplishment by those involved and that there are some recommended corrected actions that will be addressed with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

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).

Director Braunstein asked about the report given to the Water Resources and Outreach Committee on the Status of Water Supplies that it be brought to the full Board and requested that the PowerPoint be attached to the Committee packet. She was also curious as to why Conservation is under the Water Resources and Watershed Committee and not under Public Outreach and Legislation.

There were no other comments on the recap report.

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.

President's Report (Item 9).

President Martin updated the Board on informational items and upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 10).

Two written reports were submitted by Director Marks which was emailed, posted to the website and is part of the record.

Director Cooper reported that he virtually attended both a One-on-One meeting with the General Manager on February 12, 2023 and the ACWA Region 8 Board meeting held on February 16, 2023.

President Martin reported that he virtually attended the DCA Board Briefing meeting on February 9, 2024, virtually attended the monthly meeting with DCA Executive Director Graham Bradner on February 13, 2024 and attended the DCA Board meeting held in Sacramento on February 15, 2024.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 11).

Director Armitage mentioned that she had the information on the SCV ECO Film Festival that will be held at the College of the Canyons on March 9, 2024, if anyone wanted to see it.

There were no other Director reports.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:19 PM to discuss Item 12.1:

Conference with Real Property Negotiators

Property: Devil's Den Water District Property Encompassing Approx. 7,961 Acres Located in Kings and Kern Counties Along Hwy 33 North of Twisselman Road and South of Route 41

Agency Negotiators: Assistant General Manager Stephen L. Cole, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, and Water Resources Planner Rick Vasilopoulos

Negotiating Parties: Intersect Power

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

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 7:54 PM.

Joe Byrne, Esq., reported that there were no actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 13).

Director Requests for Future Agenda Items (Item 14).

There were no requests for future Agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM (Item 15).

April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

President of the Board