

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – April 4, 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, April 4, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Armitage, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Beth Braunstein and Ed Colley.

Also present: Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson (Via Zoom), Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Alvord (Via Zoom), Director of Technology Services Cris Perez, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Fleet and Warehousing Supervisor Jesus Martinez Ramirez (Via Zoom), General Counsel Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Fieldman Rolapp & Associates Consultants Lora Carpenter (Via Zoom) and Stradling Consultants Doug Brown and Jon Guz (Via Zoom), as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff and members of the public.

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

There were no changes to the April 4, 2023 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	Absent
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 Petersen, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. SCV-341 authorizing (1) the issuance of one or more series of revenue bonds by the Upper Santa Clara Valley Joint Powers Authority, (2) the execution of certain documents and (3) certain other actions by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Absent
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-341

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
(1) REQUESTING THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS
BY THE UPPER SANTA CLARA VALLEY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY;
(2) AUTHORIZING AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT,
A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE AND A PURCHASE CONTRACT; AND
(3) AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS**

<https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/approved-resolutions/scv/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-040423-Resolution-SCV-341.pdf>

Upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board authorized the funding to add seven (7) regular positions and one (1) limited duration position in FY 2023/24 and conditionally approve adding seven (7) regular positions in FY 2024/25 by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Absent
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 Petersen, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved a cost-of-living adjustment of 6% for FY 2023/24 for all employees except the General Manager by the following roll call votes (Item 6.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Absent
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).

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

He updated the Board on SCV Water's first Water Academy that took place this past month. He stated there were four sessions throughout the month of March 2023 with a graduation held at the last meeting which was held on April 1, 2023. He reported that the staff of presenters covered many facets of our activities at the Agency and thanked staff for all their efforts and hard work in putting the first Water Academy together. He also thanked the Board members who were able to attend and the Board President Gary Martin and Director Cooper for passing out graduation certificates to those who attended.

He then mentioned that he attended the United Water Conservation District Open House and Facilities tour held on March 29, 2023. They toured several facilities and locations including Santa Felicia Dam and Lake Piru Recreation Area, Freeman Diversion and UWCD Recharge

Basins, El Rio Iron and Manganese Water Treatment Plant, and the Oxnard Hueneme Pipeline Pumping through Pipeline and Recharge Basins.

Next he noted that while we wait for the appellate court process in our favorable US Central District Court ruling in SCVWA vs Whittaker to reach some conclusion, we are continuing to operate the Saugus 1 and 2 Wells Perchlorate Treatment Facility, and advance new treatment projects at Well V-201 (adding VOC removal to the existing Perchlorate removal system) and Well V-205 (designing facilities to address both Perchlorate and VOC's). Meanwhile action continues with Whittaker (or its successor) and DTSC. Whittaker's consultants submitted an OU-7 Groundwater Remedial Action Completion / Implementation Report (RACR) to DTSC in February. The RACR is proposing that DTSC deem the groundwater remedial action complete. After review by our own technical consultants, we strongly disagree and have begun communication at DTSC on our position.

Lastly, he advised the Board that on March 24, 2023, the Department of Water Resources increased this year's State Water Project Allocation to 75%. He mentioned that this was not unexpected given the very wet year and high snowpack we've had in the last several months. He announced that the San Luis Reservoir is essentially full and the State Water Project is completely full. In addition, SCV Water's water resources staff were able to evacuate stored water from San Luis into banks and through an exchange agreement with Metropolitan Water District so that we did not lose water to "spill" rules as San Luis filled with current year water.

To hear the full report please refer to the Board recording at <https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-040423.mp3>.

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 had questions on the Finance, Administration and Information Technology Services Section Report regarding the "Ride and Drive Event" for heavy-duty electric and Hydrogen trucks.

Vice President Gutzeit had comments on electric vehicle mandates.

Director Cooper made a comment that ACWA is working on trying to get an exemption for water utilities for at least large vehicles pertaining to vehicle mandates.

Director Armitage made comments on the Water Resources and Outreach Section Report regarding staff reaching out to HOA's for their large areas of landscape and what they can do to conserve water, she also commented on the "Fix the Leak" video and the launch of the new website.

To hear the Directors full comments in their entirety, please refer to the Board recording at <https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-040423.mp3>.

President's Report (Item 10).

The President updated the Board on upcoming meetings, events and miscellaneous items.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).

Written reports were submitted by Director's Marks and Petersen which were included in the Board packet. Additional written reports were submitted by Vice President Gutzeit and Directors Colley and Marks which were posted to the SCV Water website and are part of the record.

Director Marks reported that he virtually attended the SCV Chamber of Commerce's "Waste Hauling Changes" on March 30, 2023 and attended the VIA "Let's Talk Trash" luncheon held at the Dianne G. Van Hook University Center on April 1, 2023.

Director Armitage reported that she attended the SCV Water "Water Academy" held at SCV Water's Pine Street location on March 22 and 29, 2023 and at RVWTP on April 1, 2023, as well as attended the United Water Conservation District Open House and Facilities Tour held on March 29, 2023.

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he attended the ACWA 2023 Legislative Symposium held in Sacramento on March 23, 2023.

Director Cooper reported that he virtually attended the ACWA Region 8 Board meeting on March 22, 2023, attended the ACWA Board meeting held in Sacramento on March 30-31, 2023 and virtually attended a Team Building follow-up call with Erin Hastey on April 3, 2023.

Director Martin reported that he virtually attended a Team Building follow-up call with Erin Hastey on March 30, 2023, attended the SCV Water Academy held at the RVWTP on April 1, 2023 and virtually attended a one-on-one meeting with the General Manager on April 3, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 12).

Director Armitage reported that she participated in reviewing and scoring the six scholarship applications for the first ever Jerry Gladbach Scholarship which will be given through ACWA. She was inspired by the applications and reading about what motivated the applicants to want to work in the water industry, address water related issues and explain how they want to be part of the solution

to the challenges we are facing. The winner will be announced at the ACWA 2023 Spring Conference.

She also wanted to acknowledge Andrew, a local Boy Scout and Valencia High School student, who just completed his Eagle Scout project related to water. He installed a water bottle filling station at Valley Trails Camp where hundreds of our kids in the Santa Clarita Valley go to summer camp each year.

General Manager Stone mentioned that SCV Water was nominated to receive the Clair A. Hill Award being presented at the ACWA 2023 Spring Conference for SCV Water's Valley Center PFAS project. The winner will be announced at the Conference.

To hear the Directors report in their entity, please refer to the Board meeting recording at <https://www.yourscvwater.com/sites/default/files/SCVWA/board-meetings/2023/scv/Board-Recording-040423.mp3>.

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

There were no requests for approval for event attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM (Item 14).


April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:



President of the Board

