

From: [Stephen Petzold](#)
To: [April Jacobs](#)
Subject: Special Meetings Written Comment 3/29/2022 Written Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 3:39:34 AM

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Dear President Martin and Directors,

I object to the agency holding a virtual special meeting. There is no imminent risk to the public at this time.

Your attorney has adopted the narrowest interpretation of AB 361 to discourage public attendance / participation and insulate existing Directors from the inconvenience of travel and sitting in each others company.

Numerous agencies in the SCV have been meeting in person for months such as the city council, school boards , and standing committees. Civic organizations are meeting in person.

SCV Transit and Metrolink operate with masks.

Schools and churches are open with masks optional.

Governor Newsom and other public officials openly and notoriously conduct their lives as if there is no emergency.

The subject matter of the meeting tonight cries out for a in person meeting. The resignation of Dan Mortenson has plunged the agency into a state of chaos and confusion. The general public has no idea about the serious implications this event has on water issues in the SCV.

I request that you adjourn / cancel the meeting and place the agenda item on hold until you can reach an agreement to meet in person .

Should you proceed with the meeting I urge you to make an appointment to fill the seat of Dan Mortenson.

This community would like to see an open and honest interview process in which applicants can express themselves on issues like water supply, quality, groundwater sustainability, future development and agency land use.

The local press would have an opportunity to interview the applicants and spur interest in SCV Water.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for individuals of a protected class to appear and voice their views. It provides the current Directors the chance to encourage diversity .

In the upcoming November election an appointee can say that they are an incumbent member on the ballot which can help overcome the severe advantage that designation confers on one candidate. You can help make the election competitive.

The easy way out is to vacate the seat as part of your plan to reduce the number of Directors. The cost

savings is minimal and already budgeted.

I urge the Directors to initiate an appointment process which is highly publicized in the interest of open and transparent government.

Please do not slam the door in the public's face by eliminating the seat. The long term consequence is much too great.

There are many willing to serve the public interest.

Best regards,

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