

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – June 1, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency was held via teleconference at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Armitage, B. J. Atkins, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Jeff Ford, Jerry Gladbach, R. J. Kelly, Gary Martin, Dan Mortensen, Piotr Orzechowski and Lynne Plambeck via teleconference.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

Also present via teleconference: General Manager Matthew Stone, General Counsel Tom Bunn, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, Director of Tech Services Cris Perez, Controller Amy Aguer, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, GIS Manager Jose Huerta, Human Resources Manager Ari Mantis, Principal Engineer Jason Yim, Senior Engineers Shadi Bader and Jim Leserman, Senior Management Analyst Kim Grass, Management Analyst II Cheryl Fowler, Financial Analyst Darine Conner, Executive Assistants Eunie Kang and Leticia Quintero, Senior Office Assistant Terri Bell, Accounting Tech II Kyle Arnold, Attorneys from Nossaman LLP Fred Fudacz and Byron Gee, and members of the public.

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved the Agenda by the following roll call votes (Item 4):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

Upon motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board pulled Item 5.5 for further discussion and approved the remaining items on the Consent Calendar which included Resolution Nos. SCV-209 and SCV- 210 by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-209

**RESOLUTION OF THE
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADOPTING THE APPROPRIATION OF ALL AS-YET UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/21**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-060121-Resolution-SCV-209.pdf>

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-210

**RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
ADOPTING THE APPROPRIATION LIMIT
FOR FY 2021/22**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-060121-Resolution-SCV-210.pdf>

Upon motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-211 placing into nomination William Cooper as a member of the Association of California Water Agencies Region 8 Board by the following roll call votes (Item 5.5):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-211

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
PLACING IN NOMINATION WILLIAM COOPER
AS A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES REGION 8 BOARD**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-060121-Resolution-SCV-211.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Atkins, seconded by Director Kelly and carried, the Board approved the revised titled Resolution No. SCV-212 adopting the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act for the South End Recycled Water Main (Phase 2C) Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2017061015) with the appropriate changes

to the Addendum as requested by the Directors and noted by staff by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-212

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY ADOPTING
AN ADDENDUM TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION UNDER THE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE SOUTH END RECYCLED
WATER MAIN EXTENSION (PHASE 2C) PROJECT (SCH NO. 2017061015)**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-060121-Resolution-SCV-212.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Gladbach and carried, the Board approved the revised titled Resolution No. SCV-213 adopting the Addendum to the final Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Honby Pipeline Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2005011071) with the appropriate changes to the Addendum as requested by the Directors and noted by staff by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-213

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM UNDER THE CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE HONBY PIPELINE PROJECT
(SCH NO. 2005011071)**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-060121-Resolution-SCV-213.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Gladbach and carried, the Board approved a cost-of-living adjustment of 1.5% for the FY 2021/22 for all employees except the General Manager effective the first full pay period in July 2021 by the following roll call votes (Item 6.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	No
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

Upon motion of Director Armitage, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved the COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick and Emergency Administrative Leave Policy by the following roll call votes (Item 6.4):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

Upon motion of Vice President Mortensen, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-214 adopting the FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23 Biennial Budget by the following roll call votes (Item 6.5):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	No
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Not Present
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-214

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021/22 AND 2022/23

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-060121-Resolution-SCV-214.pdf>

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

The General Manager reported on the following:

He acknowledged that staff has been very busy completing projects and major administrative processes. He wanted to thank Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson and

the finance and administration team, as well as the engineering staff for all their hard work in bringing tonight's items to the Board for consideration.

He mentioned his attendance and participation in several public forums and public hearings on rates, urban water management planning and the developing groundwater sustainability plan.

He stated that he participated and/or listened to several ACWA presentations, he thanked those Board members who attended and submitted their AB 1234 reports.

Further, he mentioned that he is involved with a couple of legal items which the Board will be updated on in closed session this evening.

He reminded the Board that he had provided a separate update to them via email in mid-May regarding transition planning for changes in the COVID-19 situation. He then gave an additional update on the status of COVID-19 and the CDC's current guidance. He mentioned that approximately 73% of SCV Water staff who responded to a recent survey are either vaccinated or intend to complete the vaccination process.

He mentioned that we have started the process of transitioning back to a "New Normal" status. As of Monday May 17, 2021, staff who have been working remotely were invited to begin returning back to the office to work onsite. We continue to apply social distancing and mask protocols, as well as other measures such as enhanced air changes and cleaning. By Tuesday, July 6, 2021, all staff will be required to return to working onsite. At that time we will also reopen our customer service lobby at the Rockefeller location.

Lastly, he explained that with respect to the Board and Committee meetings, we are preparing for a potential return to in-person meetings pending the June 15, 2021 Governor's order and what it contains. He noted that a coalition of public agency organizations did send a letter to the Governor suggesting a grace period be included in any transition back to in-person meetings allowing for planning and implementation.

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).

There were no comments on the written reports.

President's Report (Item 10).

The President updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).

Written reports were submitted by President Martin and Vice President Gladbach which were included in the Board packet. Additional written reports were submitted by President Martin and Directors Braunstein, Ford and Plambeck which were posted on the SCV Water website and are part of the record.

Director Atkins reported that he attended the ACWA 2021 Virtual Spring Conference held on May 12-13, 2021 and attended the VIA Active Shooter Awareness II Luncheon held on May 18, 2021.

Director Armitage reported that she attended the virtual Integrated Regional Water Management Summit on Watershed Health and People Experiencing Homelessness on May 5, 2021 and attended the ACWA 2021 Virtual Spring Conference held on May 12-13, 2021.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the virtual ACWA Region 8 Membership meeting on May 5, 2021 and the ACWA 2021 Virtual Spring Conference held on May 12-13, 2021.

Director Orzechowski reported that he attended the virtual AWWA WaterWise Information Series on the Delta Conveyance Project Briefing from DWR on May 20, 2021.

Director Braunstein reported that she attended the ACWA 2021 Virtual Spring Conference held on May 12-13, 2021.

Director Plambeck reported that she attended the virtual Integrated Regional Water Management Summit on Watershed Health and People Experiencing Homelessness on May 5, 2021 and suggested that the Board consider doing the same type of conference in the Santa Clarita Valley.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 12).

Director Orzechowski thanked Chief Engineer Courtney Mael in assisting an SCV Water customer with his request for fire flow information. He then thanked General Manager Stone for his letter to The Signal's Editor describing the important reasons for the upcoming proposed water rate changes. General Manager Stone's letter to the Editor can be found on the Opinion page of The Signal's Saturday, May 29, 2021 newspaper as well as on The Signal's website.

The Board went into Closed Session at 10:00 PM (Item 13).

The Board was instructed to disconnect from the current call and redial in on a separate teleconference line that was provided to them. President Martin instructed the public members and staff who wanted to stay on the call, to stay on the current teleconference line and once Closed Session has ended, the Board will reconvene for Closed Session announcements and the conclusion of the meeting.

President Martin reconvened the Open Session at 11:06 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 Carlos Ajtun Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Personal Injury and Property Damage, Date of Claim May 11, 2021, the Board voted to reject the claim by motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, by the following roll call votes:

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Not Present
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

Regarding Item 13.2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Application for Leave to Present Late Government Claim of Boucher LLP on Behalf of Multiple Claimants, Dated May 6, 2021, the Board voted to grant the application to file a late claim and denied the claim by motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, by the following roll call votes:

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	Yes
Director Cooper	Yes	Director Ford	Yes
Vice President Gladbach	Yes	Director Kelly	Not Present
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	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).

Director Armitage requested to attend the CSDA Workshop on Financial Management for Special Districts on August 9-10, 2021. CSDA multi day and single day events are on the preapproved list of events that Directors may attend and does not need Board approval.

There were no other Director requests for event attendance.

Requests for Future Agenda Items (Item 16).

Director Armitage requested that pertaining to Directors being appointed to Committees outside the Agency, that the Board leadership consider offering mentorship or shadowing opportunities for Board members who are interested in sitting on different Committees such as ACWA and CSDA.

Director Braunstein requested that the Board reconsider recording Committee meetings.

There were no other requests for future Agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 PM (Item 17).



April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:



President of the Board

