

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – July 5, 2022

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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, July 5, 2022. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Kathye Armitage, B. J. Atkins (Arrived at 7:17 PM), Beth Braunstein, William Cooper, Jeff Ford, Maria Gutzeit, R. J. Kelly, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Lynne Plambeck.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Ed Colley and Jerry Gladbach.

Also present: Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Controller Amy Aguer, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, General Counsel Tom Bunn, General Manager Matthew Stone, Human Resources Manager Ari Mantis, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Interim Director of Water Resources Dirk Marks, Nossaman LLP Attorneys Byron Gee and Fred Fudacz, as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff and members of the public.

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. A quorum was present.

There were no changes to the July 5, 2022 Board Agenda and was accepted as shown (Item 4).

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Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar which included Resolution Nos. SCV-285, SCV-286 and SCV-287, as well as an acknowledgement that there was a change to Item 5.3, Attachment 3, the Senior Water Resources & Data Scientist position should have been listed under Range 39 not Range 35 by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

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

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-285**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
AUTHORIZING THE JULY 2022 WATER SUPPLY CONTRACT PAYMENT**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-070522-Resolution-SCV-285.pdf>**

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-286**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
SETTING SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY TAX RATE FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2022/23 AND REQUESTING LEVY  
OF TAX BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-070522-Resolution-SCV-286..pdf>**

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-287**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
SETTING SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY TAX RATE FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2022/23 AND REQUESTING LEVY  
OF TAX BY VENTURA COUNTY**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-070522-Resolution-SCV-287..pdf>**

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The approval of the Water Supply Assessment (WSA) for the Wiley Canyon mixed-use development was deferred until later in the meeting (Item 6.1).

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Senior Public Affairs Specialist Lindsey Gibson gave a presentation on the Drought Messaging Action Plan (Item 7).

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**General Manager's Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 8).**

As mentioned by Assistant General Manager Steve Cole at the June 21, 2022 regular Board meeting, the General Manager commented on the recent Fitch upgrade of the Agency's Credit rating from AA to AA+ for its senior secured debt and from AA- (positive) to AA (stable outlook) for its remaining revenue bond debt. He stated that as part of that review, Fitch noted the strong financial position and diversity of revenue sources, as well as the diverse supply portfolio. He thanked the staff and Board for their commitment to completing the integration of the new Agency, establishing uniform retail rates, refinancing debt when interest rates were low, and continuing to chart a prudent financial course. He added that a press release was recently sent out about the rating upgrade.

He then briefly discussed the recent Central District Court judgment in SCVWA vs. Whittaker, for \$65.9 million dollars. Coupled with an earlier \$2.9 million settlement in the case with cross defendant Saugus Industrial Complex, the result is a potential recovery of \$68.8 million. While further actions are expected including an appeal by Whittaker, this is a significant milestone in the case.

On a personal note, he mentioned that during his recent vacation he and his spouse Ryan had the opportunity to celebrate their wedding with family and friends and take a trip to the Florida Keys and Miami. He noted that even there, water supply is interesting, and noticed facilities operated by the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority which provides water throughout the region.

The full General Manager's report can be heard at [https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Board\\_Recording\\_070522.mp3](https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Board_Recording_070522.mp3).

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#### **Committee Meeting Recap Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).**

Director Braunstein asked what the update was on Bouquet Creek which was covered in the May 11, 2022 Water Resources and Watershed Committee meeting report. Assistant General Manager Cole gave a brief update on Bouquet Creek.

She also asked about the drought numbers and how we respond to drought to those numbers. She mentioned that we are 5% above where we are supposed to be and was wondering why.

To hear full comments made, please refer to the [https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Board\\_Recording\\_070522.mp3](https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Board_Recording_070522.mp3).

There were no other comments on the recap reports.

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#### **Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 10).**

Director Armitage made comments on the Engineering Services Section Report, the Finance, Administration and Information Technology Section Report, the Treatment, Distribution, Operations and Maintenance Section Report and the Water Resources and Outreach Section Report. She also had a question regarding the Pocket Park and community engagement pertaining to that project. Assistant General Manager Cole addressed her question.

To hear all the comments made by Director Armitage and response by Assistant General Manager Cole, please refer to the meeting recording at [https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Board\\_Recording\\_070522.mp3](https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Board_Recording_070522.mp3).

There were no other comments on the the written reports.

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The Board then discussed Item 6.1.

There was a motion by Director Ford, seconded by Director Atkins to approve a Resolution for SB 610 Water Supply Assessment (WSA) for the Wiley Canyon Mixed-Use Development and directing staff to forward the WSA to the City of Santa Clarita Planning Development.

Upon motion by Director Gutzeit seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the motion was amended to modify language in paragraph four, third sentence of the transmittal letter accompanying the WSA to read, "This unfortunately has caused our demand calculations for

the subject project to include this additional over watering factor, nevertheless, SCV Water strongly recommends that all of the subject project's approved landscape plans should show compliance with MWELo standards and those plans and any other water conservation measures, should be incorporated as a condition of approval for the appropriate entitlement(s).", by the following roll call votes:

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

The Board then approved the amended motion, adopting Resolution No. SCV-288 approving SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for the Wiley Canyon Mixed-Use Development and directed staff to forward the WSA to the City of Santa Clarita Planning Development along with the modified transmittal letter as stated above (there was a request that the letter come from the General Manager or the Assistant General Manager) by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. SCV-288**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
ADOPTING THE SB 610 WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE WILEY CANYON MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT  
(CITY OF SANTA CLARITA MASTER CASE 20-238)**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-070522-Resolution-SCV-288.pdf>**

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**President's Report (Item 11).**

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

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**AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).**

Written reports were submitted by Vice President Gladbach and Director Plambeck which were included in the Board packet. Additional written reports were submitted by President Martin, and

Directors Armitage, Kelly, Gutzeit and Plambeck which were posted on the SCV Water website and are part of the record.

Director Braunstein reported that she attended the Special Districts Association of North L.A. County Quarterly Membership meeting held at the Chimbole Cultural Center on June 22, 2022. She will turn in a written report at the next meeting.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the SCV-GSA Special Board meeting held at the Agency on June 30, 2022.

Director Atkins reported that he attended he SCV-GSA Special Board meeting held at the Agency on June 30, 2022.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

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**Director Reports (Item 13).**

Director Armitage wanted to thank everyone at the Agency for all the work that is done on a day-by-day basis to serve safe water to our community in the most sustainable fashion as possible while meeting the Agency's Mission and Vision.

She also acknowledged and thanked the members of the public who attend the Board meetings in person or remotely and thanked those who submit comments, stating that we all appreciate hearing from the public.

There were no other Director Reports.

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The Board went into Closed Session at 8:50 PM to discuss Item 14.1 (Item 14).

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 stay 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 9:17 PM.

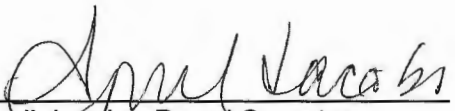
Tom Bunn Esq. reported that there were no actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 15).

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**Director Requests for Approval for Event Attendance (Item 16).**

There were no requests for approval for event attendance.

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The meeting was adjourned in memory of Richard Norman Miller at 9:18 PM (Item 17).

  
April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
President of the Board

