

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – January 17, 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, January 17, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Armitage, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, 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 Kathie Martin, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Tom Bunn, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Principal Engineer Brent Payne, Senior Administrative Technician Mona Restivo, Nossaman LLP Attorneys Byron Gee and Fred Fudacz (Via Teams), as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff and members of the public including R. J. Kelly and Donna Gladbach.

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

There were no changes to the January 17, 2023 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

Item 5.1 was moved to later in the meeting.

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Director Colley and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-328 honoring and commending Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency former Director R. J. Kelly for his service and dedication by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

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-328

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
HONORING AND COMMENDING R. J. KELLY
FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-011723-Resolution-SCV-328.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-329 honoring and commending Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency former Director Jerry Gladbach for his service and dedication by the following roll call votes (Item 5.3):

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		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-329

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
HONORING AND COMMENDING E. G. "JERRY" GLADBACH
FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-011723-Resolution-SCV-329.pdf>

The Board and dignitaries then recognized former Director Kelly for his distinguished service (Item 5.4)

The Board and dignitaries then recognized former Director Gladbach for his distinguished service with President Martin presenting his spouse, Donna Gladbach, with a resolution and water drop recognizing his service and contributions to the water Agency and water industry as a whole (Item 5.5).

President Martin called for a short recess at 7:27 PM.

President Martin reconvened the meeting at 7:42 PM.

The Board Secretary presented the SDLF Transparency Certificate of Excellence to the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Board President Martin and General Manager Stone (Item 5.1).

Upon motion of Vice President Gutzeit, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution No. SCV-330 by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

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-330

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER
TO LEE + RO, INC. FOR PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE
SAND CANYON RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT, AND FINDING THAT THE
AUTHORIZATION IS NOT A PROJECT SUBJECT TO CEQA**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-011723-Resolution-SCV-330.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved (1) the findings that the Contract Agreement is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, and alternatively, exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, (2) approved the revised Resolution No. SCV-331 for a construction contract with Pacific Hydrotech Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$7,726,700, (3) authorized the General Manager to execute a purchase order with Kennedy Jenks for an amount not to exceed \$510,000 for engineering services during construction and (4) authorized the General Manager to execute a work authorization with MKN CPM, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$700,000 for construction management and inspection services for the Well 201 Groundwater Improvements project by the following roll call votes (Item 7.1):

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		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-331

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
FINDING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO PACIFIC HYDROTECH CORPORATION FOR
THE WELL 201 VOC TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT EXEMPT FROM CEQA
UNDER CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15301, AND ALTERNATIVELY, SECTION 15303,
AND AWARDING THE CONTRACT**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-011723-Resolution-SCV-331.pdf>

General Counsel Tom Bunn briefed the Board on AB 2449 Remote Attendance (Item 8).

General Manager’s Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 9).

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

He mentioned that the executive team spent some time last week discussing staffing needs and potential staffing requests for the upcoming two-year budget. Staff will be spending time refining and prioritizing what the Board sees in the budget process in the upcoming months, but a reminder that our needs continue to evolve both as we respond to new mandates (like the Groundwater Sustainability Act or Water Quality regulations), changing needs (such as technology and cyber security) and opportunities to increase efficiency through use of staff when outside services are less efficient or more expensive.

He stated that he had a conversation with the Strategic Plan facilitator Ed Means to get some early thoughts on developing our strategic plan process for the upcoming update later this year.

He mentioned Director Cooper’s requests on how the recent wet weather would affect this year’s SWP allocation and gave a brief update.

He informed the Board that SCV Water was notified it’s application for WaterSmart Drought Response Program funding for the S Wells PFAS Treatment project is among those receiving the highest rating and is being considered for award of funding in the amount of \$5 million dollars. Staff is busily completing the required documentation and working with the Bureau of Reclamation to finalize an agreement to proceed in completing this grant award.

Lastly, he thanked the Board for adopting policies and our staff for implementing those policies which supported our receipt of the Certificate of Transparency tonight.

To hear the full report please click on the following link [https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board Recording 011723.mp3](https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board_Recording_011723.mp3).

Committee Meeting Recap Report for Informational Purposes Only (Item 10).

There were no comments on the recap report.

President’s Report (Item 11).

The President updated the Board on upcoming community meetings and conferences and upcoming Board and Committee meetings.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).

Written reports were submitted by President Martin and Vice President Gutzeit which were posted on the SCV Water website and are part of the record.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the SCV-GSA Board meeting held at SCV Water on January 9, 2023.

Director Armitage reported that she attended a virtual One-on-One meeting with the General Manager on January 9, 2023.

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he attended a virtual One-on-One meeting with the General Manger on December 21, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:40 PM to discuss Item 13.1 (Item 13).

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 9:00 PM.

Tom Bunn, Esq., reported that there were no actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 14).

Director Requests for Future Agenda Items (Item 15).

Director Braunstein requested that the Board consider replacing Committee meetings with Board meetings, holding four Board meetings per month to cover the topics that the Committees would have covered. She believed that doing so would increase Director participation because all Directors would be included in the discussion of all Agency issues, as well as increase transparency and accessibility for the general public.


There were no other requests for future Agenda Items.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM (Item 16).



April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:



President of the Board

