

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – March 15, 2022

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, March 15, 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, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Jeff Ford, Jerry Gladbach, R. J. Kelly, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Lynne Plambeck via teleconference.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

Also present via teleconference: Accounting Tech II Kyle Arnold, Administrative Technician Terri Bell, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Associate Engineer Elizabeth Sobczak, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, Customer Service Manager Kathleen Willson, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, Director of Technology Services Cris Perez, Executive Assistants Eunie Kang and Leticia Quintero, Financial Analyst Darine Conner, General Counsel Tom Bunn and Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, GIS Manager Jose Huerta, Human Resources Manager Ari Mantis, Interim Director of Water Resources Dirk Marks, Management Analyst II Susana Rave, Principal Engineers Brent Payne and Jason Yim, Senior Engineers Shadi Bader and Jim Leserman, Senior Management Analyst Kim Grass, Water Systems Supervisor Gil Hermosillo, National Demographics Corporation Consultant Doug Johnson, RDN Consultant Ichiko Kido, and members of the public.

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

President Martin announced that there was an Amended Agenda sent out last week with several modifications. Item 5 Special Procedures was moved up to Item 4 and Item 4.3 was added. Public Comment was then moved to Item 5 and Items 12 and 13 Closed Session and Closed Session Announcements were removed. In addition, President Martin stated that Dan Mortensen submitted his resignation from the Board of Directors effective at 12:00 pm on the day of this meeting, and as a result, there would be no action taken on Item 4.3 but public and Board comments would be received. There were no other changes to the March 15, 2022 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 3).

President Martin opened the Public Hearing at 6:39 PM regarding the division boundaries adjustment as required by Election Code. Public comments were heard and received (Item 4.1).

Assistant General Manager Steve Cole introduced National Demographics Corporation Consultant Doug Johnson who then gave a presentation on the SCV Water Agency's 2021 redistricting efforts and processes.

After public comments were received, President Martin gave the Board members an opportunity to ask questions and discuss.

President Martin closed the Public Hearing at 6:49 PM.

Upon motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-264 adopting the Agency Division Boundaries by the following roll call votes (Item 4.2):

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	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-264

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
ADJUSTING DIVISION BOUNDARIES
FOLLOWING 2020 DECENNIAL FEDERAL CENSUS**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-031522-Resolution-SCV-264.pdf>

Due to the resignation of Mr. Mortensen there was no action to be considered, public comment and Director comments were heard but no action was taken (Item 4.3):

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Ford and carried, the Board pulled Item 6.4 for further discussion and approved the remaining items on the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

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	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-265 approving volunteer Personnel Worker's Compensation Insurance by the following roll call votes (Item 6.4):

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

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-265

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
APPROVING VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL
WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-031522-Resolution-SCV-265.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-266 revising and adopting rates for the wholesale water service charges by the following roll call votes (Item 7.1):

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

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-266

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
REVISING AND ADOPTING RATES FOR WHOLESALE WATER SERVICE CHARGES**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-031522-Resolution-SCV-266.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Orzechowski, seconded by Vice President Gladbach and carried, the Board approved the revised COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave (to comply with SB 114) and Emergency Administrative Leave Policy by the following roll call votes (Item 7.2):

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	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

Upon motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Ford and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-267 concurring in nomination of Scott H. Quady of Calleguas Municipal Water District to the California Water Insurance Fund Board, an ACWA JPIA Captive Insurance Company by the following roll call votes (Item 7.3):

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	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-267

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
 SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
 CONCURRING IN NOMINATION OF SCOTT H. QUADY OF
 CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
 TO THE CALIFORNIA WATER INSURANCE FUND BOARD
 AN ACWA JPIA CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANY**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-031522-Resolution-SCV-267.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Plambeck, seconded by Director Armitage and carried, the Board voted to not further extend virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361, and directed staff to prepare to return the Agency to in-person meetings as of April 1, 2022, with SCV Water's first anticipated in-person meeting being the April 5, 2022 regular Board meeting with the public having the option to participate in person or remotely by the following roll call votes (Item 7.4):

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	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Plambeck	Yes		

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

The General Manager reported on the following items:

He congratulated the Finance staff and all those who contributed to the budget for their efforts in developing an award-winning Budget document for Fiscal Year 2021/22. He informed the Board that the Agency received notification that the document won the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from Government Finance Officers Association and the Operating Budget Excellence Award from California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. He gave special thanks to Administration and Finance staff Rochelle Patterson, Darine Conner, Kim Grass and Erika Dill.

He then advised the Board that SCV Water has been selected for an ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Agency Risk Control Grant for \$10,000. The purpose of the Grant Program is to promote the implementation of best practices that will prevent or mitigate losses in the JPIA's Workers' Compensation, General Liability, and Property Programs.

He explained the scope of this grant proposal is to contribute towards the Agency's cost to equip 100% of operation, water treatment, and water quality staff vehicles with emergency radio communication systems. Further he explained the purpose is to increase response performance

and reduce worker and community hazard exposure during a natural disaster emergency. As of now, SCV Water does not have a self-sustaining way of communicating during a natural disaster emergency.

Next he wanted to point out the paragraph in the staff report pertaining to Item 6.4:

“Covering volunteers under workers’ compensation has significant benefits. Workers’ compensation benefits are statutorily defined. Claims costs are usually significantly lower compared to liability lawsuits for the same injuries or illnesses. The claims are easier to control since litigation is generally avoided. Also, providing benefits to volunteer workers under the “no-fault” workers’ compensation system can be seen as good public relations. JPIA has highlighted the need for this resolution due to some recent losses where a resolution had not been in place.”

Lastly, he advised the Board, that when an incident takes place within our close circle, such as with family, friends, colleagues or our neighborhood, whether it be domestic violence or another crime, an accident or illness, it can invoke memories of trauma experienced by ourselves or those close to us. With the prevalence of domestic violence, he mentioned that this issue has been close to him on several occasions and he has personally witnessed the lasting impacts. With that in mind, he stated that the Human Resources department compiled some resources around these issues which will be shared with staff, in case they may have a private need to seek assistance or deal with their own trauma. He thanks the Board for their willingness to talk about this situation and to hear the public tonight.

Committee Meeting Recap Report for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).

There were no comments on the recap report.

President’s Report (Item 10).

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

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).

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

Director Cooper reported that he attended the ACWA Finance Committee meeting held virtually on March 8, 2022.

Director Atkins reported that he attended the VIA Monthly Luncheon on SCV Safety hosted by Captain Justin Diez of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department held at the Valencia Hyatt on March 15, 2022.

Director Orzechowski reported that he attended the VIA Monthly Luncheon on SCV Safety hosted by Captain Justin Diez of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department held at the Valencia Hyatt on March 15, 2022.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Requests for Future Agenda Items (Item 12).

Director Braunstein asked that the Board discuss the second Vice President position.

Director Atkins asked that if there is an update on Bouquet Creek, that it be presented to the Board.

Director Armitage asked for information on what the process is for filing a seat for Directors who resign in the first two years of their term.

There were no other Director requests for future Agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 PM (Item 13).


April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:


President of the Board

