

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – August 1, 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, August 1, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathye Armitage, William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Beth Braunstein and Ed Colley.

Also present: Administrative Services Manager Kim Grass, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Communications Manager Kevin Strauss, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Tom Bunn, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Principal Engineer Brent Payne, Water Resources Planners Sarah Fleury (Virtually) and Rick Vasilopoulos (Virtually), Best Best and Krieger Attorney Lutfi Kharuf and Consultants from Raffelis John Wright and Sudhir Pardiwala (Virtually), as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff (Virtually), and members of the public (In Person and Virtually).

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

President Martin was able to participate at tonight’s regular Board meeting in person and did not need to use the remote participation due to “Emergency Circumstances”, with that the Agenda was approved with the removal of the above (Item 4).

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Absent.
Director Colley	Absent	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

President Martin opened the Public Hearing on the Tesoro Del Valle Development Standby Charges and Collection of Standby Charge on Tax Roll at 6:08 PM (Item 5.1).

A presentation was given by Water Resources Planner Rick Vasilopoulos and Raffelis Consultant John Wright. Public comments were received and the Board was given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions regarding the presentation.

President Martin closed the Public Hearing at 6:40 PM.

A recess was taken at 6:41 PM to allow the Board Secretary to tabulate the Standby Charge ballots and was reconvened at 6:46 PM.

The Board Secretary stated that Thirteen (13) Standby Charge ballots were mailed to the owners of property within the Tesoro Development at which the Standby Charges are proposed to be imposed and thirteen (13) of those Standby Charge ballots were received and properly

filled out prior to the close of the public hearing. Thirteen (13) Standby Charge ballots representing \$387,724 of Standby Charges were submitted in support of the levy of the proposed Standby Charges within the Tesoro Development. Zero (0) Standby Charge ballots representing \$0 of Standby Charges were submitted in opposition to the levy of the proposed Standby Charges within the Tesoro Development.

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-375 declaring the results of the assessment ballot tabulation for the water Standby Charge for the Tesoro Del Valle Development, approved the Engineer's Report, approved the Standby Charge and directed the levy of the Standby Charge for Fiscal Year 2023/24 to the County of Los Angeles Assessor for placement of the Standby Charge on the property tax roll, by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Absent
Director Colley	Absent	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-375

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT BALLOT TABULATION FOR THE
WATER STANDBY CHARGE FOR THE TESORO DEL VALLE DEVELOPMENT,
APPROVING THE ENGINEER'S REPORT, APPROVING THE STANDBY CHARGE, AND
DIRECTING THE LEVY OF THE STANDBY CHARGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24**

[Link to Resolution SCV-375](#)

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution Nos. SCV-376 and SCV-377 and excluding Item 6.2 approving the minutes of the July 18, 2023 Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency regular Board of Directors meeting and Item 6.3 approving appointments and reappointments of the SCV-GSA Board of Directors and alternate Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term for further discussion by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Absent
Director Colley	Absent	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-376

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
ADOPTING THE 2023 SANTA CLARITA VALLEY**

RECYCLED WATER RULES AND REGULATIONS

[Link to Resolution SCV-376](#)

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-377

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
AUTHORIZING WATER SUPPLY CONTRACT PAYMENTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24**

[Link to Resolution SCV-377](#)

Upon motion of Director Armitage, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board approved the July 18, 2023 regular Board meeting minutes by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Absent
Director Colley	Absent	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Gutzeit and carried, the Board approved the reappointments and the appointments of alternate Board of Directors as amended below:

- William C. Cooper, Director – Reappointment
- Maria Gutzeit, Director – Reappointment
- Gary Martin, Vice President of SCV-GSA – Reappointment
- Dirk Marks, Director – New Appointment
- Piotr Orzechowski, Alternate – Changed to Alternate
- Jeff Ford, Alternate - Reappointment
- Ken Petersen, Alternate – New Appointment

and authorized the Assistant General Manager to provide written notice to the SCV-GSA Board Secretary no later than October 2, 2023 by the following roll call votes (Item 6.3):

Director Armitage	No	Director Braunstein	Absent
Director Colley	Absent	Director Cooper	Yes
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

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

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

He gave a brief update on the State Water Contractors meeting that was scheduled July 19–20, 2023, and mentioned that the SWC’s had approved financing for six science projects that will address habitat, ecology, stressors, and outflow issues. He stated the objective is to expand our understanding and provide insights that will hopefully improve the operational outcomes for the fish and the water supply.

He provided an updated on the Board and Executive Management Strategic Planning SWOT meetings with our Strategic Planning Consultant Ed Means and briefly mentioned that staff would be participating in SWOT meetings with Ed as well the second week of August 2023.

Lastly, he addressed the recent Bond sale that took place this morning in the markets. He invited the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson to provide an update.

To hear the full report, please refer to the Board recording by clicking on the following link:
[080123 SCV Water Board Meeting Recording.](#)

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).

Director Armitage had several comments related to the Water Resources and Watershed Section report under “Communications, Legislation and Grants, Key Accomplishments” where she mentioned the staff’s recent attendance at the SCV Chamber Business Expo, work on the application for grant funding to complete seismic retrofits and addressed the USC’s Dornsife Public Exchange regarding Reducing Residential Water Use in the Santa Clarita Valley Study, she was hoping that the results and data of that Study could be shared with the Board.

There were no other comments on the written reports.

To hear the full comments, please refer to the Board recording by clicking on the following link:
[080123 SCV Water Board Meeting Recording.](#)

President’s Report (Item 10).

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).

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

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he attended the SCV GSA special Board meeting held at the Agency on July 27, 2023.

Director Marks reported that he attended a Strategic Planning SWOT meeting with Ed Means held at the Agency on July 25, 2023.

Director Armitage reported that she attended a Strategic Planning SWOT meeting with Ed Means held at the Agency on July 24, 2023.

Director Cooper reported that he attended a Strategic Planning SWOT meeting with Ed Means held at the Agency on July 24, 2023 and attended the ACWA Workshop and Board meeting held in Sacramento on July 27 and 28, 2023.

President Martin reported that he attended virtually the Strategic Planning SWOT meeting with Ed Means on July 25, 2023 and attended the SCV GSA Board meeting held at the Agency on July 27, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:25 PM to discuss Item 12.1 Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Section 54956.8):

Property: Water Exchange(s) of SCV Water's 2023 State Project Water Supply
Agency Negotiators: Matthew G. Stone, Stephen L. Cole, Ali Elhassan and Sarah Fleury
Negotiating Parties: Various Parties
Under Negotiation: Terms of Exchange(s)

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 7:46 PM.

Tom Bunn, Esq., reported that there were no actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 13).

Director Reports (Item 14).

Director Armitage asked that the Director Reports be considered to move to before Closed Session going forward. She continued by expressing gratitude that Ed Means was able to

personally meet with the Directors to discuss the upcoming Strategic Planning. Additionally, she wanted to draw attention to the recent coordination efforts between the staff of SCV Water, Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo and her staff, and our State Legislative Advocates, for securing \$1 million to the Arundo removal. Lastly, she wished the students who will be going back to school next week and their parents best wishes as they start the new school year. Director Cooper gave the Board an update on the most recent ACWA Board meeting, which included information about the ACWA Foundation, a new initiative with CSDA called the ACWA Certificate of Excellence for Water Agencies, mentioned the State receiving \$50 million for projects, of which \$30 million will go to Sites Reservoir, advised that ACWA hired a new general counsel, and lastly mentioned ACWA's program called Quench California, a social media campaign.

President Martin thanked both Vice Presidents Gutzeit and Orzechowski for covering for him while he attended the SCV Water July Board meetings virtually.

There were no other Director reports.

To hear the full reports, please refer to the Board recording by clicking on the following link: [080123 SCV Water Board Meeting Recording](#).

Director Requests For Approval for Event Attendance (Item 15).

There were no requests for approval for event attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM (Item 16).


April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:


President of the Board

