

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – September 5, 2023

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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, September 5, 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, Communications Manager Kevin Strauss, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Emergency Preparedness & Safety Coordinator Jose Diaz (Virtually), Environmental Health and Safety Supervisor Rebecca Lustig (Virtually), General Counsel Tom Bunn, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Safety Specialist II Aaron Southard (Virtually), Senior Water Resources & Data Scientist Najwa Pitois (Virtually), Water Resources Planners Sarah Fleury (Virtually) and Rick Vasilopoulos (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.

There were no changes to the September 5, 2023 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

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Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Armitage and carried, the Board pulled Item 5.4 Approve a Revised Ratepayer Advocate Process for further discussion and approved the remaining items on the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

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		

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Armitage and carried, the Board approved the revised Ratepayer Advocate Process by the following roll call votes (Item 5.4):

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

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Upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Colley and carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. SCV-380 approving the Water Supply Verification (WSV) for the Sand Canyon Village Project and directed staff to forward the WSV to the City of Santa Clarita Planning Department with the following adjustments to the SB 221 Water Supply Verification.

- Page 4.19, 5th paragraph change the date from “DWR’s 2019” to “DWR’s 2021”.
- Page 5.4, section 5.1.2, 1st paragraph change the date from 2011 to 2003 and verify that table 5.1 reflect that change.
- Page 5.14, 4th paragraph, add the following verbiage, “Such conditions include the Project’s approved landscape plans complying with the MWELo standards as well as the Project’s compliance with any other applicable water conservation measures being incorporated as conditions of approval”.

With these changes the Board approved this item by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

Director Armitage	No	Director Braunstein	No
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-380**

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY ADOPTING THE SB 221 WATER SUPPLY VERIFICATION FOR THE SAND CANYON VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT (CITY OF SANTA CLARITA MASTER CASE 14-007)**

[Link to Resolution No. SCV-380](#)

Upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Petersen and carried, the Board approved receiving and filing of the June 2023 Monthly and FY 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Financial Report by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

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		

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Colley and carried, the Board approved and directed the General Manager to move forward in investigating the process that would be needed to change the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant to the E. G. “Jerry” Gladbach Water Treatment Plant and report back on the findings and cost associated with the change by the following roll call votes (Item 6.3):

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		

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Upon motion of Director Colley, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board authorized the following appointments for Directors, staff and consultants participation on the ACWA 2024/2025 Committees:

**Directors:**

President Martin – Groundwater Committee  
Director Armitage – Local Government Committee, Water Quality Committee and Groundwater Committee  
Director Cooper – Groundwater Committee and Water Quality Committee  
Director Marks – Water Management Committee, Groundwater Committee and Water Quality Committee

**SCV Water Staff:**

Communications Manager Kevin Strauss – Communications Committee  
Water Resources Director Ali Elhassan – Groundwater Committee

**Consultants:**

California Advocates – Dennis Albiani – Legislative Committee  
Lagerlof, LLP, SCV Water General Counsel Tom Bunn – Groundwater Committee

by the following roll call votes (Item 7):

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		

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Environmental Health & Safety Supervisor Rebecca Lustig gave an update presentation on the annual Safety Program (Item 8).

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

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

He informed the Board that he attended the Urban Water Institute 30th Anniversary Conference held in San Diego August 23-25, 2023. He stated that he was a moderator for a keynote

speaker and Q&A session with Dr. Marty Ralph, who heads up the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at UCSD Scripps.

He updated the Board on the September 1, 2023 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Bridgeport Pocket Park Sustainable Landscape Demonstration Garden, advising the Board that it was well attended and thanked the SCV Water staff who were involved in this project and brought it all together.

He noted that the SCV Water Board Strategic Planning workshop would be held on September 7 and 8, 2023 and mentioned that he is looking forward to the opportunity to work with our facilitator, executive team and Board on charting out key objectives for SCV Water's future.

He congratulated the staff for the recent GFOA Budget Award and Recognition.

Lastly, he gave a brief history on Earl Schmidt. He advised the Board that there was an article in SCVHistory.com written by his granddaughter, Cassandra Skaggs, and read the article to the Board.

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

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

Director Armitage had comments on the Public Outreach and Legislation Committee meeting recap report pertaining to grant awards. To hear the full comments, please refer to the Board recording by clicking on the following link: [Board Meeting Recording](#).

There were no other comments on the recap reports.

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**Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 11).**

Vice President Orzechowski had a comment on the Finance, Administration and Information Technology Services Section Report regarding the Smart Works Meter Data Management System, repeat shutoffs and the Agency wide surveillance system.

Director Braunstein thanked staff for the written section reports. She had a question on the Finance, Administration and Information Technology Services Section Report regarding WaterSmart and on the Engineering Services Section Report regarding right of way cell sites and fire flow requests.

Director Armitage had a comment on the Finance, Administration and Information Technology Services Section Report regarding the staff's attendance at the California Water Data Summit and on the Water Resources and Outreach Section Report pertaining to staff reaching out and working with the HOA Boards.

Vice President Orzechowski asked who was attending the California Water Data Summit. Director of Technology Services Cris Perez advised Vice President Orzechowski that no one

would be attending from the Technology Department this year due to the Strategic Planning Workshop but staff will be attending next year.

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

There were no other comments on the written reports.

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**President's Report (Item 12).**

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

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**AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 13).**

Director Cooper reported that he virtually attended the ACWA Code of Conduct Task Force meeting held on August 25, 2023, the ACWA Finance Committee meeting on August 29, 2023 and the ACWA Water Quality Committee meeting on August 30, 2023.

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he virtually attended a One-on-One meeting with the General Manager on August 14, 2023 and attended the Bridgeport Park Sustainability Landscape Demonstration Garden Ribbon Cutting held at Bridgeport Park on September 1, 2023.

Director Petersen reported that he attended the Bridgeport Park Sustainability Landscape Demonstration Garden Ribbon Cutting held at Bridgeport Park on September 1, 2023.

Director Braunstein reported that she attended the Bridgeport Park Sustainability Landscape Demonstration Garden Ribbon Cutting held at Bridgeport Park on September 1, 2023.

Director Armitage reported that she attended the Bridgeport Park Sustainability Landscape Demonstration Garden Ribbon Cutting held at Bridgeport Park on September 1, 2023.

President Martin reported that he virtually attended the DCA Board meeting from the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Boardroom on August 17, 2023, virtually attended the ACWA Groundwater Committee meeting held on August 30, 2023 and attended the Bridgeport Park Sustainability Landscape Demonstration Garden Ribbon Cutting held at Bridgeport Park on September 1, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

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**Director Reports (Item 14).**

There were no Director reports.

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

Vice President Orzechowski mentioned that he would be attending the ACWA Regions 6 & 7 Tour and Water Forum being held on October 12 and 13, 2023 in Coalinga, California.

There were no requests for approval for event attendance.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM (Item 16).

  
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April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
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President of the Board

