

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – November 7, 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, November 7, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes. The meeting recording can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [Board Meeting Recording](#).

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathye 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 Kevin Strauss, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Tom Bunn, Information Technology Technician I Oliver Molina, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Right of Way Agent Kristina Jacob (Virtually), Senior Water Resources and Data Scientist Najwa Pitois, 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 November 7, 2023 Amended Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

Upon motion of Director Colley, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution No. SCV-392 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*		

*Director Petersen abstained from voting on Item 5.2.

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-392

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S FY 2023 WATERSMART APPLIED SCIENCE

**GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE AGENCY'S GROUNDWATER
MODEL REFINEMENT AND CALIBRATION PROJECT**
FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Petersen and carried, the Board authorized the General Manager to approve a contract with Waste Management Services to transport and dispose of approximately 2,800 tons of treatment by-products from the RVWTP in an amount not to exceed \$380,000 by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

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		

Senior Water Resources and Data Scientist Najwa Pitois gave a presentation on the Water Resources Integration Model (Item 7).

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

Assistant General Manager Cole, sitting in for the General Manager, reported on the following:

He thanked Najwa Pitois for the presentation that she gave to the Board at tonight's meeting regarding the Water Resources Integration Model.

He informed the Board that he would be traveling to Sacramento the next day to take part in the Delta Conveyance Partners workshop. The workshop will provide a full update on the status of the Delta Conveyance Plan along with possible cost updates, which he stated will be shared with the Board.

He updated the Board on the Sites Reservoir Project. He mentioned that Senate Bill 149, which deals with streamlining CEQA was something that the Governor had advocated for in this last session. It is focused on judicial review as it applies to CEQA. He informed the Board that he will be present for the voting at the Sites Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board meeting next Friday, when the CEQA document will be discussed and voted on.

He spoke about the Water Academy, which began on November 1, 2023. He pointed out that a nice mixture of the community was participating, and that each session is now a little longer than it was during the previous Academy.

He then congratulated the SCV Water Outreach Department on winning 5 PRISM Awards from the Public Relations Society of America's Los Angeles Chapter. He announced that SCV Water received the top prize for the Drought Ready SCV Campaign, the Water Currents Public Newsletter and the Agency's Pipeline Employee Newsletter. He advised the Board that the 2023

Consumer Confidence Report earned second place and the Drought Ready SCV was also named the best in Community Relations taking the top award across all industries. He expressed that it has been a banner year for the Outreach Department.

To hear the full comments, please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water Website.

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

There were no comments on the recap reports.

Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 10).

Director Armitage had comments on the following: (1) Finance, Administration and Information Technology Services Section Report regarding IT's efforts to stay up to date on cyber security; (2) the Water Resources and Outreach Section report regarding staffs presentation on Water Resources Management at CSUN; (3) congratulated the communications team on their award for their work on conservation efforts with multifamily apartments and; (4) the staff meeting with the City of Santa Clarita staff to develop data sharing processes and protocols for model water efficient landscaping ordinance procedures.

To hear the full comment(s), please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water Website.

There were no other comments on the written reports.

President's Report (Item 11).

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).

A written report was submitted by Vice President Gutzeit which was posted to the SCV Water website and is part of the record.

Director Branstein reported that she attended the Water Bottle Refill Ribbon Cutting held at Hart Hight School on October 23, 2023.

Director Cooper reported that he virtually attended the ACWA Executive Board Committee Assignments meeting on October 16 and 19, 2023, the Region 8 Committee Nominations meeting on October 24, 2023 and attended in person the State of the City held at the Canyon Country Community Center on October 26, 2023.

Director Armitage reported that she virtually attended the Executive Committee meeting of the Special Districts Association of North Los Angeles County on October 18, 2023 and attended the Water Bottle Refill Ribbon Cutting held at Hart High School on October 23, 2023.

Director Marks reported that attended the State of the City held at the Canyon Country Community Center on October 26, 2023 and attended the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy held in Santa Rosa on October 22-25, 2023.

President Martin reported that he virtually attended the DCA Board meeting from the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Boardroom on October 19, 2023 and attended the State of the City held at the Canyon Country Community Center on October 26, 2023.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 13).

Vice President Orzechowski thanked Assistant General Manager Steve Cole and Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie for the Agency's participation in the "Touch of Truck" held on November 4, 2023 at Central Park.

Director Armitage commented on the following:

- She was happy to see the letter from a customer offering thanks to SCV Water employee Sean Lopez for his outstanding customer service.
- She thanked all who were involved in the Dickason Drive Pipeline Replacement project for keeping the impact to the area and school to a minimum.
- She mentioned the City of Santa Clarita's Rain Barrel program where they offer low costs rain barrel's to City residence, she advised the Board that she participated in the program. She noted that a customer had reached out to her regarding the SCV Water Rain Barrel Rebate program where she was able to help direct him to the appropriate individuals at the Agency that could help him with that rebate. She wanted to personally thank Sustainability Manager Matt Dickens and Water Conservation Specialist II Chavon Halushka for their efforts in helping him out.
- Lastly, she thanked staff for including the Board in the Water Academy program.

To hear the Directors report in their entirety, please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water website.

There were no other Director reports.

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The Board went into Closed Session at 7:37 PM to discuss Item 14.1:

Conference with Real Property Negotiators, Government Code Section 54956.8:

Property Location: Approximately 0.48 +/- Acre in Unincorporated Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel Nos. 2826-037-066

Negotiating Parties: JD Pleasant Group, LLC

SCV Water's Authorized Negotiator: General Manager Matthew Stone

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

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 8:33 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).

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

There were no requests for event attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM (Item 17).

Signature on File _____
April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signature on File _____
President of the Board

