

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – September 3, 2024

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 3, 2024. 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 [Meeting Recording](#).

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: William Cooper.

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, Environmental Health and Safety Supervisor Rebecca Lustig, General Counsel Tom Bunn, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Inspector Supervisor Josh Gilliam, 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 6:01 PM. A quorum was present.

There were no changes to the September 3, 2024 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

Upon motion of Director Marks, seconded by Director Armitage and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

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

Upon motion of Director Petersen, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board received and filed the June 2024 Monthly and FY 2023/24 Fourth Quarter Financial Report by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

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

Environmental Health and Safety Supervisor Rebecca Lustig gave the Annual Safety Program Update to the Board of Directors (Item 7).

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

The General Manager reported on the following:

He thanked Rebecca Lustig for the Annual Safety Program update.

He updated the Board on his recent attendance at the Urban Water Institute Conference held in San Diego on August 21-23, 2024. He gave an overview of the conference topics and speakers.

He mentioned that both the Executive and Finance staff reviewed the draft Strategic Staffing Plan needs and position inventory and will continue to meet and refine the plan. A presentation will be given to the Finance and Administration Committee in October 2024.

He advised that the Finance staff are working on the rate study and met with management to review the cost-of-service assumptions, which will be presented to the Finance and Administration Committee at its upcoming meeting.

He stated that Steve Cole, Matt Dickens and himself had an opportunity to have another follow up meeting to discuss recycled water service conversion with representatives of the Westridge HOA. They talked about a recommended agreement for the Purple Prep program to facilitate the retrofit of the initial phase, as well as all remaining planned portions of the Westridge community along the Phase 2 recycled water pipeline alignment. He said he is hopeful that they can reach a good agreement for all parties.

Lastly, he mentioned that Rochelle Patterson, Steve Cole and himself have also had an opportunity to get a briefing on the status of the EPA WIFIA loan process. He advised that we continue to evaluate several factors, both in the financial realm and as we develop the details of contract terms with EPA, with the goal of determining whether proceeding with the WIFIA strategy is still the best option for the Agency. The Finance and Administration Committee will be briefed on the outcome.

To hear the full report, 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 Water Resources and Outreach Section Report pertaining to SCV Water Agency's presence at the Concerts in the Park this summer and the refillable water bottle station that staff made available to the public during this event.

There were no other comments on the written reports.

To hear all comments and questions, 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.

President's Report (Item 11).

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).

Vice President Orzechowski reported that he attended the Urban Water Institute Conference held in San Diego on August 21-23, 2024.

Director Marks reported that he attended the Urban Water Institute Conference held in San Diego on August 21-23, 2024 and virtually attended the ACWA Groundwater Committee meeting held on August 28, 2024.

President Martin reported that he attended the Urban Water Institute Conference held in San Diego on August 21-23, 2024.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 13).

There were no Director reports.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:15 PM to discuss Item 14.1:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (2 Cases)
Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9
Name of Cases: (1) Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Product Liability Litigation, Master Docket No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG; City of Camden, et al. v. BASF Corporation, Civil Action No.: 2:24-cv-03174-RMG; and (2) City of Camden et. al. v. Tyco Fire Products LP, Civil Action No.: 2-24-cv-02321-RMG

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 7:33 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 7:35 PM in memory of Brandon Martinez (Item 17).

Signature on File

April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signature on File

President of the Board