

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – July 20, 2021

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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, July 20, 2021. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Armitage, B. J. Atkins, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, William Cooper, Jeff Ford, Jerry Gladbach, R. J. Kelly, Gary Martin, Dan Mortensen, Piotr Orzechowski and Lynne Plambeck via teleconference.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

Also present via teleconference: General Manager Matthew Stone, General Counsel Joe Byrne, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Alvord, Director of Tech Services Cris Perez, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, GIS Manager Jose Huerta, Water Quality Supervisor Ryan Bye, Principal Engineer Jason Yim, Financial Analyst Darine Conner, Executive Assistant Leticia Quintero, Administrative Technician Terri Bell, Accounting Tech II Kyle Arnold, and members of the public.

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

Upon motion of Vice President Mortensen, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved the Agenda by the following roll call votes (Item 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           | Not Present |
| President Martin        | Yes | Vice President Mortensen | Yes         |
| Director Orzechowski    | Yes | Director Plambeck        | Yes         |

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar with the following changes to the July 6, 2021 regular Board meeting minutes:

- Removal of the second bullet under Item 3 of the minutes that states “Attendance by members of the public at Board and Committee meetings will be in-person only and no remote attendance will be provided.”.
- Replacing that bullet with the following addition, “At the August 3, 2021 regular Board meeting and after a presentation by staff, the Board will decide whether attendance by members of the public at Board and Committee meetings will be in person only or will also include a remote attendance component.”.

Approved by the following roll call votes (Item 5):

|                     |     |                 |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| 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 | Vice President Mortensen | No  |
| Director Orzechowski    | Yes | Director Plambeck        | Yes |

Upon motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Orzechowski and carried, the Board received and filed the public re-notification of PFOS and PFOA notification level of exceedances by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

|                         |     |                          |     |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| 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 | Vice President Mortensen | Yes |
| Director Orzechowski    | Yes | Director Plambeck        | Yes |

Water Quality Supervisor Ryan Bye gave a presentation on the Consumer Confidence Report (Item 7.1).

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

The General Manager updated the Board on the recent developments pertaining to COVID-19. He mentioned that with an increase in COVID-19 cases and positive test percentages over the last month or so, Los Angeles County Public Health issued an order reinstating the use of masks for all persons when indoors. No other capacity or operational restrictions have been added. SCV Water has implemented this additional measure as required.

He then stated that continuing our "water quality" theme tonight, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie will be giving an update on how SCV Water responded to a recent supply chain issue with chlorine used in some of our disinfection processes.

Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie updated the Board on how SCV Water has responded and is dealing with the chlorine shortage issues.

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#### **President's Report (Item 9).**

The President updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events and reminded the Board of the upcoming ACWA Committee assignments.

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#### **AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 10).**

A written report was submitted by Director Braunstein which was included in the Board packet. Additional written reports were submitted by Director's Braunstein and Kelly which were posted on the SCV Water website and are part of the record.

President Martin reported that he attended the following virtual meetings: Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Board Prep meeting held on July 9, 2021, SCV GSA Board meeting held on July 12, 2021, a one-on-one meeting with Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Executive Director Graham Bradner held on July 13, 2021 and the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Board meeting held on July 15, 2021.

Director Atkins reported that he attended the ACWA's 2021 Webinar Summer Region Event Series: Zooming through California – Connecting ACWA Regions - Understanding the Impacts of the California Air Resources Board's Advanced Clean Fleets Rule held on July 20, 2021.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the ACWA's 2021 Webinar Summer Region Event Series: Zooming through California – Connecting ACWA Regions - Understanding the Impacts of the California Air Resources Board's Advanced Clean Fleets Rule held on July 20, 2021.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

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**Director Reports (Item 11).**

Vice President Gladbach reported that he attended the JPIA Executive Committee meeting last Friday where they approved new rates for the health programs. The pricing for the Anthem PPO medical plans went down 5% and the pricing for the HMO Plans went up 1.75%. Everything else remained pretty much the same.

He also mentioned how impressed he was with the JPIA staff. He stated that being the times we are in with COVID-19 and mental health being such an important issue, the JPIA staff checked to see how long it takes to get a mental health appointment with their current provider and found that it took six weeks plus to obtain that appointment. Due to the results of staff's findings and research, JPIA contracted with another company called Modern Health, a mental health care company for employees, through them it only takes one to two days to get in to see someone.

Lastly, he informed the Board that Captive Insurance out of Utah, which the JPIA contacted with twenty-one months ago, has seen a 13% annual rate of return in the water fund that the JPIA has been putting money in. He stated that this benefits the members of the JPIA.

Director Armitage reported that the Tree People each weekend are doing a habitat restoration project to restore the chaparral that has been lost during wildfires in San Francisquito Canyon. She was able to join them this past weekend and learn how they were accomplishing this, as well as how they are watering the plants in the area that need a little help during the dry period. When she was home and able to research this issue she found that SCV Water is a collaborator in these projects and are providing the water to fill the buckets that volunteers then walk around from plant to plant watering until they are able to sustain themselves. She was grateful for the Agency's involvement and wanted to thank the Agency for being part of this great project. She further advised the Board that this project helps to maintain the biological systems for a healthy watershed since the San Francisquito Creek feeds into the Santa Clara River system. She thinks this is a smart project to be involved with as part of a nature-based strategy. She thinks it's great in many ways and is glad to see such a collaborative project and thanked the Agency for their involvement.

Director Kelly wanted to verify the new Directors had received the Board Affirmations and requested that the Affirmations be re-sent out to the whole Board.

There were no other Director reports.

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The Board went into Closed Session at 8:31 PM (Item 12).

The Board was instructed to disconnect from the current call and redial in on a separate teleconference line that was provided to them. President Martin instructed the public members and staff who wanted to stay on the call, to stay on the current teleconference line and once Closed Session has ended, the Board will reconvene for Closed Session announcements and the conclusion of the meeting.

President Martin reconvened the Open Session at 9:12 PM.

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

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**Director Requests for Approval for Event Attendance (Item 14).**

There were no Director requests for event attendance.

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**Director Requests for Future Agenda Items (Item 15).**

There were no requests for future Agenda items.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM (Item 16).

  
April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
President of the Board

