

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – June 15, 2021

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, June 15, 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 (Arrived at 7:00 PM), 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 Tom Bunn, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Alvord, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, Director of Water Resources Dirk Marks, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, Customer Service Manager Kathleen Willson, GIS Manager Jose Huerta, Customer Service Supervisor Robert McLaughlan, Principal Engineers Brent Payne and Jason Yim, Engineer Josephine Ngoon, Water Resources Planner Sarah Fleury, Senior Management Analyst Kim Grass, Management Analyst II Cheryl Fowler, Financial Analyst Darine Conner, Senior Administrative Technician Mona Restivo, Executive Assistants Eunie Kang and Leticia Quintero, Senior Office Assistant Terri Bell, Accounting Tech II Kyle Arnold, Best Best & Krieger LLP Attorney Lutfi Kharuf, Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. Consultant Ichiko Kido, 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 Gladbach, seconded by Vice President Mortensen 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	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Mortensen	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

President Martin opened the Public Hearing on the Retail Water Rates FY 2022-2026 at 6:58 PM (Item 5.1).

A presentation was given by Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell and Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. Consultant Ichiko Kido. Public comments were received and addressed and the Board was given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions regarding the presentation.

President Martin called for a brief recess at 8:23 PM to allow staff time to address comments made by both the public and the Board.

President Martin reconvened the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Staff addressed the public and Board comments and questions.

President Martin closed the Public Hearing at 8:53 PM.

Upon motion of Director Atkins, seconded by Vice President Mortensen and carried, the Board approved Resolution No. SCV-216 finding that this rate setting meets the requirements of Proposition 218, established retail water rates for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 and made an exemption determination under the California Environmental Quality Act by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

Director Armitage	No	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	No	Director Colley	No
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	No

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-216

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
ESTABLISHING RETAIL WATER RATES
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 AND 2026
AND MAKING AN EXEMPTION DETERMINATION
UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-061521-Resolution-SCV-216.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

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

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

The General Manager updated the Board on the new rules that were announced today pertaining to COVID-19, the removal of the color-coded tier system and the Safer at Home Order. He advised that there was a new Executive Order which rescinded portions of or all of the various orders that had been put in place to help manage the pandemic over the last 16 months.

He mentioned that on the remaining piece that pertains to the workplace conditions, Cal/OSHA is working on a proposal that will hopefully give us clarity on how the new workplace protocols will work. He stated that there may be a companion order issued by Governor Newsom to help speed up the process.

Key issues for us are:

- How are we going to handle safety measures in the workplace
- Wearing or not wearing a mask
- Vaccination status for employees

He then informed the Board that SCV Water is trying to schedule an onsite vaccination opportunity through Los Angeles County. If we are able to schedule, it would be open to the Board, staff and their family members.

Lastly, he mentioned the availability of chlorine has created some challenges due to the increased demand from "COVID swimming pool construction" and supply chain constraints. He stated that it is affecting the tablet and the powdered chlorine more than the gas chlorine which is what we use at some of our larger installations. He noted that it appears we may have a significant potential supply chain issue with one of the larger suppliers of chlorine for water treatment, affecting not only us but numerous other agencies. He will update the Board when he has more information and advised the Board that they may have to take action.

President's Report (Item 8).

The President updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 9).

A written report was submitted by Director Braunstein and was included in the Board packet. Additional written reports were submitted by President Martin, Vice President Gladbach and Director Plambeck which were posted on the SCV Water website and are part of the record.

Director Atkins reported that he attended the virtual ACWA Water Quality Committee meeting on June 7, 2021.

Director Cooper reported that he attended the virtual ACWA Water Quality Committee meeting on June 7, 2021.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 10).

Vice President Gladbach gave the Board an update on the recent technical difficulties that took place during the May 2021 ACWA Virtual Spring Conference.

Director Armitage would like to know the timeframe of when the Agency would be hiring the Data Security Specialist.

There were no other Director reports.

The Board went into Closed Session at 10:26 PM (Item 11).

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 10:42 PM.

Tom Bunn, Esq., reported that pertaining to Item 11.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Leticia Morales Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Personal Injury and Property Damage, Date of Claim May 26, 2021, the Board voted to reject the claim by motion of Director Atkins, seconded by Director Kelly and carried, by the following roll call votes:

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

Tom Bunn, Esq., reported there were no other actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 12).

Director Requests for Approval for Event Attendance (Item 13).

There were no Director requests for event attendance.

Director Requests for Future Agenda Items (Item 14).

Director Colley would like to have a discussion on the public comment period and how public comments are taken.

There were no other requests for future Agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 PM (Item 15).


April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:


President of the Board

