

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – August 16, 2022

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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, August 16, 2022. 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, Jeff Ford, R. J. Kelly (Via Zoom), Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski and Lynne Plambeck.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Maria Gutzeit.

Also present: Board Secretary April Jacobs, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, General Counsel Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Interim Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, Principal Engineer Brent Payne, Senior Management Analyst Kim Grass, Sustainability Manager Matt Dickens, Nossaman LLP Attorney Byron Gee, as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff and members of the public.

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present.

There were no changes to the August 16, 2022 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

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

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Gutzeit	Absent
Director Kelly	Yes	President Martin	Yes
Vice President Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

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Upon motion of Director Armitage, seconded by Director Ford and carried, the Board approved (1) Resolution No. SCV-299 authorizing the General Manager to apply for funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Water Energy Efficiency Grant Program (2) execute a grant agreement and (3) commit to providing up to \$2,000,000 in matching funds by the following roll call votes (Item 6.1):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Gutzeit	Absent
Director Kelly	Yes	President Martin	Yes
Vice President Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-299**

**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 WATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE AGENCY'S WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-081622-Resoutlion-SCV-299.pdf>**

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved (1) the designation of Jeff Ford as its representative on the Devil's Den Water District (DDWD) Board, (2) Resolution No. SCV-300 designating Jeff Ford as a representative to serve on the DDWD Board of Directors and (3) recommends to the DDWD Board that such representative be appointed to fill the existing vacant seat (Note: Director Orzechowski withdrew his name for consideration on this item) by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Gutzeit	Absent
Director Kelly	Yes	President Martin	Yes
Vice President Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-300**

**DESIGNATION OF JEFF FORD AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY FOR PURPOSES OF SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-081622-Resolution-SCV-300.pdf>**

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

General Manager Stone updated the Board on this morning's All Employee Meeting. He mentioned that numerous department managers and supervisors provided updates, that service milestone awards were presented and that two of our retiring colleagues, Ryan Hensley and Jim Leserman, were recognized for their dedication and service to the Agency over the years.

He announced that the Agency has completed the recruitment process of the new Director of Water Resources. He advised that once the hiring process is completed the candidates name would be announced.

The full General Manager's report can be heard at **[https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Board\\_Recording\\_081622.mp3](https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Board_Recording_081622.mp3)**.

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**Committee Meeting Recap Report for Informational Purposes Only (Item 8).**

There were no comments on the recap report.

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

The President updated the Board on upcoming community meetings and conferences and upcoming Board and Committee meetings.

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

A Written report was submitted by President Martin which was posted on the SCV Water website and is part of the record.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

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The Board went into Closed Session at 6:28 PM to discuss Items 11.1 and 11.2 (Item 11).

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 7:08 PM.

Joe Byrne, Esq., reported that regarding 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 Northwest Excavating, Inc, Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Property Damage, Date of Claim July 19, 2022, the Board unanimously voted to reject the claim and submit it to the Agency's Joint Powers Insurance Authority, upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Ford and carried, by the following roll call votes:

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Gutzeit	Absent
Director Kelly	Yes	President Martin	Yes
Vice President Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

There were no other actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 12).

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**Director Requests for future Agenda Items (Item 13).**

Director Gutzeit requested:

A presentation on how to optimize our board meetings. This may include a review of the following:


- Roberts Rules of order review (first motion, subsequent motion, amended motions, motions to table.)
- Preparing for meetings
- Asking staff any multiple, lengthy, or detailed questions in advance of the meeting so they can be prepared to respond completely and thoroughly. Feeling free to discuss anything in depth in advance of the meeting with staff if they have specific concerns.
- Ask staff for suggestions on how to handle their concerns, in advance of the meeting.
- Maintaining a policy focus
- Relying on Committees for the detailed work. Clarify how Board members can get information from Committees they are not on.
- Best practices for moving items forward in a timely manner at Board meetings.
- Any other related or relevant suggestions from meeting organizers or Board efficiency experts are welcome.

To see her full comments, please refer to the following handout <https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SCV-Water-Handout-081622-Item-13-Request-for-Future-Agenda-Item.pdf>.

There were no other requests for future Agenda Items.

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The meeting was adjourned in memory of Arthur W. Stone at 7:11 PM (Item 14).

  
April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
President of the Board

