

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – January 3, 2023

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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, January 3, 2023. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathye Armitage, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley (Via Zoom), William Cooper, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski (Arrived at 6:08 PM) 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, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, General Counsel Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Human Resources Manager Ari Mantis, Information Technology Technician I Jonathan Thomas, Management Analyst II Cheryl Fowler, Senior Information Technology Technician Emmanuel Adinkra, 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 January 3, 2023 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

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The Board Secretary administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office to Directors Cooper, Gutzeit and Marks (Item 5.1).

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Vice President Orzechowski and carried, the Board approved having two Vice Presidents by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

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

President Martin announced the next item of business was Agenda Item 5.3 election of Board President and Vice Presidents and requested that the Board Secretary conduct the election of officers.

After a review of the guidelines for the election process, the Board Secretary called for nominations for the position of Board President.

Director Cooper nominated Director Martin and Director Braunstein nominated Director Colley.

With there being no further nominations, Directors had an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the nominees.

After a brief discussion, votes were then taken by roll call vote (as shown below), tallied and Director Martin received a vote of 6 which is over the majority vote of the Board.

Director Armitage voted for Director for Colley  
Director Braunstein voted for Director Colley  
Director Colley Abstained  
Director Cooper voted for Director Martin  
Director Gutzeit voted for Director Martin  
Director Marks voted for Director Martin  
Director Martin voted for Director Martin  
Director Orzechowski voted for Director Martin  
Director Petersen voted for Director Martin

Upon motion of Director Orzechowski, seconded by Director Gutzeit and carried, Director Martin was elected to the position of Board President by the following roll call votes (Item 5.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Yes
Director Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
Director Martin	Yes	Director Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

The Board Secretary then called for nominations for the position of the first Board Vice President (note that the first and second positions for Vice President are of equal standing).

Director Cooper nominated Director Orzechowski and Director Braunstein nominated Director Armitage.

With there being no further nominations, Directors had an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the nominees.

After a brief discussion, votes were then taken by roll call vote (as shown below), tallied and Director Orzechowski received a vote of 7 which is over the majority of the Board.

Director Armitage voted for Director Armitage  
Director Braunstein voted for Director Armitage  
Director Colley voted for Director Orzechowski  
Director Cooper voted for Director Orzechowski  
Director Gutzeit voted for Director Orzechowski  
Director Marks voted for Director Orzechowski  
President Martin voted for Director Orzechowski  
Director Orzechowski voted for Director Orzechowski  
Director Petersen voted for Director Orzechowski

Upon motion of President Martin, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, Director Orzechowski was elected to the position of Board Vice President by the following roll call votes (Item 5.3):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	No
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Yes
Director Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes

President Martin                      Yes                      Director Orzechowski                      Yes  
Director Petersen                      Yes

The Board Secretary then called for nominations for the second position of Board Vice President. President Martin nominated Director Gutzeit and Director Braunstein nominated Director Armitage.

With there being no further nominations, Directors had an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the nominees.

After a brief discussion, votes were then taken by roll call vote (as shown below), tallied and Director Gutzeit received a vote of 6 which is over the majority of the Board.

Director Armitage voted for Director Armitage  
Director Braunstein voted for Director Armitage  
Director Colley voted for Director Armitage  
Director Cooper voted for Director Gutzeit  
Director Gutzeit voted for Director Gutzeit  
Director Marks voted for Director Gutzeit  
President Martin voted for Director Gutzeit  
Director Orzechowski voted for Director Gutzeit  
Director Petersen voted for Director Gutzeit

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by President Martin and carried, Director Gutzeit was elected to the position of Board Vice President by the following roll call votes (Item 5.3):

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

The Board then selected their seats at the Board table (Item 5.4)

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Upon motion of Vice President Gutzeit, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution Nos. SCV-326 (revised) and SCV-327 by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

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

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-326**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER TO**

**HAZEN AND SAWYER FOR PLANNING SERVICES  
FOR SAUGUS WELLS (N11, N12, N13) GROUNDWATER  
TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND FINDING THAT THE  
AUTHORIZATION IS NOT A PROJECT SUBJECT TO CEQA**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-010323-Resolution-SCV-326.pdf>**

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-327**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY APPROVING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO (1) SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR ROUND 2 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PURSUANT TO THE WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014, (2) COMMIT TO PROVIDING THE REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS FOR SCV WATER PROJECTS, (3) REQUIRE THE OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS THROUGH SUB GRANTEE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY, (4) ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE A GRANT FOR THE UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN REGION, AND (5) EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES ACCEPTING FUNDING UNDER THE PROP 1 ROUND 2 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM**

**<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-010323-Resolution-SCV-327.pdf>**

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

General Manager Stone reported on the following:

The General Manager wished everyone a happy new year and briefly discussed the past five years and coming full circle of our new governance structure. He made a brief comment on the Board coming together and appreciating the comments and discussion during tonight's election process as well as looking forward to the new year.

There was then a brief discussion on the recent rains with more discussion to come at future Board and Committee meetings.

To hear the full report please refer to the Board recording at **[https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board\\_Recording\\_010323.mp3](https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board_Recording_010323.mp3)**.

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

There were no comments on the recap reports.

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**Written Reports for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).**

Director Armitage had a few comments on the Finance, Administration and Information Technology Services Section Report and on the Water Resources and Outreach Section Report. To hear Director Armitage's comments, please refer to the Board recording at [https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board Recording 010323.mp3](https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board_Recording_010323.mp3).

There were no other comments on the written reports.

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**President's Report (Item 10).**

The President updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events and miscellaneous items. To hear the full report please refer to the Board recording at [https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board Recording 010323.mp3](https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board_Recording_010323.mp3).

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**AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).**

There were no AB 1234 Reports.

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**Director Reports (Item 12).**

Director Armitage advised the Board that she is a member of the Association of Women in Water, Energy and Environment and there is a webinar coming up on "Project Nexus" - A First-in-the Nation Project to Install Solar Over Canals, being held on January 10, 2023. She has two guests passes if anyone is interested in attending.

There were no other Director Reports.

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**Director Requests For Approval For Event Attendance (Item 13).**

Vice President Gutzeit mentioned that she received a congratulatory card from United Water Conservation District (UWCD) Board President Bruce Dandy offering a tour of the UWCD facilities. She thought it would be great if the Board could participate as a group or groups in a tour(s) of the UWCD facilities.

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board approved full Board participation in a tour(s) of the UWCD facilities, noting this will not be a special Board meeting and that if the full Board wishes to attend, it will need to be in groups of less than a quorum of the Board attending on separate occasions, by the following roll call votes:

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 Armitage asked for approval to attend the upcoming 2023 19<sup>th</sup> Annual California Water Law Symposium “Diverse Needs: Species Protection and Water Supply” being held at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento on February 4, 2023.

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Director Armitage and carried, the Board approved full Board participation at the 2023 19<sup>th</sup> Annual California Water Law Symposium “Diverse Needs: Species Protection and Water Supply” being held at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento on February 4, 2023 by the following roll call votes:

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		

There were no other requests for approval for event attendance.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM (Item 14).

  
April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
President of the Board

